

Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter 1. What to Expect in Law School.	5
The First Year of Law School.	6
Reading Assignments	6
Teaching Methods.	9
Courses Taught in the First Year	12
Becoming a Lawyer	14
Preparing for Law School	18
Chapter 2. Government and Law	23
The Structure of American Government	23
The Law: Sources, Types, and Meanings	26
Sources	26
Types	30
Meanings	34
Choosing an Enforcement Regime.	40
Chapter 3. The Structure of the American Legal System.	43
Legal Systems	43
Adversarial and Inquisitorial Regimes	43
Common Law and Civil Law	44
Private Law and Public Law	47
Courts	48
The Dual Court Systems in the United States	49
The United States Supreme Court	53
Navigating the Courts.	54
Litigation: Myth and Reality.	55
The Vanishing Jury Trial and the Focus on the Pretrial Phase	56
Remedies	58
Financing Litigation.	59
Chapter 4. The Legal Toolbox: Basic Techniques	63
Introduction: The Function of Legal Techniques	64
Reading Carefully	65
Reading Legal Sources.	65
Reading Cases.	73

Reasoning Styles	80
Analytical Reasoning	80
Analogical Reasoning	85
Chapter 5. The Legal Toolbox: Concepts	91
Dichotomies	91
Rules versus Standards	92
Categorization versus Balancing	96
Objective versus Subjective	97
Cross-Cutting Legal Doctrines	98
Precedent and Stare Decisis	98
States of Mind	101
Burdens of Proof	102
Standards of Review	104
Other Common Concepts	107
Law and Economics (or Economic Analysis of Law)	108
Cognitive Psychology and the Law (or Behavioral Law and Economics)	116
Other Useful Concepts	118
What If a Tool Isn't Listed Here?	121
Chapter 6. The Legal Toolbox: Strategies	123
Class Preparation	123
In Class	141
Outside of Class	143
Exams	145
Conclusion	149
Resources	151
Law School References: How to Look and Be Smarter in the Classroom and Beyond	151
An American History Refresher	151
Theoretical Frameworks of American Law	166

Looking Ahead: After Law School	174
What Lawyers Do	174
Career Choices	176
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	181
<i>Test Your Understanding: Answers and Analysis</i>	183
<i>Table of Figures and Test Your Understanding Exercises</i>	201
<i>Index</i>	203