The Future of Legal Education
Selected Resources

This list contains three topic headings:

I. Changes in Legal Profession
II. Changes in Legal Education
III. Changes in Economic Factors

Please note that there is an “Additional Reading” section at the end of this selection. These titles are monographs about the future of legal education for future reading if desired. All titles are available in the library collection.

I. Changes in Legal Profession

A. Newspaper & Blog Articles


• Article discussing Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) predictions for lawyers from 2010-2020. Here is a link to the BLS page for lawyers: http://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/lawyers.htm

B. Law Review Articles


II. Changes in Legal Education

A. Newspaper & Blog Articles


• Links to articles discussing law school and legal education in one blog entry. Hyperlinks included.
New York Times Law School Articles

- This New York Times website offers all of their articles that fall under the topic of “law school,” including their recent law school series.
- Law School Admission Testing Plunges (graph with number from 1987 to present):

The Chronicle of Higher Education: Law Professor Gives Schools a Failing Grade
http://chronicle.com/article/Law-Professor-Gives-Law/131815/

Simple Justice Blog: Failing Law Schools: What if Tamanaha is Right?
http://blog.simplejustice.us/2012/05/12/failing-law-schools-what-if-tamanaha-is-right.aspx?ref=

Boston Globe, Vermont Law School to Downsize, Offer Buyouts to Staff; Faculty May Be Next, Vt. Law School Cutting Jobs, Preparing for Changes

Tax Law Prof. Blog

- Law Schools Shrink And See Drop In Predictors - "We compiled this chart of 2012 law school entering class sizes and predictors, a few weeks ago, using law school website information. Apologies for any errors - and sorry it's not totally up to date. But the punch line is: on a widespread basis aggregate 1L class sizes are contracting and predictors are dropping. And as my recent post suggests, this is not the end of the story."

The Faculty Lounge Blog:

- From the Faculty Lounge (Filler's blog post has chart attached though the information is not "official" as he notes): http://www.thefacultylounge.org/2012/11/law-schools-contract-and-see-drop-in-predictors.html


**B. Blogs**

**a. Most active blogs:**

Legal Skills Prof Blog  

- Users should search “legal education” for related blog posts.

TaxProf Blog  

- Users should search “legal crisis” or “legal education” for related blog posts.

- There is also a collection of many reviews of the Tamanaha book:  

**b. Other Topical Blogs:**

Best Practices for Legal Education  
[http://bestpracticeslegaled.albanylawblogs.org](http://bestpracticeslegaled.albanylawblogs.org)

- This blog features discussion regarding Case Western Dean Lawrence Mitchell’s on the “sensationalist” claims of law school critics:  

Law School Innovations  

Law School 2.0 Blog  
[http://www.lawschool2.org](http://www.lawschool2.org)

Law School Transparency  
[http://www.lawschooltransparency.com/blog/](http://www.lawschooltransparency.com/blog/)
Includes a news feed and essay library (see the “Reform Central” link).

The Legal Whiteboard
http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legalwhiteboard/

- Specific entries discussing Tamanaha article:
  - http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legalwhiteboard/2012/05/review-of-failing-law-schools-by-brian-tamanaha-.html

C. Law Review Articles

Jennifer S. Bard, “Practicing Medicine and Studying Law”: How Medical Schools Used to Have the Same Problems We Do and What We Can Learn from Their Efforts to Solve Them, 10 SEATTLE J. SOC. JUST. 135 (2011).

- The article discusses how to integrate training skills into legal education like medical schools.


- Discusses Tamanaha book and its failure to address the future and create solutions.

Lauren Carasik, Renaissance or Retrenchment: Legal Education at a Crossroads, 44 IND. L. REV. 735 (2011).

Elizabeth Chambliss, Two Questions for Law Schools about the Future Boundaries of the Legal Profession, 36 J. LEGAL PROF. 329 (2012).

- Two issues confronting law school-1) increasing segmentation of the profession and 2) pressure for deregulation.


- Article based on Nichols’ ABA law deans keynote address.


- Explores the benefits of mandatory experiential programs and their impact on modern legal education, namely clinics.

Sara K. Rankin, Tired of Talking: A Call for Clear Strategies for Legal Education Reform: Moving Beyond the Discussion of Good Ideas to the Real Transformation of Law Schools, 10 SEATTLE J. SOC. JUST. 11 (2011)


D. Websites & Organizations Dealing with Legal Education (2012)

Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers: http://educatingtomorrowlawyers.du.edu/about-etl/


Center for Dispute Resolution – University of Missouri School of Law Symposium titled: “Overcoming Barriers in Preparing Law Students for Real-World Practice” (October, 2012) (includes symposium papers, handouts, etc.) http://law.missouri.edu/csdr/symposium/2012/  

III. Changes in Economic Factors

A. Newspaper & Blog Articles


Additional Reading: Books

MITCHELL KOWALSKI, AVOIDING EXTINCTION: REIMAGINING LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (2012). (On Order)

REFORMING LEGAL EDUCATION: LAW SCHOOLS AT THE CROSSROADS (David M. Moss & Debra Moss Curtis eds., 2012).


BRIAN Z. TAMANAHA, FAILING LAW SCHOOLS (2012).

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND TRANSFORMATIVE LAW TEACHING: A CRITICAL READER (Society of American Law Teachers & Golden Gate University School of Law eds., 2011)