Determining if Law School Is for You

Applying to and attending law school demands time, money, and great effort. It is wise to explore and examine both the legal profession and the law school experience. Much has been written about the high levels of job dissatisfaction among lawyers. And the cost and rigors of law school are great. It is crucial for all applicants to evaluate the choice to go to law school, making certain that it is the right career path.

To decide if law school is the right path for you, students should:

- Intern in the legal field to gain a working knowledge of the profession. The legal profession is not an easy one – the work can be challenging and require long hours. It is important to know what the profession requires!
- Realistically evaluate your credentials – GPA, experience, and commitment. While law school applications have leveled off in recent years, many schools are taking few students. Do not unrealistically over-shoot your applications, and end up disappointed. Make sure you include schools whose standards you clearly meet.
- Be aware that the current job market for law school graduates is very tight.
- Read some of the books listed in the **Resources** section.
- Enroll in some law-related undergraduate courses to determine if you are truly interested in the content.
- Sit in on some law school classes at USF or elsewhere.

Many students who, upon graduation, are unsure about their futures, believe that acquiring a law degree will guarantee them a future and a career. This is a common misperception. In fact the job market has become increasingly more challenging in recent years.

On the other hand, if you've made sure that law school is the right thing for you, and you find yourself sufficiently motivated and dedicated, then by all means, apply! We need more good lawyers!