

David M. Reeder's Response to "The Case Against Law School" (Forbes.com October 11, 2011)

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/deborahljacobs/2011/10/11/the-case-against-law-school/>

Several thoughts on career decisions, and law school: I went to law school as an adult of 34, and have never looked back. I have found my 25 plus years of law practice to have been rewarding and reasonably remunerative. That said, the only reason that one should go to law school is if they really want to practice law. That sounds simple, but for many years law school was the refuge of those who really weren't sure which way to turn, or who had been told that with a law degree you can "do anything". Law school became the "plastics" of the 70s and 80s.

Career dissatisfaction among lawyers is a cliché. My experience, anecdotal of course, is that there is a direct correlation between career satisfaction, and one's initial draw to the practice of law. Those who decided to give it a try, or thought that it would be a road to riches with some undefined tasks as the entry fee, end up leaving law, or at least weighing down the blog world with tales of their job dissatisfaction woes.

When I started law school, it was the time of a slight downturn in the legal job market. My concerns were quelled by a quote that "at no time in recorded history has there been an oversupply of truly qualified people in any area of endeavor". Almost 30 years later, I agree.

Having been in several careers in areas as diverse as residential real estate sales and operating a soybean seed business, it is my take that water always reaches its own level. If people choose a career that they like and find reasonably exciting, they will be have a good quality of life, and will live, at very least, comfortably. Law school can achieve all of the above, for someone drawn to law practice. For others, better to go where your spirit and best judgment takes you.

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