

***Acing Your First Year of Law School: The Ten Steps to Success You Won't Learn in Class***

BY SHANA CONNELL NOYES AND HENRY S. NOYES, BUFFALO, NY; WILLIAM S. HEIN & CO., 1999

REVIEWED BY APRIL MARTIN

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This is another in a long list of how-to books designed to help alleviate the fear and anxiety of the first-year law student. It's a futile but apparently lucrative effort. The authors use their achievement of "making Law Review" to lend authority to their advice, promulgating the common perception that law school success is defined by law review and class rank. Regardless of your definition of law school success, this is not a book legal writing professors should recommend to students.

By including topics such as "Legal Research" and "Legal Writing" alongside "How to Read a Case" and "Outlining," the authors minimize the importance of the first-year writing curriculum. It is a disservice to the students to encapsulate "Legal Writing" in seven pages, with no references to more comprehensive materials, and claim that this covers what a student needs to know for the first year of law school. At best, this book provides an outline of the materials that should be covered in a comprehensive orientation. Students may find some anxiety relief in the "Dicta Column" at the end of each chapter, explaining what they *don't* need to know, but it's not likely to outweigh the anxiety that will result from discovering, perhaps too late, that legal writing is more than a "tip" for law school success.

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