

Social Structure, Educational Attainment and Admission to Law School

A Ziegert

3 Legal Educ Rev 2 (1992) pp 155-234

In view of the complex operation of social structure and social process, and their combined effects on the work practices of educational organisations on all levels (family, primary education, secondary education, and tertiary education), a review of admission practices cannot be content to assess admission to law school as a single, independent event but must attempt to link this event to the socio-historical context in which it occurs and in which a particular educational organisation operates.

The article introduces a general model of the selective dynamics of social structure and social process as they can be seen to bear on educational operations, including admission practices.

Article reports on a research project which assessed the effects of current admission practices as reflected in the profile of admitted law students. Research concentrated on the later stages of the selection process and relied exclusively on the self-reports of law students.

Secondary School and University Results as Predictors of Success in Law

P Parkinson, K Tremayne & J Stubbs

3 Legal Educ Rev 2 (1992) pp 235-266

The problem for law schools is how to select, from among the large number of suitably qualified candidates, those who should be offered admission to law. A key issue is whether the criteria which are adopted are the fairest means of achieving the goals for which they are designed. In Australia the main criterion for selection is academic merit according to results achieved in the Higher School Certificate (HSC). It is not obvious that this

should be the basis for selection.

In general the debate has not been on whether academic criteria should be used, but whether the HSC scores validly and fairly reflect academic merit.

In the light of concerns with the HSC, and a proposal to move to post-first year entry, the article reports on an analysis of the predictive capacity of the HSC. The study tested the correlation between students' HSC performance and their success in studying law, and compared this with the correlation between first year results and performance in law subjects. Aim of study was to determine if the use of unscaled university results, with or without the inclusion of one introductory law subject, would provide a better basis for prediction.

EVALUATION

[no material in this edition]

FACILITIES

[no material in this edition]

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Law Students are Starved

B Husband

Aust Law News, July '92, p 57

Letter to editor. Student reaction to Law Council of Australia's call for more funding for legal education.

Investing in Legal Education

S Bright & M Sunkin

26 Law Teacher 2 (1992) pp 118-129

Article examines the benefits that sponsorship of law schools can bring to donors or donees. In order that they are fully exploited, law schools need to have a clearer idea not only of what they want out of the arrangements but also of the expectations of potential donors.

GOVERNANCE

[no material in this edition]

HISTORY

Marquette Law School: the First Twenty Years

W D Miller

74 Marquette L Rev 3-4, pp 377-389
Records history of Marquette Law School's first twenty years.

INHOUSE CLE

[no material in this edition]

INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS/AREAS OF LAW

Impassioning a Civil Rights Course

L Bender & D Braveman

16 Vermont L Rev 3,943-968

Describes a course on civil rights which seeks to develop critical thinking on, and understanding of, civil rights issues of race, gender, and class subordination. Discusses what was taught, and why the material was selected. Purpose of essay is to generate discussion about design of civil rights courses, to stimulate thinking about the underlying civil rights issues, and to spur exploration of the goals and methods of legal education generally. Syllabus is included in an appendix.

The Comparative Legal Process throughout the Law School Curriculum: a Modest Proposal for Culture and Competence in a Pluralistic Society

M P Waxman

74 Marquette L Rev 3-4, pp 391-398

Argues that comparative law is particularly well suited to assist in facilitating the analysis of two "cutting edge" issues, namely the effects of the internationalisation of legal interaction and to assist in the legitimisation, acceptance, and application of diverse socio-legal cultures in our constantly evolving pluralistic society.

University of Southampton Information Technology Law LL M

3 Computers and Law, March '92, pp 25-27.

Describes new Infotech LL M.