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# **A Woman's Guide to Law School: Everything You Need to Know to Survive and Succeed in Law School--from Finding the Right School to Finding the Right Job**

*Linda R. Hirshman*

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Everything you need to know 

to survive and succeed

in law school—from finding the

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a woman's guide to



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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *A Woman's Guide to Law School: Everything You Need to Know to Survive and Succeed in Law School--from Finding the Right School to Finding the Right Job*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very Helpful BookBy Rkarnold11I purchased this book before I started law school as a primer to help give me an idea of what to expect. I found the book to be honest and helpful as an incoming student. I think the book would have been more helpful if I hadn't chosen a school already, but the advice in the book is good for any school. I can tell you law school is stressful and time consuming. I found a lot of my female friends shocked by the competitive environment which is something this book can help you prepare for. Overall, it was very helpful and insightful.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Waste of time and vaguely insulting in tone.By TessaI'll be honest, I couldn't bear to do more than skim through much of the book. I found it incredible condescending and coddling in presentation and tone. The hour I spend paging through the book was likely the most wasted hour of my life. You want to prepare for law school, read *OneL* to get acquainted and save yourself the wasted time reading about how "Fem"-Friendly law school is or isn't. I gave it two stars instead of one because it did discuss a couple VERY basic concepts from torts and touched over citation with a few sentences. Seriously, a complete waste of time and written in such a way that I personally find insulting to women.20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Interesting ideas for critical readingBy A CustomerI got this book as a gift from a friend after I had started at a top law school that, according to this author, is not particularly female-friendly. I would never have bought this book on my own because I've never really thought I needed "special" advice as a woman, and I did fine in school. But I am very, very glad my friend gave it to me, and I wish I had read it before starting school.I found that the book offered a lot of interesting insights. You may agree or disagree with Hirshman's ideas and arguments, but the fact remains that the law school experience for many women (NOT all women) is different because they are women. And Hirshman does give some good, down-to-earth advice about the true nature of the competitive dynamics in law schools, and frankly, a lot of women have more difficulty understanding and thriving in that context. (But don't worry, I realize it's not all women!)As for those people who rated this book poorly because they disagree with Hirshman -- I myself disagree with some of her assessments. BUT no one says you have to agree with everything an author says, or that a book is only valuable if you agree with it. You're considering law school, after all, and you want to evaluate things critically and think for yourself. Moreover, just because Hirshman is right about some of the more "women-unfriendly" aspects of law school (and she is) doesn't mean that you can't or shouldn't change things. But to change them, you have to understand how things are to begin with. And there are few books that tackle head-on the very real gender dynamics in law schools. Most people ignore them, but they're there. (For instance, in a faculty survey done by the women's organization at my law school, a number of male law professors admitted that they were much more hesitant to develop mentoring relationships with young female students to avoid any awkwardness or suggestion of impropriety. Other professors, male and female, talked about how women did not speak up enough in class.)So I'd strongly recommend reading this book for women who are considering going or are about to attend law school. Read it before you go because first year is really important, usually the most important year in terms of success in law school.But DON'T take Hirshman's ideas as a prediction of how your law school experience will be. (For instance, even if I'd read her book before school, I would have chosen to attend the law school I did -- even though it's not a women-friendly place, that wouldn't have stopped me from going to a strong law school and having a good experience there.) Rather, take the book as a series of insights into how a law school experience can be, and incorporate that information into making your experience a positive and successful one.

Which law schools help their students succeed? What makes someone a successful law student? What determines a law school graduate's future success? *A Woman's Guide to Law School* provides the answers, while addressing, specifically, the needs and interests of the female student.Linda Hirshman's fresh approach gives women the advice they need--information the law schools often won't tell them. Why do admissions tests seem so scary? Which law schools are good for women--and which are not? How do successful students study in the all-important first year? How do successful students make law review? How do they prepare for their first professional job interviews? In addition to these fundamentals, women will learn about the culture of their law schools, including which law faculties make women squirm and which have politics and policies women can embrace. *A Woman's Guide to Law School* identifies the schools at which women can do their best at every level of status or selectivity, so no matter where you get in, you can pick the best place for you. With statistics and data--as well as stories of successful women law students--*A Woman's Guide to Law School* will empower women so they can make wise choices and seize control over their own education and careers.

About the AuthorLinda R. Hirshman is retired from her position as the Allen/Berenson Distinguished Visiting Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies at Brandeis University, where she taught courses on Western political philosophy and the regulation of sex and violence. She is the author of *Hard Bargains: The Politics of Sex and A*

Woman's Guide to Law School. Hirshman also taught and practiced law in Chicago for many years, including three cases before the Supreme Court of the United States. Hirshman's article "Homeward Bound," on why women are trapped in the domestic world and how to get out, appeared in the December 2005 American Prospect. She has appeared on 60 Minutes, and Good Morning America , speaking on the subject of women quitting their jobs to stay home. She is, proudly, number 77 in Bernard Goldberg's 100 People Who Are Screwing Up America.