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Getting to Maybe: How to Excel in Law School Exams

Von Richard Michael Fischl, Jeremy R. Paul
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How to Excel on Law School Exams



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Von Richard Michael Fischl, Jeremy R. Paul : Getting to Maybe: How to Excel in Law School Exams before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Getting to Maybe: How to Excel in Law School Exams:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tantra and Legal ReasoningVon Clark FreshmanThis book reminds me very much of the history of tantric yoga. For

hundreds of years, tantric yoga was available only to a very select few. Teachers claimed this was necessary because (1) tantric teachings could only be taught one at a time from a master to a disciple and (2) only some people were worthy (or capable) of training. For years, elite law professors have made the same kinds of assumptions: (1) legal reasoning can only be taught by the mysterious and mystifying question and answer process labelled Socratic teaching and (2) only some people can "get" it. It took hundreds of years before practitioners started teaching tantra in the U.S., exposing many to its benefits, and exploding the lie that only some had the potential to benefit. Thank goodness, it's taken only a little over a hundred years for this book to come along and expose how anyone can learn about legal reasoning without the mystery -- and, frankly, narcissistic abuse -- associated with the Socratic method.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Secrets of Success are Secret No More Von Atticus Falcon Getting to Maybe is a Godsend. Even for those of you who've already finished first-year, it's well worth getting. I am the author of Planet Law School: What You Need to Know Before You Go--but Didn't Know to Ask. Unfortunately, Getting to Maybe was first published in 1999, a year after PLS, so I could not recommend it in PLS. Hence this posting, now. Even though the authors and I are competitors, and our books are published by different firms, I urge all law students to get Getting to Maybe. (For one thing, the authors' critique of the IRAC model is succinct and devastating.) If you take doing well in law school (and becoming a good attorney) seriously, this book is a necessity. It's so well-written that I had to force myself to put it down, and ended up reading it in just two sittings, of several hours each. The earlier review, about the teaching of Tantric Yoga, is exactly right. With Getting to Maybe, the secrets are secret no more.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. BEST BOOK OUT THERE ON LAW SCHOOL EXAM TAKING Von Jennifer Jaffl not only struggled to learn how to take law school exams myself, but I also taught others how to do it for years. This book lays out the legal reasoning process in a way that is accessible and interesting. Legal scholars as well as students will find this book enlightening and fascinating.

Kurzbeschreibung Professors Fischl and Paul explain law school exams in ways no one has before, all with an eye toward improving the reader's performance. The book begins by describing the difference between educational cultures that praise students for right answers, and the law school culture that rewards nuanced analysis of ambiguous situations in which more than one approach may be correct. Enormous care is devoted to explaining precisely how and why legal analysis frequently produces such perplexing situations. But the authors don't stop with mere description. Instead, Getting to Maybe teaches how to excel on law school exams by showing the reader how legal analysis can be brought to bear on examination problems. The book contains hints on studying and preparation that go well beyond conventional advice. The authors also illustrate how to argue both sides of a legal issue without appearing wishy-washy or indecisive. Above all, the book explains why exam questions may generate feelings of uncertainty or doubt about correct legal outcomes and how the student can turn these feelings to his or her advantage. In sum, although the authors believe that no exam guide can substitute for a firm grasp of substantive material, readers who devote the necessary time to learning the law will find this book an invaluable guide to translating learning into better exam performance.

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Autorenkommentar For law school exams, we take you behind the curtain. Every law student craves the answer to a few big questions. Can I handle the pressure? Will I make the Law? What kind of job will I get when I graduate? Does law school leave room for romance? We suspect, however, that one question burns deepest in the hearts of all but the few students at the top of every class. "How come Sally did better on exams than I did, even though I studied twice as hard and knew the material much better than she did?" The point of "Getting to Maybe" is to provide an answer to that question from a law professor's perspective -- since it is invariably a law professor who decides whether to give you or Sally the higher grade! We believe our answer will go a long way toward helping you to improve your own performance on law school exams. We start by explaining how law exams demand skills different from those that entering law students expect. You may have learned to excel as an undergraduate by providing correct answers to objective questions, such as "Who won the Battle of Hastings?" But

because law exams often have no single "right answer," you now need to develop skills that will help you identify and work with ambiguity. You must provide competing arguments for how doubts and uncertainties might be resolved. You must also learn to "argue both sides" without appearing wishy-washy or indecisive. Fortunately, there is nothing mysterious about these law school exam skills. Almost anyone admitted to law school can acquire them through a combination of hard work and a little careful instruction. Regrettably, very few law school courses provide any explicit guidance on how to develop exam skills. That's what excited us about writing "Getting to Maybe". So what we have done is to provide concrete examples of recurring ambiguities within the law that form the core of so many exam questions. We show, for example, why statutes and cases seldom provide definitive solutions to legal problems and why good lawyers become so proficient at characterizing facts in different ways. We explain what you as a student can do with a legal issue once you have identified it and why law exams require you to generate multiple arguments in support of opposing positions. We provide a series of practical tips for how to tailor your studying toward the kind of exams you will be given and how to perform better during the examination. And we offer a set of sample exam questions and answers that show you how our techniques work in practice. None of this, we are quick to caution, will serve as a replacement for the hard work needed to learn your course material. But law schools are full of diligent students who learn the law but come too late to the skills needed to translate their knowledge into successful exam performance. We don't want that to happen to you, and we assure you that our book---in contrast to the other legal reasoning, exam taking, and introduction to law books on the market---focuses like a laser beam on the reasoning skills you'll need to excel on law exams. Thanks for your interest