

# Law School Revealed



Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

## Law School Revealed

*An intense course that will give you the skills you need to ensure that your hard work puts you at the top of your class.*

**Instructor:** Catherine Bramble, J.D.  
Email: [catherine\\_bramble@byu.edu](mailto:catherine_bramble@byu.edu)  
Phone: #801-787-7306

## Course Materials:

All readings and materials will be provided on the first day of class.

## Course Intent:

This course teaches students everything they need to know to be at the top of their class starting in their first year of law school. The class focuses on both technique and substance to give students the skills to excel regardless of what law school they attend or what areas they choose to emphasize in law school as well as a thorough knowledge-base of the first year topics they will be required to take. Additionally, the course prepares a student to know and understand exactly how and what to study to be in the top 10% of their class starting the first day of law school. Lastly, this course includes many practical components that will provide in-depth answers to many of the questions that leave students anxious about law school such as what Law Review is and how to get on it, what is on the Bar Exam, why the first year of law school is “so hard”, how to get jobs at the best law firms, and more. By the time a student finishes this course, they will (1) have all of their questions answered about law school, (2) possess the knowledge and skills to be at the top of their class, and (3) be prepared for life before, during, and after law school without any of the stress or anxiety that accompanies every law student who doesn't take this class!

## Instructor's Background:

Catherine Bramble graduated from BYU Law School in 2005. She graduated in the top 2% of her class of 156 and received the Order of the Coif and the Order of the Barrister, a rare combination. She was a member of BYU's Law Review, was a member of the Trial Advocacy Competition team that won the Western Regional NTC tournament in 2004, and received the J. Reuben Clark Award her third year of law school. During both of her law school summers, she clerked for the prestigious law firm of Snow, Christensen, and Martineau in Salt Lake City, Utah doing defense litigation. She studied for and passed the Utah State Bar without a commercial bar prep course and became one of the youngest members ever admitted to the Utah Bar. After law school, she worked for four years at BYU directing the Prelaw Advisement Center, one of the largest prelaw programs in the country. In September of 2008, she retired from her position as Prelaw Advisor and Director of Preprofessional Advisement at BYU. She now works from home for a small law firm 5-10 hours a week practicing business, adoption, and estate planning law.

## Additional Benefits of Enrolling in the Class

Additional benefits of the class include (1) a professional edit of your resume by the Professor in preparation for 1L summer interviews and permanent law school email access to the Professor and (2) 3-years of email access to the Professor; whether you are in your first week of law school or your last, if you enroll in the class you can feel free to email the Professor with any questions or concerns about anything related to law school or the legal profession. Prior students have often found this to be a useful resource when looking for advice later in their law school career and appreciate having a mentor who is just an email away.

## Course Schedule:

### Class One

- Hour 1: Introduction to the Class  
*Overview of the course schedule and materials, discussion of expectations, getting to know classmates.*
- Hour 2: Overview of Law School Timeline and Curriculum  
*Overview of what to expect in law school from the first day of class to taking the bar (first year of law school versus second year of law school, when you apply for summer clerkships, when you will interview for permanent jobs, etc.)  
Overview of first year courses (torts, civil procedure, property, etc).*
- Homework: Make list of questions and areas of apprehension (10 per student)

### Class Two

- Hour 1: Introduction to Case Briefing  
*Learn how to brief a case and why case briefing is important in law school.*
- Hour 2: Case Briefing I  
*Read a short case in your small group and prepare a case brief; discuss as a class using the Socratic method.*
- Homework: Read assigned cases and prepare case briefs

### Class Three

- Hour 1: Case Briefing II  
*Discuss cases briefed using the Socratic method.*
- Hour 2: Studying for Finals and Making Effective Outlines  
*Learn how to make an effective outline from your case briefs and what you need to do to study for finals effectively.*
- Homework: Prepare and study your outline

### Class Four

- Hour 1: Practice Law School Final #1  
*Take a practice law school final using the information you organized and memorized in your outline*
- Hour 2: First Year Law School Classes: Torts, Property, & Criminal Law  
*Overview of each topic—what you will be learning and how to study for it*
- Homework: None.

## *Class Five*

- Hour 1: First Year Law School Classes: Contracts & Civil Procedure  
*Overview of each topic—what you will be learning and how to study for it*
- Hour 2: First Year Law School Classes: Constitutional Law & Elective Courses  
*Overview of each topic—what you will be learning and how to study for it*
- Homework: None.

## *Class Six*

- Hour 1: Introduction to Secondary Sources  
*Learn what secondary legal sources are, how they are used in legal research, and why they are important in law school and legal practice.*
- Hour 2: Introduction to Legal Research & Writing  
*Learn how to do effective legal research & writing and what legal research you will be required to do in law school, on the bar, and in legal practice.*
- Homework: Read assigned MPT

## *Class Seven*

- Hour 1: Legal Research #1  
*In-class MPT in small group.*
- Hour 2: Legal Research #1 (cont.)  
*In-class MPT in small group. Grading and discussion of exercise.*
- Homework: None

## *Class Eight*

- Hour 1: Legal Research #2  
*In-class individual MPT.*
- Hour 2: Legal Research #2  
*In-class individual MPT. Grading and discussion of exercise.*
- Homework: None

# Law School Revealed



Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

## *Class Nine*

- Hour 1: Co-Curriculars (Law Review, Moot Court, etc.)  
*Learn what law review is, how you “get on it” and what other co-curriculars are available and how to participate in them.*
- Hour 2: Finding your Dream Job—1L & 2L summers & after Graduation  
*Discuss how the job search works your 1L and 2L summers, how to prepare an excellent resume and cover letter, what to expect in an interview and call-back, and how to land your “dream job.”*
- Homework: Email a copy of your current resume to the Professor for review

## *Class Ten*

- Hour 1: The Bar Examination and Life After  
*Learn when to take the Bar, what will be tested on it, and how to study for it. Learn what happens after you pass the Bar (admission, licensing, CLE, etc.).*
- Hour 2: Review and Conclusion; Discussion of Questions Not Answered  
*Review major concepts learned in the course. Go through lists of questions generated at the beginning of course and answer any that have not yet been answered.*