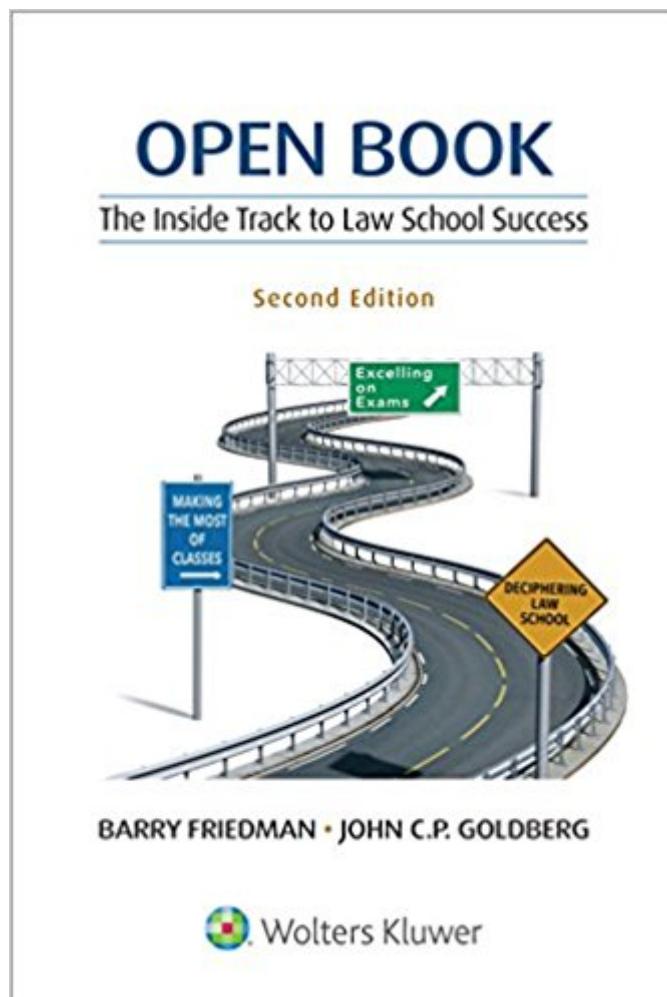


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Open Book: The Inside Track To Law School Success



Synopsis

Open Book: The Inside Track to Law School Success, 2E is a book that every JD and LLM law student needs to read, either before classes start or as they get going in their 1L year. Now in an expanded second edition, the book explains in a clear and easygoing, conversational manner what law professors expect from their students both in classes and exams. The authors, award-winning teachers with a wealth of classroom experience, give students an inside look at law school by explaining how, despite appearances to the contrary, classes connect to exams and exams connect to the practice of law. Open Book introduces them to the basic structure of our legal system and to the distinctive features of legal reasoning. To prepare students for exams, the book explains in clear and careful detail what exams are designed to test. It then devotes a single, clearly written chapter to each step of the process of answering exams. It also contains a wealth of material, both in the book and digitally, on preparing for exams. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Open Book comes with a free suite of 18 actual law school exams in Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property and Torts, written and administered by law professors. These exams include not only questions, but: (1) annotations from the professors explaining what they were looking for; (2) model answers written by the professors themselves; and (3) actual student answers, with professor comments that explain why certain answers were stronger or weaker. As Open Book explains, there is no better way to prepare for exams than by practicing, and these unique materials will enable students to get the most out of their pre-exam practice.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent Resource for Incoming Law Students! Professors Friedman and Goldberg break down the essentials on doing well in and out of the classroom. They bridge the gap between classroom lectures, final exams, and legal practice. What better way to learn about expectations in the classroom and on exams than from law professors themselves. The included online content provides a wealth of additional outlines, case summaries, and sample exams for students to examine. A must read for any law student wanting to make the most of their educational experience.

A+

"Open Book: The Inside Track to Law School Success" is an essential tool for those seeking to get ahead in law school. For many (including myself), the first semester of law school can seem like a daunting experience—traditional lectures are replaced by the Socratic method, an accuracy-based grading scale is replaced by the ever-imposing curve, and periodic tests are replaced by a single, cumulative examination. Needless to say, these changes will initially be foreign to everyone. In this book, Friedman and Goldberg provide an outline for traversing this foreign academic environment and, ultimately, for succeeding in law school. In Part I, the book provides a great roadmap for what future law students can and should expect in the classroom. Unlike so many other books, "Open Book" effectively explains how classes connect to the final examination and gives future students a great idea of how to prepare for that exam from their very first day in the classroom. Part II of the book provides the perfect compliment, giving guidance on how law students can not only survive, but thrive during the exam period. Moreover, like other reviewers, I was impressed by the online resources and practice exams that accompany the book—this will give future law students the chance to practice the very skills they are reading about, an opportunity that few other books provide. As a future law student, you're going to quickly realize that a number of books all claim to be THE book that you need to read to get ahead in law school. In my opinion, though, this book surpasses them all—it provides all of the information contained in those competing books, but it goes above and beyond by providing sample exams. An outstanding read for future law students.

I am so glad that I took the time to read this book before starting law school. Whereas before I was feeling nervous and anxious about what to expect in law school and how to succeed, I now feel calmer and more focused. This book helped me to understand where I need to direct my efforts and how I should be approaching my studies from day 1. I have read several law school prep materials

and Open Book is so far my favorite. It is a comprehensive resource regarding law school with exam prep as the focal point. This was perfect for me because I was most nervous about exams and how to succeed on them. Other prep books did not leave me feeling prepared and did not sufficiently cover the subject. I went from feeling totally freaked out and clueless about exams to now feeling like I am ahead of the game. The other aspect about this book that I love is the conversational tone that is relaxing, funny and accessible but NOT corny. Open Book was a pleasure to read. I also look forward to referring to the extensive sample exams, model answers, outlines and checklists once my 1L year is underway.

As someone who has little familiarity with law school exams or classes -- I studied biology in undergrad -- I found this book quite helpful. The book anticipated the first classes of school well, explaining the fundamentals of common law systems and of U.S. court hierarchy. Essentially, the authors answer a lot of readers' "dumb" questions so they don't have to be asked in class. From there, they proceed to explaining how to brief cases and study for exams. I've yet to take my first exams, so I can't attest to how well the authors' advice works, but I feel better prepared. The writing throughout is humorous and clear. There is a fair amount of repetition of key points, but this serves to drive important ideas home. I recommend as a friendly, unintimidating beginning to law school!

Friedman and his fellow author Goldberg gave a great way to look at preparation for law school exams. The way they organized the book made it easy to follow their system for success at law school. Their discussion of the connection between class and law school exams flows easily into how to take an exam and into how to prepare for the exams throughout the semester. Many books discuss that outlines and briefs are essential to the law school experience but Open Book provides examples and a breakdown of how to do so. Additionally, the book comes with access to an online supplement, which provides model answers to many of the hypotheticals posed in the book. This access makes it easy to compare your own answers with those a professor wishes to see and doesn't overwhelm the text with extra information. Overall, it was a quick and easy read and one that I recommend to read over your 0L summer.

There are too many books to count that purport to give law school and exam taking advice. Why choose this one? 1. The writers are professors at elite institutions and know what they are talking about. They grade exams for a living. 2. This book is simple and clear with practical advice. Many exam books have advice that is esoteric or really just rhetorical at heart. This book avoids the

cliches and gets to the heart of the matter (just like a good law school exam). 3. This book goes beyond merely explaining exam strategy and shows how to effectively tackle law school as a whole: note taking, outlining, etc. Not only will that make you a more effective exam taker, but it will make you a more effective student overall. Highly recommend.

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