What to Consider When Thinking about Law School

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• Make sure as much as possible that you possess a true passion for law and being a lawyer. Law is not a career option to pursue on a whim or as a fallback plan since you cannot get a job in your chosen profession. There are a number of reasons for this including:
  o Law is an extremely expensive pursuit and most law students accrue substantial debt. Even applying to law school is expensive.
  o Law school is quite difficult and time consumptive. Ultimately it is not something you want to voluntarily put yourself through absent a strong passion for the subject matter.

• You need to decide if you are at the right point in your life to go to law school. Realize that you will very likely feel that life is passing you by as your friends marry, have children, buy homes while you are still in school. Plus you need to think about whether you will be comfortable living in substantial debt for a number of years.

In considering law school there are a number of questions that you should address:

• Do you love to read? Is spending many hours in a library almost every day a dream come true for you?
• Do you have an eye for detail? Do you love to read novels where the author devotes painstaking effort to fully develop the characters and the context that they are in?
• Do you thrive in a competitive, challenging learning environment? Will you do well in a situation where many of the people about you are likely as smart as you or even smarter, and at least some of them view you as a competitor?
• Can you cope with getting a grade report at the end of the semester that includes grades on it other than As and Bs?
• Can you handle that an assessment of your performance in a course will be based totally on the results of a single exam given at the end of the semester?
• Will you rise to the occasion when called on in class in front of your peers to respond to difficult questions based on your reading and comprehending hard-to-fathom material?
• Do you love to study? Do you like to take voluminous notes?
• Do you like to write for hours at a time in a fashion that cannot only be read but makes sense to a reader?
• Do you get along with others even when they may express intensely held views that are the opposite of yours?
• Do you have the patience and endurance to make it through three full years or more, if going part-time, of an exceptionally rigorous academic program that is very expensive?
• Do you realize that the lifestyle and working environment of lawyers portrayed on television have little, if any, connection to the realities of an actual law practice?

If you answered no to two or more of the above questions, then you really need to consider whether law school is the right choice for you at your present stage in life.