“LEARNING” RESEARCH AND LEGAL EDUCATION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW AND SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

At its core, education is about learning. Every educator, legal or otherwise, must at the same time be both a teacher and a student in the learning enterprise. Luckily, there is a wide literature to help us in these roles and it is growing every day. It should be a goal of every legal educator to appreciate this area of scholarship, understand its breadth and importance, and engage with it in our teaching and writing. This research overview aims to aid the legal educator seeking to learn about learning and access tools for self-improvement. It also provides some preliminary assistance to those researchers beginning to traverse the field on the subject of “learning” and legal education, and it equally serves as a warning of the daunting task that awaits the researcher on that multifaceted subject.

This overview and selected bibliographical survey focuses on several areas of literature and study on educational philosophy, psychology, and pedagogy as it relates to the process of education in law schools. It also surveys much of the literature related to legal writing, “thinking like a lawyer,” and law school environment, experience and success. This overview and selected bibliography compiles in footnotes selected sources collected through various searches on legal databases, library collections, and other available sources. The text serves as a guide along the way with some explanatory material to describe the fields. The compilation of these sources will serve independently as a valuable survey, bibliographic

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collection, and research tool for others (including educators, academic scholars, librarians, students, and lawyers).\footnote{For a previous endeavor by this Author to publish and share research associated with larger projects, see Donald J. Kochan, \textit{Pages Per Term in the United States Reports and Converting Supreme Court Citations to Term Announced: A Statistical Research Tool}, 1998 DETROIT C.L. MICH. ST. L. REV. 1095 (1998).}

This research overview is the fruit of the labor on a separate topic that required a basic understanding of the available literature in these general areas of learning research. While conducting my research, I discovered that many of the sources cited herein have never been collected in one place; so I began to compile them. Unless they have eluded me, there are no readily available, reasonably comprehensive bibliographies for several of the subjects covered in some of the lists herein provided. Where there are available bibliographies, this research overview points the reader to them. Having completed that independent project, this survey shares the bounty from the collection, sorting, and then compilation of these sources—in the hope that researchers who may embark on a similar search, for a variety of purposes, will find it useful.

Of course, this type of project demands inclusion of certain disclaimers. The choices to include certain materials in any of these bibliographic footnotes is not intended to be exhaustive, nor is their inclusion intended to imply any endorsement by this Author. Other limitations to the compilations will be explained at different points throughout this writing where they are not otherwise evident.

This compilation does not follow a traditional format of a "bibliography," but it intends to serve some of the same important values. As Nancy Babb has explained, "Bibliography has long been a bastion of scholarly research, both as end result and as source," and further "[s]cholarly bibliography serves a critical function within a multifaceted research process, that of guiding researchers to both the best and the most elusive of sources."\footnote{Nancy Babb, \textit{Bibliography Versus Auto-Bibliography: Tackling the Transformation of Traditions in the Research Process}, 98 LAW LIBR. J. 451, 451-52 (2006) (citing, \textit{inter alia}, \textit{RUDOLPH BLUM, BIBLIOGRAPHIA: AN INQUIRY INTO ITS DEFINITION AND DESIGNATIONS} 8 (Mathilde V. Rovelstad trans., American Library Association 1980); \textit{ROY STOKES, THE FUNCTION OF BIBLIOGRAPHY} 1 (2d ed. 1982)).} This research overview aims to achieve those same purposes. As much as some of this material has served as building blocks in my own scholarship and my own learning to enhance my teaching, I hope that it will serve as a similarly useful foundation for others moving toward related ends.
I. AN OVERVIEW AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF GENERAL LITERATURE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING

There is an overwhelming body of literature on how people learn, taking on a number of permutations in titles or categories—learning theory, learning sciences, learning methods, learning processes, learning skills, learning styles, learning type, learning techniques, and the like. Correlated with the “learning” realm is the scholarship and theories on “teaching” with an equivalent number of categorical designations and permutations. Furthermore, within these categories, one can easily get lost in the subcategories or specialties, and sub-subcategories and progression downward. The maze becomes even more difficult to traverse once you start looking at applications of each of these categories or sub-categories to particular disciplines, like law.

Separately, the research on the mind, brain, neuroscience, and thinking functions is extensive, complex, evolving, and constantly advancing. I will not try to tackle the full extent of those specialized subjects here except where they are covered in articles on their relationship to legal education.

To put it simply, as Professor James Royer of the University of Massachusetts has so aptly described, there is “dizzying array of research from widely disparate disciplines” on the subjects of learning and teaching. The massive presence of this literature in the field of education demands recognition in any work that touches those enterprises.


In the late 1990s, the National Research Council ("NRC") of the National Academy of Sciences sought to explore the issue of learning, examining traditional theories and contemporary developments in the learning sciences. The resulting reports provide a substantial amount of background material, include extensive lists of references to research sources, and they are applicable generally to education and useful to law school education specifically as well. The first NRC report explains the complexity and importance of the dynamic subject matter of learning and its study:

Today, the world is in the midst of an extraordinary outpouring of scientific work on the mind and brain, on the processes of thinking and learning, on the neural processes that occur during thought and learning, and on the development of competence. The revolution in the study of the mind that has occurred in the last three or four decades has important implications for education. As we illustrate, a new theory of learning is coming into focus that leads to very different approaches to the design of curriculum, teaching, and assessment than those often found in schools today. Equally important, the growth of interdisciplinary inquiries and new kinds of scientific collaborations have begun to make the path from basic research to educational practice somewhat more visible, if not yet easy to travel. . . . What is perhaps currently most striking is the variety of research approaches and techniques that have been developed and ways in which evidence from many different branches of science are beginning to converge. The story we can now tell about learning is far richer than ever before, and it promises to evolve dramatically in the next generation.

5. The first publication was NAT’L RESEARCH COUNCIL ET AL., HOW PEOPLE LEARN: BRAIN, MIND, EXPERIENCE, AND SCHOOL (Committee on Developments in the Science of Learning et al. eds., 2d ed. 2000) [hereinafter NRC, BRAIN, MIND, EXPERIENCE, AND SCHOOL]; following as an effort to apply some of the findings in the initial report was NAT’L RESEARCH COUNCIL ET AL., HOW PEOPLE LEARN: BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE (Suzanne Donovan et al. eds., 2000) [hereinafter NRC, BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE]. Royer called the work, despite having some “quibbles,” a “wonderful book” that should be “widely read” by educators and others. Royer, supra note 4, at 572.


7. NRC, BRAIN, MIND, EXPERIENCE, AND SCHOOL, supra note 5, at 3. See also NRC, BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE, supra note 5, at 1 ("The quest to understand human learning has, in the past four decades, undergone dramatic change. Once a matter for philosophical argument, the workings of the mind and the brain are now subject to powerful research tools. From that research, a science of learning is emerging.")
Learning is a fascinating subject, and the existing and emerging studies on it have provided the forum for interesting discussion and sometimes heated debate.

Interest in learning theories has seen substantial growth in recent decades, although it has a rich history in a variety of disciplines. Several textbooks on learning and teaching help explain the various theories involved. There are also a number of books that serve as useful bibliographies and compilations of representative samplings of the literature. A review of these materials further reveals the diversity of topics and depth of study covered by this field.

To demonstrate the wide span and depth of the literature in these categories, consider a recent search conducted in the Education Resources Information Center (“ERIC”) database—a rather voluminous “bibliographic and full-text database of education research and information” established in 1966 and sponsored by U.S. Department of Education’s


9. Within the articles I reviewed across disciplines, the following introductory books or textbooks were among the most cited: MARCY P. DRISCOLL, PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING FOR INSTRUCTION (2d ed. 2000); PETER JARVES ET AL., THE THEORY & PRACTICE OF LEARNING (2d ed. 2003); MARGARET E. GREIDER, LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION: THEORY INTO PRACTICE (5th ed. 2004); B.R. HERGENHAHN, AN INTRODUCTION TO THEORIES OF LEARNING 87 (1976); RICHARD E. MAYER, LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION (2d ed. 2008); DALE H. SCHUNK, LEARNING THEORIES: AN EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (5th ed. 2008). Each of these books surveys the relevant and varied theories and scholars in the field.

10. See, e.g., DAVID MOSELY ET AL., FRAMEWORKS FOR THINKING: A HANDBOOK FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING 8 (2005) (aiming to “summarize and evaluate a number of systematic approaches to describing thinking and its relation to learning and teaching which have been developed in the last fifty years or so”); HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION (Patricia A. Alexander & Richard E. Mayer eds., 2010); INT’L HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON TEACHERS AND TEACHING (Lawrence J. Saha & A. Guy Dworkin eds., 2009); HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON TEACHING (Virginia Richardson ed., 4th ed. 2001). Two Cambridge University Press publications have a wealth of compiled information on the study of learning and the study of thinking and reasoning. See THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF THE LEARNING SCIENCES (R. Keith Sawyer ed., 2006); THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF THINKING AND REASONING (Keith J. Holyoak & Robert G. Morrison eds., 2005).


Research in the literature on learning and teaching specifically within legal scholarship is equally daunting. As one would suspect, most of the citations in articles in law journals on learning and teaching are from the general field of education, psychology, or other disciplines. Especially in the past several decades, however, a growing body of law-specific learning and teaching literature has emerged. That growth busies the picture even further.

Professor Alice Thomas, in one of the oft-cited legal articles on learning, explains the difficulties of grasping the learning and teaching literature. Thomas explains her first steps when searching to find an integrated theory of legal education as follows:

Instinctively, I sought out the experts on learning—educational psychologists. Not surprisingly, I found a rich and deep reserve of scholarly material on learning and teaching. I also found numerous theories, points of view, dogmas and disagreements among the experts about how people learn. I was immediately struck with the reality that I could not fulfill my objective by simply consulting the experts, because there was no consistent body of expert advice or opinion. I was overwhelmed by the breadth and diversity of theory from which I could choose. I was further struck by the fact that no single theory seemed

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13. See ERIC Basic Search, http://eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/basic.jsp (type “learning processes”; then follow “Search”; then click the browser’s “back” button; then type “teaching methods”; then follow “Search”; then click the browser’s “back” button; then type “learning theories”) (last visited Jan. 24, 2011).

14. Consider the following summary of the interdisciplinary research from law professor Kate Bloch:

Although they do not all speak with one voice, researchers in education, cognitive and experimental psychology, and neuroscience, among other fields, offer fundamental insights that legal academics can use to improve teaching and learning in our classrooms. Over the past several decades, empirical researchers have conducted a substantial and growing number of studies on how people learn. The research is wide ranging and includes studies of a variety of instructional approaches, from traditional lectures to multimedia presentations. The results from many of these studies are germane to our task as legal academics.


15. See infra note 17 and accompanying text.

16. Thomas, supra note 8, at 74.
complete enough. Each subset of theories seemed to offer something useful about how to maximize learning for my students. And still others seemed in conflict.  

Thomas and others have bravely attempted to traverse this jungle and clear a path, but this survey will not. Instead, it merely provides some signposts for those that decide to take that trip.

Before I begin to survey those signposts, however, I must pause to note one of the major reasons that this area of study—learning and instruction—is so exciting but also sometimes dangerous for the non-expert (like myself). There are serious risks when entering into the fray of the complicated and controversial theories and disciplines involved in the learning literature. Tinkering in areas outside one’s expertise—playing the armchair psychologist, for example—is fraught with danger.

Consider, for example, the debate on learning styles—dealing with, in part, type-indicators and personality traits presenting theories for teaching individualized and tailored to identifiable traits among certain students. There is a rather substantial amount of literature in this broadly defined subcategory of legal education literature. But it has also been the subject

17. Id.

of rather virulent debate. This survey takes no position on learning style theories and takes no sides on the validity or utility of psychological type-based learning or teaching. But it should be noted that the technical and scientific nature of some of the material means that it should be approached with an understanding of the limitations of a researcher’s own expertise. That is not to say that science and psychology cannot teach us much about the educative enterprise. It can often provide supportive material. And non-experts may often find support for their approaches or guidance in it without providing scientific opinions of their own, especially as the analysis often has broad educative application and justification, even independent from any scientific justification or reliance.

After a more detailed description of the literature on learning and instructing law, the reader should gain a greater appreciation for its presence in all matters related to legal education. Some of the general, non-exhaustive information on the law-specific literature on learning follows.

The Institute for Law Teaching and Learning (co-sponsored by the Gonzaga University School of Law and the Washburn University School of Law) is a significant base for research on learning and teaching as those subjects directly affect the law school environment, and it is led by two of the most widely published and cited scholars in this specialized field—Gerald Hess and Matthew Hunter Schwartz. Together with Professor Sophie Sparrow, Hess and Schwartz in 2009 published Teaching Law by Design: Engaging Students from the Syllabus to the Final Exam. In this area, Hess has additionally published two books co-authored with Professor Steven Friedland. Friedland’s article on “how we teach” is required

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19. For example, law professor and psychologist Richard Redding has given much of this literature a scathing rebuke. Richard Redding, Book Review: Juris Types, Learning Law Through Self-Understanding, 58 J. LEGAL EDUC. 312, 324 (2008) (reviewing JURISTYPES, supra note 17, and related literature and concluding that “law schools would be wise not to adopt its approach of using Psychological Type Theory and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test—pseudoscientific variants of the newspaper horoscope—to improve teaching and learning”).

20. Id. at 323 (calling the guidance in type actually “useful to anyone, regardless of their psychological type”).


22. MICHAEL HUNTER SCHWARTZ, SOPHIE SPARROW & GERALD F. HESS, TEACHING LAW BY DESIGN: ENGAGING STUDENTS FROM THE SYLLABUS TO THE FINAL EXAM (2009); SOPHIE SPARROW, GERRY HESS & MICHAEL HUNTER SCHWARTZ, TEACHING LAW BY DESIGN FOR ADJUNCTS (2010). These authors also have a forthcoming related book: MICHAEL HUNTER SCHWARTZ, GERRY HESS & SOPHIE SPARROW, WHAT THE BEST LAW TEACHERS DO (forthcoming 2012).

23. TEACHING THE LAW SCHOOL CURRICULUM (Steven Friedland & Gerald F. Hess eds., 2004); GERALD F. HESS & STEVEN FRIEDLAND, TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING LAW (1999). See
reading—recognized as a leading work and among the most cited law journal articles within the learning and teaching field.²⁴ Hess has three articles that are primarily focused on providing summaries of the sources of materials available on learning and teaching,²⁵ along with several other published articles which analyze the basic issues related to improving teaching and learning through an examination of the varying theories posited in the literature.²⁶ Schwartz has also authored books²⁷ and journal articles that are also instructive on the teaching and learning issues affecting law school professors.²⁸ Certainly, reference to the works of these leaders in the learning and teaching discipline for law schools is an obvious first start for research in the field. In addition to the books already cited—by Hess, Schwartz, Sparrow, and Friedland—a few other books are dedicated to the exploration of general teaching and learning theories in law schools and help to navigate the crowded waters of literature.²⁹

A few bibliographies of legal journal articles on learning and teaching are available, but their coverage is understandably limited. Two published bibliographies by Professors Arturo López Torres and Karen Harwood demonstrate the breadth of issues covered in legal journals. These two excellent bibliographies focus on teaching methods, however, rather than teaching and learning broadly defined; and the authors explicitly acknowledge the limitation that “[m]any fine articles were omitted because

also Gerry Hess, Steven Friedland, Sophie Sparrow & Michael Hunter Schwartz, Techniques for Teaching Law II (forthcoming 2011).


they were more theoretical than practical, and hence outside the scope of our inquiry.” In contrast, many of the articles listed herein lean toward broader and more theoretical approaches. A bibliography on learning and teaching literature compiled by Professor Paula Young is also a useful resource that is available through the Institute for Law and Teaching website. Additionally, Professor Barbara Glesner Fines at UMKC School of Law has a useful website with links related to “Teaching and Learning Law: Resources for Legal Education.” A few other bibliographies have been published that relate to specialized issues in the areas of learning and teaching. None of these sources lays claim to be fully comprehensive for the subjects of learning and teaching, and it seems such a project would be a remarkable and massive undertaking. This survey does not attempt to accomplish such a feat either, but does provide a base of material that provides some supplemental assistance to the researcher on the subjects of teaching and learning in law schools. Many of the sources listed in this survey are not listed in available bibliographies.

As previously stated, I have not attempted to survey substantially the general literature in education, psychology, or other fields. I have, however, attempted to scan for most of the literature from law journals on the subject of learning, along with teaching as it related to the learning enterprise. Certainly scholarship on learning generated across multiple disciplines is applicable to the law school setting, and interdisciplinary research is evident in the citations in law journal articles on these subjects to non-legal publications. Thus, a review of scholarship in law journals alone is undoubtedly underinclusive of the available material of interest to legal educators. Nonetheless, a review of just law journal articles itself indicates the breadth of the discussion on the issue as targeted to the law


school environment. Using an admittedly unscientific methodology, I have attempted to provide citations to a representative selection of those articles that touch on some substantial matter regarding the broad discourse on learning and teaching.

A search (January 1, 2011), designed to catch relevant articles (although understanding it would not catch all relevant articles), in the Westlaw Journals and Law Reviews (“Westlaw JLR”) database for the phrases “how people learn” or “how we learn” or “how students learn,” combined, retrieved 353 articles. I then proceeded to scan through all of these articles to isolate those that seemed to have the most broad-based discussion of learning and teaching generally as they apply to law schools. After isolating approximately seventy-five articles, I then read all of the footnotes within each of those articles and supplemented the lists included herein with articles not captured in the original search, and generated characterizations of these lists based on cross-citation between authors. I do not claim to have fully digested every one of these articles, but I have reviewed them sufficiently enough to conclude that they deserve to be included as among the more informative in the field and within the categories herein designated.

The first compiled list groups eleven articles (to which the thirty already listed above should be added) that, within the search of law journals, have the broadest and most generalist discussion of the learning and teaching subject matter. These forty-plus articles are also among the most cited within and between each other in the learning and teaching conversation occurring in law journals.

The second grouping includes eighteen law journal articles found that have a lesser degree of broad and general discussion on learning and teaching in law school and fewer cross-citations.  

The third grouping is a selection of sixteen articles with some degree of broad and general discussion of the variety of theories involved in teaching and learning as they relate to law schools. However, this group has a lesser focus on the general literature and a more concentrated focus on specific topics.


Of course, the number of articles on learning in legal education is certainly larger than what has been included here. Aside from articles not included in the loose categories created above, articles on many other specific topics touching on learning and teaching were discovered but were too numerous and discrete to include properly in the lists here. For example, there is a substantial amount of literature dedicated to discussing what are commonly known as the “MacCrate Report,” the “Carnegie Report,” and the “Best Practices” study. The topics in those influential reports touch on many learning and teaching issues but articles dedicated to those studies are not listed here. Similarly, much of the “clinical” education (loosely termed) literature has not been included here. Many of these articles focus on the subcategories of what students should learn—professionalism and ethics training; debating skills classes, and doctrinal versus practical approaches; or addressing technology-assisted learning—and have not been captured by the lists provided here either. Another large subcategory involves the debate on the case method and whether and how students can or should learn to “think like a lawyer.” Those subtopics touch on the wide-ranging “learning” debate as well, but are generally not included in this subsection. The “thinking like a lawyer” literature, however, will be addressed in some detail later.

Also not captured in these lists but evident from my review of the literature are topics loosely grouped into areas such as the psychological effects of law school (alienation, stress, anxiety and the like); the general law school learning environment; non-traditional learners; special education or learning disabilities concerns; race, gender, ethnicity, culture or orientations as impacting learning; alternative grading systems; alternative testing systems; technology-assisted learning; and learning strategies for

38. See infra Part II.B.
students. It seems like the list of specialty subtopics could be increased ad infinitum.

Despite the omission of some of these more specialized articles, I believe that any researcher looking to understand the learning debate within legal academia can get most of what they need to initiate their project from a review of the articles and texts cited here, recognizing of course that there is a vast universe of non-legal literature that lies beyond the literature applying it to law.

My purpose in this subsection has been twofold. The first was to survey the available literature on learning and teaching and provide some valuable guidance for research in those fields on the legal education discipline. The second purpose was to demonstrate the overwhelming mass and diversity of available research in these fields. The remaining sections identify topics and sources in some additional discrete and related areas of literature that are independently valuable to the legal education discussion.

II. SELECTED LEGAL EDUCATION RELATED TOPICS: LITERATURE ON LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING, THINKING LIKE A LAWYER, AND THE LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Certainly, much has been, and continues to be, written on the matter of legal education beyond the broad subject of learning—for students, teachers, and other consumers of such expertise, knowledge, and opinion. This material ranges from the academic to the practical and from the interdisciplinary to the subject-specific. It comes in different forms and from different perspectives. It is a standing subject of discussion at legal conferences across the world, including, of course, as a matter of regular study at conferences of the American Association of Law Schools ("AALS") and other organizations. Books and periodicals across multiple disciplines cover educational issues relevant to law school, and some journals such as the Journal of Legal Education are devoted entirely to the subject. Some of these issues and phenomena were discussed in the previous subsection on learning and teaching literature. The following categories loosely group three remaining types of literature on subjects related to legal education that are generally related to the learning literature.
A. Legal Research and Writing Literature

Legal writing itself has carved out its place as a critical component in the law school curriculum, and consequently the uniqueness of the legal writing subject and courses devoted to it has been the focus of much academic literature as well. A search in Westlaw’s JLR database for articles with “legal writing” in the title retrieves more than 330 articles, and such a search is obviously under-inclusive for finding articles devoted to the subject. Despite these limitations, and with unavoidable under-inclusion, from examining the articles retrieved within that search and other independent research, a good starting bibliography was compiled.

39. Mary S. Lawrence, The Legal Writing Institute—The Beginning: Extraordinary Vision, Extraordinary Accomplishment, 11 LEGAL WRITING: J. LEGAL WRITING INST. 213 (2005) (discussing the struggles and then rise and respect for legal writing professionals over the past few decades); Robin S. Wellford-Slocum, The Law School Faculty-Student Conference: Towards a Transformative Learning Experience, 45 S. TEX. L. REV. 255, 256 (2004) (“A fundamental purpose of legal education is to teach students to "think like lawyers...two of the most important such experiences are those offered by legal writing courses and one-on-one exchanges with faculty.”) Please note that there are a substantial number of articles on the curricular or faculty politics regarding legal research and writing programs and security of position issues regarding legal writing professors that are not covered in this subsection.

Some bibliographies of legal writing books and articles materials have been previously compiled and also serve as useful sources of reference.\textsuperscript{41} “There is virtually no debate about the importance of proficient written communication within the practice of law.”\textsuperscript{42} Certainly, legal writing experiences are a fundamental part of the legal education process.\textsuperscript{43} The subject of teaching legal writing is an area of interest to law school students and teachers, receives attention from the bench and bar,\textsuperscript{44} and is of increasing concern in accreditation of law schools by the American Bar Association (“ABA”).\textsuperscript{45} Its growing role in the law school curriculum cannot be questioned. Organizations\textsuperscript{46} and blogs\textsuperscript{47} have formed to focus


43. Wellford-Slocum, \textit{supra} note 39, at 256 (“Legal writing experiences . . . develop law students’ abilities not only to communicate legal analysis and argument, but also to engage in effective and sound legal reasoning itself.”).


45. Wellford-Slocum, \textit{supra} note 39, at 256 & n.3 (describing the ABA’s strengthening of its accreditation standards regarding “legal writing in the law school curriculum” as a signal of the ABA’s value and commitment to its curricular importance).


In part, that ABA Section formulates and publishes the accreditation standards for law schools related to the legal writing program (particularly Standards 302(a)(2) & (a)(3)). \textit{See 2010-2011 Standards for Approval of Law Schools,} Standard 302(a)(2), (a)(3) (2010).
almost exclusively on the subject—regularly providing information, resources, and hosting conferences and seminars dedicated to legal research and writing. 48  Some specialized journals are devoted to the subject of legal writing, like the Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors, Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, and the Scribes Journal of Legal Writing. Because these journals are relatively young, scanning all the articles therein published is not an insurmountable task for the researcher, as each has an individual searchable database in Westlaw and Lexis. Articles on the subject also appear frequently in the Journal of Legal Education and the Clinical Law Review, and general law journals and bar journals, of course, include the subject of legal writing in their mix of articles.

Again, the available material regarding the legal writing subject exhibits a range of approaches and includes general texts on the mechanics and methods of legal writing, 49 and other works on more specific subjects


48  Recent symposia are of particular note, where a number of articles related to legal writing from various authors appear: *See Symposium, The Legal Writing Institute: Celebrating 25 Years of Teaching and Scholarship, 61 Mercer L. Rev. 705 (2010); Symposium, The Legal Writing Institute: Celebrating 25 Years of Teaching and Scholarship, 16 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 411 (2010).*

like writing seminar papers or journal articles, comments, and case notes.\textsuperscript{50} Again, this compilation does not attempt to enter into the fray of the debate within the educational community on the varying approaches to and techniques for teaching legal research and writing methods.

Law school instructors should acknowledge that students need to learn to write effectively, whatever that may be and however that may be accomplished. Teachers will be enriched if they familiarize themselves with the vast amount of literature available to help in that task.

\textbf{B. “Thinking Like a Lawyer” Literature}

Certainly, much has been written on the (in)famous\textsuperscript{51} and reverberating “thinking like a lawyer” clang that pervades the popular perception of the uniqueness of law school pedagogy.\textsuperscript{52} As Sanford Levinson noted, “It is probable that everyone who has gone to law school has been told—often by the Dean in a welcoming address—that the purpose of the enterprise of legal education is to learn to ‘think like a lawyer.’”\textsuperscript{53} Yet, there seems to be

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\textsuperscript{51} Consider the well-known scene from \textit{The Paper Chase} that frightens most incoming law students that “You come in here with a skull full of mush and you leave thinking like a lawyer.” \textit{The Paper Chase} (20\textsuperscript{th} Century Fox 1973), based on the novel by John J. Osborn, Jr., \textit{The Paper Chase} (1970).

\textsuperscript{52} “It is a safe bet that . . . every text on legal reasoning in common law countries emphasizes in one way or the other the salience of thinking like a lawyer which is ideally acquired when one is a first year student, and is subsequently polished and perfected throughout the rest of law school and beyond.” Irene Baghoomians, \textit{Thinking Like a Lawyer: A New Introduction to Legal Reasoning} by Frederick Schauer, Harvard University Press, Cambridge (Ma), 2009, ISBN 0-674-03270-5, 31 Sydney L. Rev. 499, 499 (2009) (book review). \textit{See also}, \textit{The Canon of American Legal Thought} 1-2 (David Kennedy & William W. Fisher, III eds. 2006) (“It is a commonplace in American legal education that law school aims not to teach ‘the law’ but to teach how to ‘think like a lawyer.’ Throughout the first year, students struggle to make sense of this bromide. . . . It turns out that ‘thinking like a lawyer’ has a history.”).

\textsuperscript{53} Sanford Levinson, \textit{Taking Law Seriously: Reflections on ‘Thinking Like a Lawyer’}, 30 Stan. L. Rev. 1071, 1071 (1978) (continuing to state that “[i]t is equally probable that this notion is not subjected to serious analysis and elaboration”).
little agreement on what “thinking like a lawyer” means, or if it means anything at all.\footnote{54} The discourse on the truth or importance of the “thinking like a lawyer” subject ranges from simplistic chanting, to complex discussions, to discordant dialogues.\footnote{55} This literature comes in a variety of packages (books, articles, websites, movies, tapes, seminars, first-year classrooms, and simple millings in hallowed hallways).\footnote{56} Part of the debate involves whether the thinking like a lawyer concept actually hampsters a more balanced form of legal education,\footnote{57} or hinders more holistic teaching

\footnote{54} “Despite the popularity of the phrase, legal scholars have not agreed on a detailed conception of what ‘thinking like a lawyer’ means.” Larry O. Natt Gantt, II, \textit{Deconstructing Thinking Like a Lawyer: Analyzing the Cognitive Components of the Analytical Mind}, 29 \textit{Campbell L. Rev.} 413 (2007). \textit{See also id. at} \textit{nn.1-6.}

\footnote{55} For an excellent survey of the literature on the debates within academic scholarship surrounding the “thinking like a lawyer” concept and law school teaching methods, see Kurt M. Saunders & Linda Levine, \textit{Learning to Think Like a Lawyer}, 29 U.S.F. L. Rev. 121 (1994). The footnotes in that article, particularly numbers 1-33, are rich with bibliographic material (through its publication in 1994). \textit{See id. at} \textit{nn.1-33.} Saunders and Levine position the familiarity of the concept and debate well: “What does it mean to think like a lawyer? Most legal educators are only too familiar with the concept and related criticism.” \textit{Id. at} \textit{121.}


\footnote{57} \textit{See generally, e.g., Sullivan et al., supra} note 29 (discussing neglect of teaching ethics and social consequences of lawyering); Schultz, \textit{supra} note 40, at 57, 72 (calling for “offering in legal education a complexity that matches the complexity of the legal world in which our students will function,” including through a higher level of integration of skills training into the curriculum, and for a “new dialogue and reflection about what it means to ‘think like a lawyer’”); Karen H. Rothenberg, \textit{Recalibrating the Moral Compass: Expanding “Thinking Like a Lawyer” Into “Thinking Like a Leader”}, 40 U. Tol. L. Rev. 411, 412 (2009) (arguing for reforming law school training to preparation for leadership, but explaining that “[t]raditionally, especially during the first year of law school, students are taught in the classroom to logically and legally argue every point from every side and clearly see the bottom line”); Bethany Rubin Henderson, \textit{Asking the Lost Question: What is the Purpose of Law School?}, 53 J. Legal Educ. 48 (2003) (providing
approaches. This research overview does not attempt to evaluate these varied opinions, endorse any particular view on the subject, nor discern the relative truth or importance of the “thinking like a lawyer” mantra for the process of educating legal minds. But, whatever thinking “like a lawyer” means or whatever process of learning techniques help achieve it in law school—theoretical versus practical or clinical, visual versus verbal, lecture versus Socratic method, problems versus cases versus narratives, and other like disputes—it is certainly a dominant part of the legal education literature and therefore worth a compilation of sources here.

C. Law School Environment, Experience and Success Literature

Understanding the law school environment and the uniqueness of its experience is also substantially important to understanding the enterprise of legal learning. Thus, a brief look at the available literature on that subtopic may be useful to the researcher. Or, at least, because it has not generally been compiled before, this compilation may serve a variety of researchers and other consuming audiences (such as students).

Undergraduate and law school library shelves are filled with “how to”, preparation, studying skill, survival guides, and other materials a student’s analysis of law school educational failings); John W. Wade, Legal Education and the Demands for Stability and Change Through Law, 17 Vand. L. Rev. 155, 158 (1963) (discussing the law professor’s role in changing the thinking like a lawyer approach).


59. See Eric Mills Holmes, Education for Competent Lawyering—The Case Method in a Functional Context, 76 Colum. L. Rev. 535, 535-36 (1976) (“Since most law teachers perceive that legal education is failing in some critical way to do its job, there is no shortage of solutions proffered for this malaise.”).


for the law school experience,\textsuperscript{64} seducing alike both prospective students before entering the abyss that is law school\textsuperscript{65} and current students looking to

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learn new strokes as they are tossed into the law school’s curved pool and forced to sink or swim. There is also no dearth of material purporting to teach law school exam writing techniques—books,\textsuperscript{66} articles,\textsuperscript{67} podcasts,\textsuperscript{68} and other media. Similarly, some work focuses on teaching exam writing in the legal writing curriculum.\textsuperscript{69} Unsurprisingly, there is also a strong market for pre-law and “getting into law school” fertilizers for the budding

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law student. The perspective from the law student’s position on law school and legal learning is also the focus of a wide variety of literature.

CONCLUSION

Legal education and the subject of learning as it relates to it are intriguing and stimulating topics and the literature is filled with a rich and diverse exploration into those fields. The teacher seeking to improve his or her task should acquaint him or herself with the wisdom within this literature. The scholar whose research is directly aimed to expand on or discuss the subject of learning by necessity must engage with it. The librarian seeking to assist students and professors must be aware of this literature. And really, all those with endeavors that even indirectly relate to the legal educative enterprise cannot help but be affected by it. This overview and bibliographical survey should serve as one tool for each person finding themselves in one of those positions.
