

Third Annual
Legal Master's Degree Conference
March 30, 2019
Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad College of Law



OPPORTUNITIES AND PITFALLS IN COURSE DEVELOPMENT FOR MASTERS STUDENTS

Who's in the Driver's Seat?

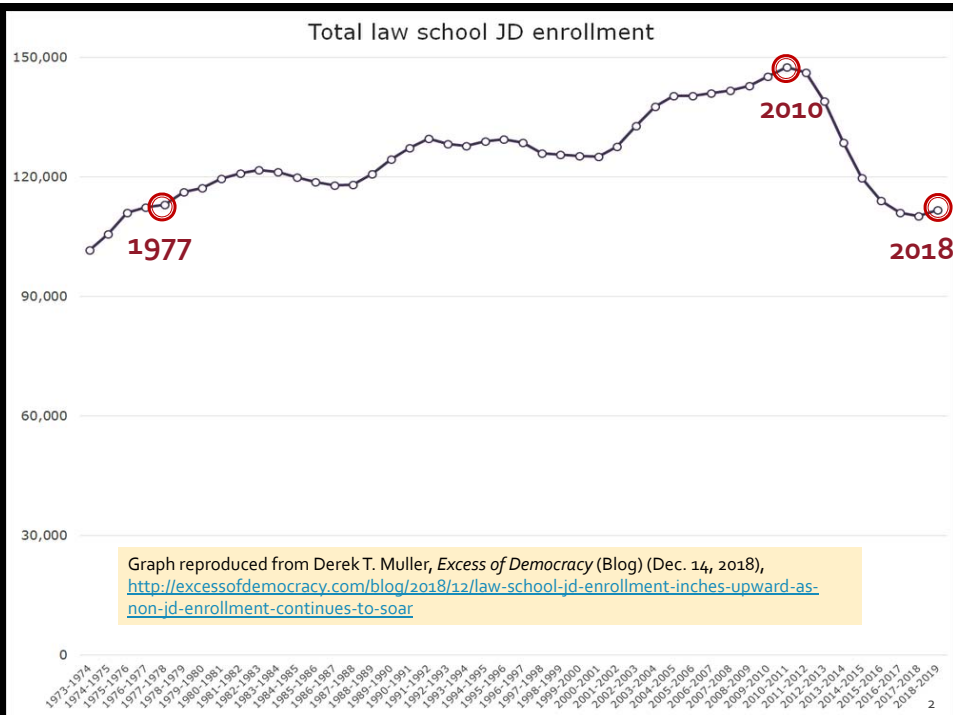


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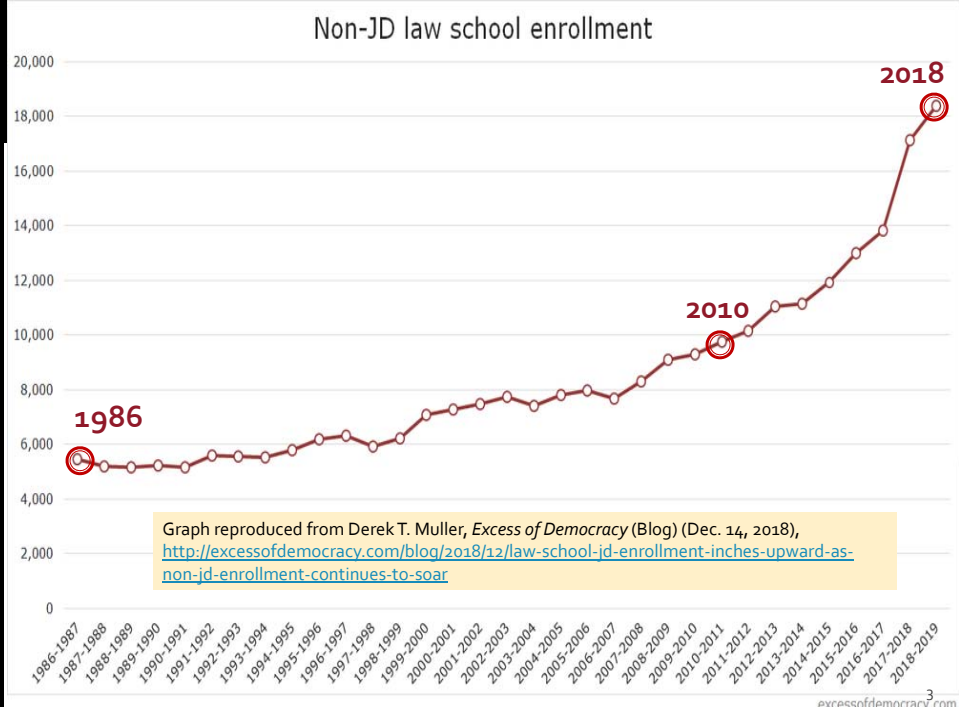


**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW**

The Coincidental (?) Rise of Non-lawyer Masters Programs



The Coincidental (?) Rise of Non-lawyer Masters Programs



Course Design for Whom?

Masters?



JD?

Both?

JD Student Learning Outcomes

“Students who graduate from Texas A&M University School of Law with a J.D. degree will demonstrate a broad range of professional competencies by development of their **(1) Ethical and Professional Identity, (2) Legal Knowledge, (3) Judgment and Problem Solving Skills, (4) Communication and Practice Skills, and (5) Service.**”



5

JD Student Learning Outcomes

1. Ethical and Professional Identity

- Students will be able to recognize and resolve moral, ethical, and professional dilemmas that lawyers regularly encounter and to understand the essential values, habits, and responsibilities of **lawyers as representatives of clients, officers of the court, and members of society at large.**

2. Legal Knowledge

- Students will **demonstrate knowledge in core areas** of substantive law, procedure, and **legal theory** and will be aware of the role of law in the United States and global community.

6

JD Student Learning Outcomes

3. Judgment and Problem-Solving Skills

- Students will be able to conduct basic legal research; to apply legal doctrine, statutes, and rules; and to use critical thinking, reasoning, and analytical skills to advise clients, solve legal problems, or construct legal arguments.

4. Communication and Practice Skills

- Students will demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills and develop the practice skills necessary for careers involving litigation, transactional law, or regulatory law.

5. Service

- Students will understand the importance of community involvement, pro bono service, and access to justice.

7



What does the displacement of JD student learning outcomes mean for the coverage, design, and delivery of masters courses?

8

An Exciting Tale of Skills and Doctrine!



What does the displacement of JD student learning outcomes mean for the **coverage**, **design**, and **delivery** of masters courses?

9

10

The Geography of Building a Curriculum



Fort Worth
College Station
San Antonio

11

Course Design for Whom?

Masters?



JD?

Both?

12

Target Audience

M. Jur. Program in Business Law & Compliance



SKILLS | IMPACT | LEADERSHIP | EXPERIENCE
LEADERSHIP THROUGH LAW

Built for business professionals who deal with the law.

- Compliance
- Contracting and negotiation
- Risk management
- Human resources

13

"First-Year" Curriculum (15 credits)

M. Jur. Program in Business & Compliance



- Introduction to the U.S. Legal System (3)
- **Contracts (4)**
- Legal Analysis & Writing for Clients (2)
- **Business Associations (3)**
- Dispute Resolution for Business (half-semester course) (1.5)
- **Principles of International Business (half-semester course) (1.5)**

14

"Second-Year" Curriculum (15 credits)

M. Jur. Program in Business & Compliance



- Rotation of specialized topic courses, including
 - Risk Management
 - Business-Government Litigation
 - Employment Law
 - Intellectual Property
 - Environmental Compliance
 - Health Compliance
 - Legal Research for Clients

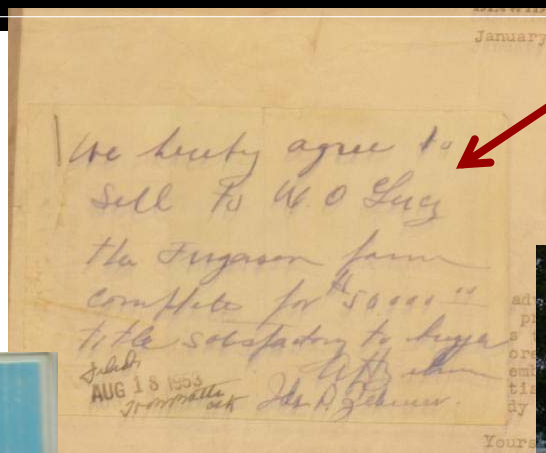
15

Contracts for Non-lawyers?



16

The Egalitarianism of Contract Law



Contract from Lucy v. Zehmer, 84 S.E.2d 516 (Va. 1954).



Designing around a Fuzzy Arena

UPOL

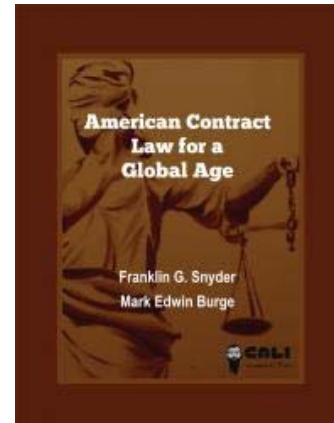
- Representing any entity or other person in court
- Advising others on legal questions and legal interpretations
- Drafting contracts, wills, and other legal documents for use by others

Not UPOL

- Representing one's self in court
- Reading and studying the law
- Working with lawyers to plan legal strategy
- Complying with the law
- Reading and executing contracts
- Making internal business decisions

Contracts Course Design for Masters Students

- Contract law as the exemplar for how lawyers think
- Contract law as the onramp for cases, precedent, and common-law development
- Contracts as private ordering
- Contract law as interactive problem-solving, not Socratic questioning



19

Legal Literacy and Communication Skills

Issue
Rule
Analyses
Conclusion



- Goal for students is to be legally literate and conversant, not practicing law.
- Students play role of risk manager or contracting officer, not an attorney.
- Three major projects:
 1. Report on case file and legal memorandum
 2. Report on prior case docket in view of potential litigation
 3. Prepare annotated draft of form contract for attorney

20

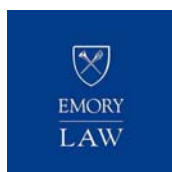
Shameless Marketing Plug



LEGAL LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

by

Jennifer Murphy Romig (Emory)
and Mark Edwin Burge (Texas A&M)



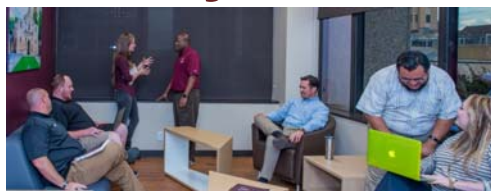
(forthcoming late 2019)

*Designed for skills
courses in legal
masters programs*

21

Redefining the Law School Public Mission

Access to law—not just access to lawyers



22

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