

I am grateful to all of you who have allowed your work to appear as part of this book. Your generosity will be appreciated by future pre-law students. In the 1992 edition of this book I recognized the support and assistance of Ron Gurfinkel of Monarch Books. I continue to thank Ron for his advice and expertise. Twelve years later I acknowledge - and offer very special thanks - to his daughter Casey Gurfinkel for the final production of this huge manuscript. I doubt that the book would ever have been finished without her!

Finally, thanks to Bryan Babcock for the finishing touches and 26 years of putting up with me. Thanks Bryan.

A Dedication ...

This book is dedicated to the new generation of (possibly) “Law School Bound” people. Especially, “The Subject” and “The First Lady”. Love and great lives to you all - whether or not you decide to become lawyers.

John Richardson

Audience Specific Introduction 1

Second Career or “Mature Applicants”

Please accept my congratulations on your interest in law. Most “mature” applicants either started their post-secondary education late or are thinking of a change in career. Either way, there are tremendous opportunities for you in law.

Many law schools have specific application categories for “mature” applicants. The problem is that although the categories may be called “mature student categories” they may be defined in very different ways. It is important that you focus on how “mature student categories” are defined and not how they are labeled.

The first piece of advice I would give you is to call the schools and talk to them directly about your situation. Try to determine the types of applicants they like to admit in the “mature student category.” Remember that different schools will operate in different ways.

Note also the difference between the minimum requirements to be allowed to apply as a “mature student” and the probability of success in that category. Just because you are eligible to apply as a mature student doesn’t necessarily mean that you should. You might in fact be a strong mainstream applicant. In any case, let the individual law schools guide you on this point. There is a perception on the part of some law school applicants that it is easier to be admitted as a “mature applicant.” This is not so!

The application process for “mature applicants” may be different from the application process for regular applicants. For example, there is at least one Canadian law school that requires that “mature applicants” submit an earlier LSAT score. This school also admits “mature applicants” on the basis of an interview. In any case, you must learn the admissions process for every school you are considering.

The admissions process for “mature applicants” is often more stressful than for regular applicants. I think that this is (in part) the result of a greater feeling of isolation and the necessity of possibly making bigger life changes in order to accommodate the possibility of law school. Just stick with it! The extra “life experiences” that “mature applicants” bring to the law school benefit both the applicant and the school.

When reading this book pay particular attention to the Chapters on application categories and the interview. These are Chapters 12 and 17. You may find Chapter 6 (Non-Traditional Attendance) Ways Of Obtaining A Legal Education to be of great interest.

Audience Specific Introduction 2

Foreign Lawyers And Other Non-North American Applicants

There are many law schools in the United States and Canada. Almost all of them are based on the “common law” tradition. You will find that I devoted a complete chapter in the book to your situation. You may want to start there.

Foreign Lawyers

Chances are that you may be a lawyer already licensed to practise outside of North America. Your problem is to get licensed to practise in North America.

I urge you to read Chapter 30 - the “Foreign Trained Law Graduate”. You need to begin by securing very accurate information on how “foreign lawyers” are treated in North America. This must be done on a state by state or province by province basis. Obviously some jurisdictions are more friendly to foreign lawyers than others.

In addition it is essential that you pay particular attention to Chapter 12 on marketing and application categories. One issue is (assuming you must go back to law school) how much law school you must do. Chapters 12 and 30 will be critical for you.

Other Non-North American Applicants

Chapter 9 has been created specifically for you.

Audience Specific Introduction 3

U.S. Applicants Applying To U.S. Schools

All of this book (in a general way) will apply to you. Because, I live and work in Toronto, Canada most of the VIP articles are taken from a Canadian context. But, the process of law admissions and the dreaded LSAT is the same in both Canada and the U.S. Obviously this would include the book on the law school application process.

I would also like to remind you that the United States, Canada and Mexico signed NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). This has opened the door to a good deal of cross-border mobility for lawyers. Make sure that you read the Chapter on "Mobility." (Chapter 29)

As this book is being completed, the law school of MSU (Michigan State University) has introduced a program with the University of Ottawa in Canada to allow students to earn both American and Canadian law degrees. The University of Detroit has a program with the University of Windsor that allows students to earn both U.S. and Canadian law degrees in three years.

Obviously you should ignore Chapters 24, 25, 26 and 28 which deal with bar admission in Canada and the U.K. Book VII ("Learning About Lawyers And The Legal Profession") is relevant although most of the articles and discussion use examples from the Canadian legal profession. Canada through the use of provincial law societies, regulates the legal profession in a somewhat different manner than do its U.S. counterparts. Hence, you will find Chapter 37 ("Law, Society And The Law Society") irrelevant to the U.S. situation.

By the way, I have been through this process from both the American and Canadian perspective. I have both American and Canadian law degrees and am a member of the bar in Massachusetts, New York and the province of Ontario.

Chapter 27 will be of special interest to you.

Audience Specific Introduction 4

Quebec Residents Applying To Quebec Schools

As you know Quebec is based on the Civil law system and is not a "common law province." In general the law admissions process works in the same way. I encourage you to pay particular attention to opportunities that would allow you to earn both civil and common law degrees. This can be done in two ways:

First, pay particular attention to schools that offer combined civil and common law programs (examples include the University of Ottawa and McGill).

Second, many Quebec law schools have arrangements with other Canadian law schools that allow civil law graduates to earn a common law degree (LL.B.) in one year.

Chapter 26 will be of special interest to you.

Audience Specific Introduction 5

Canadian Applicants Applying To A Law School Outside of Quebec

You are the biggest winners. This book developed out of my 20+ years of teaching LSAT courses in Toronto and counseling Canadian law school applicants. There is NO part of this book that is not relevant to your situation.

The personal statements included in the book are those of Canadian applicants. My LSAT courses and pre-law seminars are offered in Toronto and other Canadian cities.

Further Resources ...

This book actually was developed from my monthly email newsletter, my LSAT courses and my pre-law seminars. In order to subscribe to my FREE email newsletter send a request to: subscribe@lawschoolbound.com

There is a lot of pre-law information on our web sites at: www.richardson-prep.com and www.lawschoolbound.com

I teach LSAT courses all year around in Toronto - see www.richardson-prep.com and www.lawschoolbound.com

I am the author of *Mastering The LSAT - How To Prepare Effectively And Successfully* - ISBN: 0969629036

It is available through most university bookstores, general bookstores, Amazon.com and yes, even through us - info@lawschoolbound.com

Stop!! Before You Begin - How To Use The Book

This book along with the www.lawschoolbound.com site will be your companions from the time that you consider "Getting Into Law School", through the application process and can be used to prepare you for law school itself. Furthermore, during law school (as you look down the road to bar admission) you may want to reconsider Book V - "From Law School to Bar Admission - Your License To Practice".

I urge you to begin with the chapter table of contents to see how I have divided the main book into eight smaller books. You should understand the role that each book plays in the process of applying to law school, getting through law school and finally becoming a lawyer.

At the beginning of each of the eight books I have written a "Book Report" to describe the book and describe the contents of each Chapter. I advise you to begin by studying the outline of each of the eight books. After that, you can begin with the book that is of most interest and relevance to you at your present stage.

In order to encourage your beginning with the summaries, you will find the eight "Book Reports" both in the pages immediately following AND at the beginning of each individual book.

My live seminars and courses are posted at both www.lawschoolbound.com and www.richardson-prep.com. If you wish to subscribe to my email newsletter please email: subscribe@lawschoolbound.com