

# How to be a Law Student

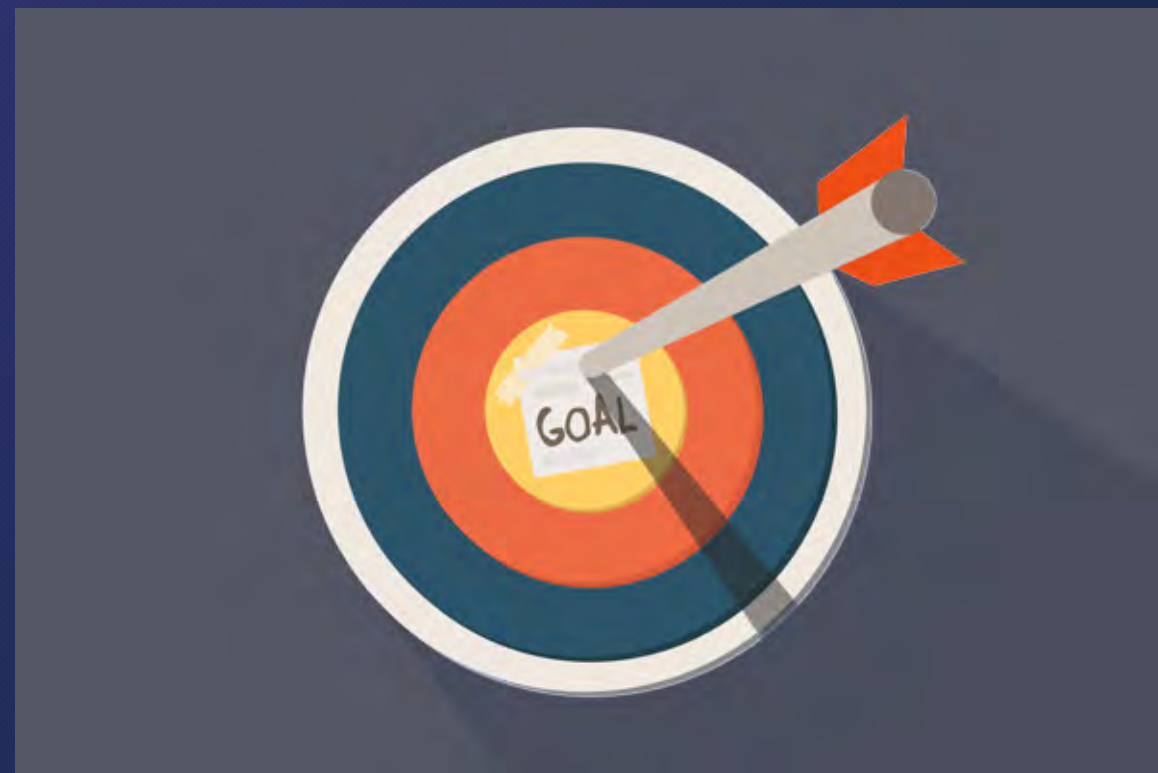
Jill Gross

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# 1. Be goal-oriented



# What are our goals for you?

## **KNOWLEDGE**

Civil Procedure; Torts; Criminal Law; Contracts; Constitutional Law; Property; Other Bar Courses; Administrative Law Requirement

## **VALUES**

Professional Responsibility; Professional Development Credits

## **SKILLS**

Legal Skills I and II; Upper Level Writing Requirement; Upper Level Skills Requirement; Clinics & Externships

## 2. Set realistic expectations



# “Day One and you’re unprepared”

- [First Criminal Law class](#)



# Prepare, prepare, prepare...



By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

~ Benjamin Franklin

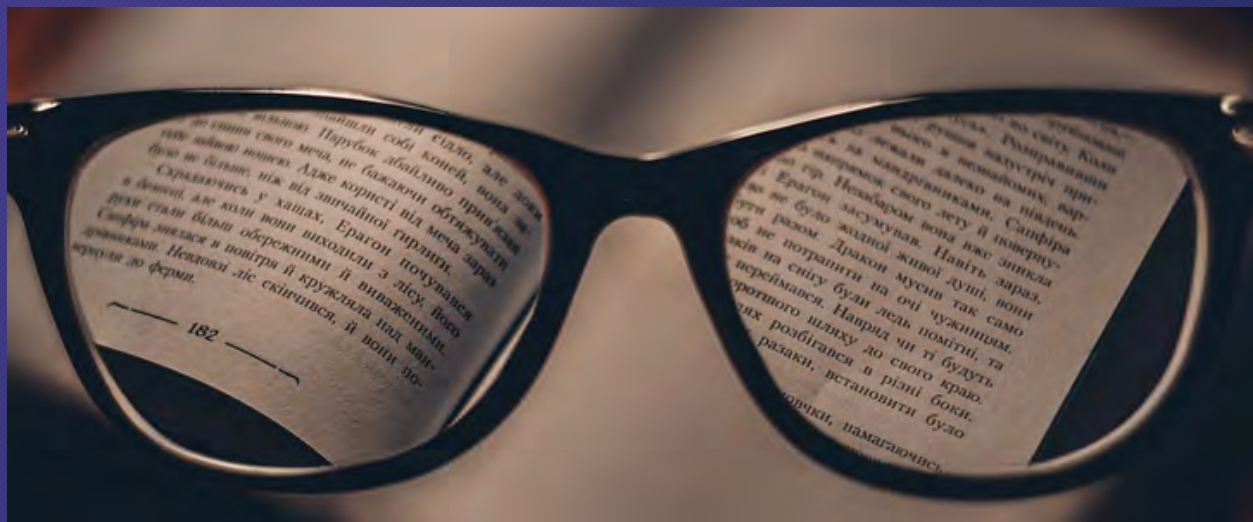
AZ QUOTES

# What are our expectations of you?

- Prepare for and attend classes
- Respect your classmates
- Respect law school faculty and staff
- Academic honesty
- Good faith effort

Each academic credit = 55 minutes of classroom instruction + 2 hours of out-of-class work per week =  $\approx$  45 hours per week

### 3. Read critically





# What is critical reading?

[It does NOT mean criticizing what you read]

- Reading for interpretation and understanding
- SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recall, Review
- Engaging in what you read by asking yourself questions such as, '*what is the author trying to say?*' or '*what is the legal rule this court is applying?*'

Critical reading leads to excelling on law school exams because it sparks analytical thinking, legal reasoning and deeper understanding.

## Example: *Heims v. Hanke*

“The finding that the icy condition of the sidewalk was caused by the negligence of the defendant is supported by sufficient evidence.”

## 4. Use the resources in front of you



# Haub Law School Resources

- Dean for Students; Office of Student Services (Angie/Patrick)
- Registrar's Office (Josie Wolf)
- Academic Success Office (Danielle Kocal)
- Office of Career and Professional Development (Jill Backer)
- Writing Specialist (Tamar Gribetz)
- Director of First Year Legal Skills Program (Michelle Simon)
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (aka Academic Dean Jill Gross)
- Faculty Advisor (to be assigned)
- Faculty Mentor (to be sought after)

## 5. Shed lazy habits



## 6. Develop a professional identity



## 7. Pay attention to detail



# Lawyers must be detail-oriented

- Read Academic Rules closely
- Read emails from Pace administrators and faculty
- Read syllabus for each course closely
- Follow instructions
- Follow-up
- Proofread all written communications



8. See the world through others' eyes.



# 9. Learn to be a lifelong learner



# 10. Be good to yourself



# Questions?

