

LEGAL COMPASS

Volume 2 · September 2018



WORDS OF WISDOM

TIME-TESTED ADVICE FOR EXCELLING IN LAW SCHOOL

"Law school is demanding and stressful. Remember to block out time to look after yourself because your health is paramount."

*"Use first year to figure out how **you** can excel at law school. Everyone will give you tips on the 'best' way to study for exams or complete assignments. But each student has different skills and strengths. It's important to find out what study skills work best for you—not which ones work best for everyone else."*

"Your law school probably has a mentorship program where you can connect with an upper year student or even an alumnus. This is a great way to get relevant advice, tips, and resources that you may not have heard about from other sources."



4 ESSENTIAL THINGS TO DO DURING YOUR 1L YEAR

- 1. Prioritize Law School—But Maintain Balance:** It will come as no surprise that law school is demanding and requires a lot of work. It's important to develop strong habits in first year that will help you succeed in the future. Make sure to stay organized, keep up with required readings, and devote enough time to school work each week. But remember to keep things balanced by making time for yourself outside of school! Go to the movies, meet friends for lunch, or head to the gym. Balance is key to wellbeing.
- 2. Go to Court:** This is the best way to get exposure to the legal system. It'll give you a chance to learn about how the court works, the procedures involved in bringing motions or holding a trial, and you might even find yourself interested in a new area of law.

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4 FOR YOUR REFERENCE: THE DIVISIONS OF LAW



4 ESSENTIAL THINGS TO DO DURING YOUR 1L YEAR

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3. Network, Network, Network: It's never too soon to start building your professional network. Developing these relationships early can be a huge asset in future. As a first year law student, you'll have many opportunities to meet new people: fellow 1Ls, upper year students, alumni, professors, and practising lawyers. Don't be afraid to invite someone for coffee, and keep in touch with occasional emails.

4. Extracurricular Activities: Joining a club or group at the law school is the best way to get involved in the community, while engaging in an activity you enjoy. Whether you join the choir, an academic journal, or an intramural sports team, an extracurricular activity can help you connect with other students and give you a much-needed break from studying.



ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LAW STUDENTS

LEGAL NEWS AND GUIDANCE

emondexamprep.ca/topics/blog

emond.ca

lawstudents.ca

lsuc.on.ca/licensingprocesslawyer

canadianlawyermag.com

precedentjd.com

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

CanLII: canlii.org/en

e-Laws: ontario.ca/laws

Justice Department: justice.gc.ca/eng

SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS

Law Student Career Network: goo.gl/YV4yCf

LSSO: facebook.com/LSSOnt

FREE LEGAL GLOSSARY

Burden of Proof: The responsibility for proving a fact, proposition, guilty, or innocence; can rest with either party in a civil or criminal matter, according to the applicable rules of procedure.

Discovery: A process where parties make their witnesses available to opposing parties for the purpose of answering questions under oath about the facts alleged in their pleadings.

Easement: An interest in land that permits certain uses without interruption or interference by the person who has legal title to the land.

Injunction: 1. A court order that prohibits someone from doing some act or compels someone to do some act; 2. A court order intended to prevent future harm, enjoining a defendant to cease an activity or not do it at all.

Unconscionable: Unreasonably harsh or unreasonably one-sided.

VISIT EMOND.CA/RESOURCES/GLOSSARY-OF-LEGAL-TERMS



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THE SECRET TO GREAT LEGAL WRITING

Strong legal writing skills will be an asset to you throughout law school and your legal career. The following 5 conventions can help you improve clarity in your written legal work.

- 1. Pay Attention to Sentence Length and Organization:** Varying the length of sentences can enhance the flow of your writing. However, avoid extremely long sentences. Remember to limit each sentence to one main thought to avoid confusing the reader.
- 2. Use the Active Voice:** Although the passive voice may be appropriate in some circumstances, the active voice is much clearer and will convey your point more effectively.
- 3. Avoid Nominalization:** Nominalization occurs when a verb is replaced with a noun - for example, the sentence "They reached an agreement to settle the dispute." This sentence could be better phrased as "They settled the dispute," which is less wordy and does not rely on a passive voice.
- 4. Make Smart Word Choices:** Choose your words carefully and remove any unnecessary words or phrases. Use adjectives and adverbs only when necessary and focus on making your point accurately and briefly.
- 5. Know Your Audience:** Most often, your audience will consist of other lawyers and you should aim to maintain a formal tone. Avoid contractions, slang, exclamation points, and emoticons. If writing for clients, avoid using legal jargon.

EDITED EXCERPT FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL RESEARCH, WRITING & ANALYSIS, 2ND EDITION

LICENSINGINFO



WHAT WILL LICENSING LOOK LIKE WHEN YOU GRADUATE?

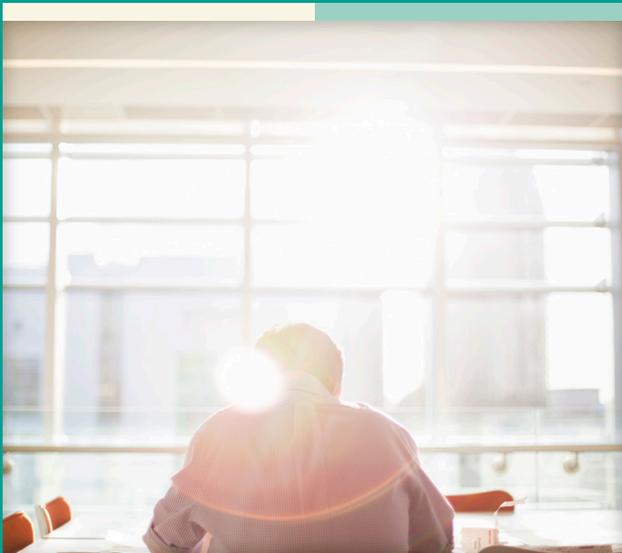
A recent LSO report outlined four potential options for changes to the licensing process, one of which includes eliminating the articling term requirement altogether. Find more information and read the full report here: www.lsodialogue.ca

CAREERINFO



WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

In 2017, roughly 22% of lawyers in Ontario classified as sole practitioners. Almost 15% were employed by the government, 13% were working as in-house counsel, and less than 2% were working in education. Where will you be? Source: www.annualreport.lso.ca/2017/en/



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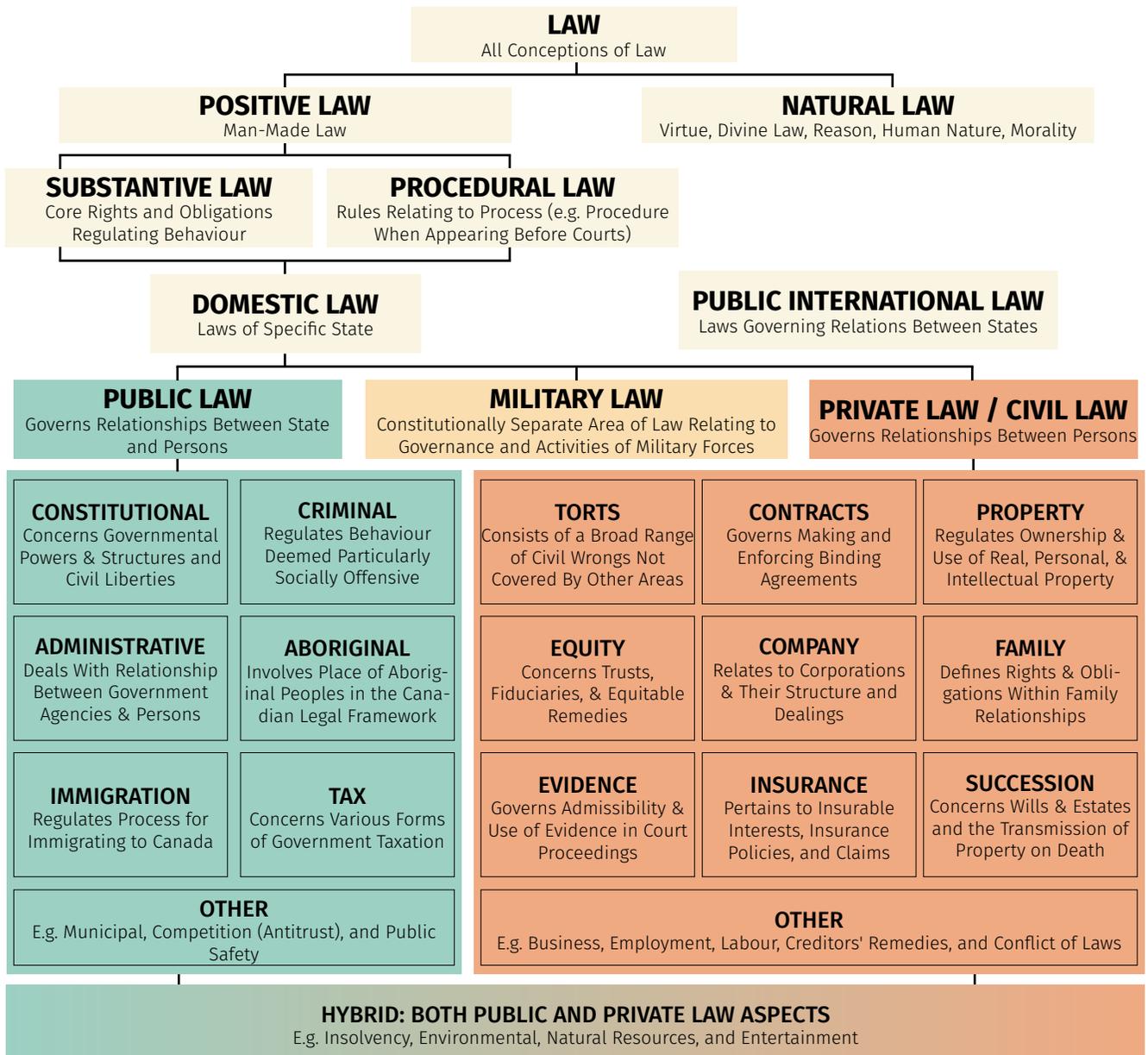
REVIEW COURSES, PRACTICE EXAMS, AND ADVICE

To prepare for the LSO Barrister and Solicitor Licensing Exams, you must study over 1,600 pages of material and answer substantive multiple-choice questions. Emond offers resources to help you pass your licensing exams:

- **220-question practice exams** with subject performance analytics, correct answers, and detailed explanations.
- **Online and in-class exam preparation courses** with substantive lectures on the required competencies.
- **Exam preparation manual** that outlines strategies and tips to help you succeed on the licensing exam.

Keep an eye on emond.ca for a **Law Student Portal** coming soon

QUICK REFERENCE: THE DIVISIONS OF LAW



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INSPIRATION

"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."

– Maya Angelou

"It's the humanity in every case that is so important to me, and it always has been."

– Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin



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