

“I am interested in Business Law.
WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE?”

DAVID V. SNYDER
Professor of Law

You probably want a list of courses, right here, right off the bat. I will give you some lists, but realize that not everyone should have the same list, plus (you know this already) you have to make your own list. On top of that, different knowledgeable people would give you different lists and priorities. So you need to start with the realization that just as various students have varying interests and outlooks, so do various professors. What follows are just my own views, creditors trying to get money out of the bankrupt company. They negotiate and document deals to reorganize companies in bankruptcy. They also work on deals and law suits where there is concern about bankruptcy. Once someone files a petition in bankruptcy, everything changes. Bankruptcy lawyers are experts in that specialized world. x Real estate has obvious meaning. Also keep in mind that there can be a hefty component of finance as well as planning, zoning, and the like.

- x Tax is also self-explanatory, but you should realize also that tax lawyers are always involved in major deals. Tax law drives everything.
- x Commercial litigation includes a large number of practice areas. Some major ones: litigating the mergers that go bad, or that involve jilted suitors; contract disputes; antitrust; unfair trade practices and intellectual property enforcement; securities litigation and arbitration.
- x The rest you can figure out for yourself. And there are obviously specialties I haven't included.

COURSES, WITH EXPLANATION

Courses everyone should take

you need to pick up accounting somehow, if you don't have it already. There are courses you can take here (Law and Accounting), or you can take a Business School course. This is easy to put off, but don't. Take it seriously, and it will pay rich dividends no matter what area you choose. This is

likely eventual practice but also your chances of getting a job.

If you've been paying attention, you will see that I have given you reasons why and why not to take a vocational as opposed to a liberal arts approach to your legal education. What good does that do you? It means you get to choose. Do what you want, and do what sounds good, and comfortable. You will have job prospects in mind, I do not doubt, but you will also keep in mind the broader interests you had before you came to law school.

Should I do a clinic or some other experiential learning? Experiential learning can be valuable for obvious reasons. How much time you devote to it in law school is a personal decision that you will have to make for yourself. You are presumably accustomed to multifactor balancing tests by now, so let me give you some factors.

Don't do a clinic. You only have three years in

