

Core Grammar For Lawyers Answers

1 Put the verbs in brackets into the *present continuous* or the *present simple*.

- 1 A: Hi Olga.
(Anna/be) there?
B: Sorry, but
(sleep) now.
- 2 A: What (you/do)?
B: I (talk) to Fred.
- 3 A:
(you/like) this dress?
B: Yes, a lot. How much
..... (it/cost)?
- 4 A: How often
(you/ clean) your room?
B: Once a week.
- 5 A: Lisa (study)
hard these days.
B: I know. She
(want) to pass her exams.
- 6 A: You (look)
terrible. What's wrong?
B: I (have)
a terrible headache.
- 7 Pete
(travel) around Europe at the moment.
- 8 Betty always
(wake up) late at the weekend.
- 9 Mum
(cook) dinner every night.
- 10 She
(work) on her computer now.

2 Choose the correct item.

- 1 They usually camping every summer.
A go B goes C is going

- 2 John TV every night.
A is watching B watch C watches
- 3 Ben the dog at the moment.
A walks B is walking C walk
- 4 We our grandparents every Sunday.
A visit B visits
C are visiting
- 5 listening to rock music?
A Is she enjoying B Does she enjoy
C Does she enjoys
- 6 Do parrots in the jungle?
A lives B live C is living
- 7 Are you at the holiday photos?
A looking B looks C look
- 8 Bruce a shower at the moment.
A has B is having C have

3 Put the verbs in brackets into the *present continuous* or the *present simple*.

- 1 A: Tony and Matt
(work) very hard these days.
B: Yes. They
(want) to make some extra money.
- 2 A: What (you/do)?
B: Shhhh! I
(talk) on the phone.
- 3 A: (John/study) Spanish?
B: Yes. He
(go) to lessons twice a week.
- 4 A: What time
(you/have) breakfast?
B: 7 o'clock. The school bus
(come) at 7:30.
- 5 A: Where's Jim?
B: In the living room. He
..... (help) Mary with her homework.

Core Grammar for Lawyers: Answers to Your Essential Questions

Legal writing demands precision. A single misplaced comma can alter the meaning of a crucial clause, jeopardizing a case. This isn't about stylistic flourishes; it's about clear, concise communication that leaves no room for misinterpretation. This post provides definitive answers to core grammar questions that every lawyer – from seasoned litigator to fresh graduate – needs to master. We'll dissect common grammatical pitfalls, offering practical advice and examples to elevate your legal writing to a level of unimpeachable clarity. This isn't just about passing the bar; it's about winning cases.

H2: Mastering the Comma: The Cornerstone of Legal Precision

The comma, often overlooked, is the backbone of legal clarity. Its misuse can lead to ambiguity and potentially disastrous legal consequences.

H3: Comma Splices: Avoiding the Fatal Error

A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined only by a comma. This is a grave error in legal writing. Instead, use a semicolon, a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet), or separate the clauses into distinct sentences.

Example of a comma splice: The defendant pleaded guilty, he was sentenced immediately.

Corrected version: The defendant pleaded guilty; he was sentenced immediately. Or: The defendant pleaded guilty, and he was sentenced immediately. Or: The defendant pleaded guilty. He was sentenced immediately.

H3: Serial Commas (Oxford Commas): A Necessary Precision

The serial comma, or Oxford comma, is the comma placed before the conjunction in a list of three or more items (e.g., "red, white, and blue"). While style guides differ, its inclusion in legal writing is often preferred to eliminate ambiguity. Consider the infamous "My heart belongs to my wife, my dog, and my cat." Adding the serial comma clarifies the intended meaning.

H2: Subject-Verb Agreement: Ensuring Grammatical Harmony

Subject-verb agreement is fundamental. The verb must agree in number (singular or plural) with its subject. This seems straightforward, but complex sentences can obscure the true subject.

H3: Tricky Subjects: Collective Nouns and Compound Subjects

Collective nouns (e.g., jury, team, committee) can be singular or plural depending on the context. If the group acts as a unit, use a singular verb; if the members act individually, use a plural verb. Compound subjects joined by "and" generally take a plural verb, while those joined by "or" or "nor"

take the verb that agrees with the closer subject.

Example: The jury was unanimous in its verdict. (Jury acting as a unit)

Example: The jurors were divided on the sentencing. (Jurors acting individually)

H2: Pronoun Agreement and Reference: Maintaining Clarity and Consistency

Pronouns must agree in number and gender with their antecedents (the nouns they replace).

Ambiguous pronoun reference can create confusion and weaken your argument.

H3: Avoiding Ambiguity: Clear Antecedent Identification

Ensure that every pronoun clearly refers to a specific antecedent. Avoid using pronouns without clear reference.

Example of ambiguous pronoun reference: The lawyer met with the client, and he explained the case. (Who explained the case – the lawyer or the client?)

Corrected version: The lawyer met with the client, and the lawyer explained the case.

H2: Active vs. Passive Voice: Choosing the Stronger Construction

While passive voice has its place (e.g., to de-emphasize the actor), active voice generally creates more concise and powerful legal writing. Active voice uses the subject performing the action, while passive voice uses the object receiving the action.

H3: When Passive Voice is Appropriate (and when it isn't)

Use passive voice sparingly. It's often more wordy and can obscure responsibility. However, it can be useful when the actor is unknown or unimportant, or when you want to emphasize the action rather than the actor.

H2: Parallelism: Maintaining Structural Consistency

Parallelism means using the same grammatical structure for similar ideas. This creates a sense of balance and readability. Inconsistent parallelism disrupts the flow and weakens the argument.

H3: Maintaining Parallel Structure in Lists and Comparisons

Pay close attention to parallelism in lists and comparisons. Ensure that all items in a list are expressed in the same grammatical form (nouns, verbs, clauses, etc.).

Conclusion

Mastering core grammar is not merely about adhering to rules; it's about crafting legal arguments that are clear, persuasive, and ultimately, successful. By understanding and applying the principles outlined above, lawyers can significantly enhance their writing, improving their effectiveness in the courtroom and beyond. Consistent practice and attention to detail are key to achieving grammatical precision in legal writing.

FAQs

1. What are the most common grammatical errors lawyers make? Comma splices, subject-verb disagreement, ambiguous pronoun references, and inconsistent parallelism are frequently encountered errors.
2. Are there specific grammar rules unique to legal writing? While standard grammar rules apply, legal writing often prioritizes precision and avoids ambiguity above stylistic preferences.
3. How can I improve my legal writing grammar skills? Practice regularly, review style guides specific to legal writing, and seek feedback from experienced colleagues or editors.
4. Are there any helpful online resources for legal grammar? Several websites and legal writing guides provide detailed explanations and examples of proper grammatical usage in legal contexts.
5. Is it acceptable to use contractions in legal writing? Generally, contractions are avoided in formal legal documents to maintain a more formal and precise tone. However, this can vary depending on the specific context and audience.

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core grammar for lawyers answers: The Complete Legal Writer Alexa Z. Chew, Katie Rose

Guest Pryal, 2016 Please note: The second edition of The Complete Legal Writer will be out in August. The Complete Legal Writer lives up to its name, providing everything legal research and writing professors and students need in a textbook, including citation literacy, research skills, writing process, a wide range of legal documents, and more. Using the cutting-edge Genre Discovery Approach, this book teaches students to guide themselves through the process of writing unfamiliar legal document types and thereby prepares students to write independently in upper-level classes and the workplace. To aid in teaching Genre Discovery, the authors provide three exacting samples of each document type covered in the book, a rhetorical analysis of each document type, and specific questions to guide students as they study the samples. The Complete Legal Writer covers document types that are traditionally taught in the first year, such as office memos and appellate briefs, as well as document types taught in upper-level and non-traditional first-year curricula, including trial briefs, demand letters, and employer blog posts. Furthermore, this book covers an essential skill for all legal writing classes: giving and receiving feedback. In addition to explaining how to give feedback to and receive feedback from peers, an important skill given the rise of peer-feedback practices in the LRW classroom, The Complete Legal Writer also covers how to receive and implement feedback from professors and workplace supervisors in order to improve both a particular document and future documents. The Complete Legal Writer lives up to its name: it presents a comprehensive, fresh, and intuitive approach to teaching legal writing that invites

students to confidently and enthusiastically cross the divide between their prior writing experiences and the world of legal writing. By giving students the tools they need to critically examine the documents that lawyers write, the authors' genre-discovery approach empowers students to meet (and exceed) the expectations of their new reading audience, even when they are faced with the challenge of writing a document they may not have seen before. With the text's warm tone, humorous touches, and vivid examples, the authors have hit a homerun that will engage faculty and students alike while arming students with skills they will use throughout their professional lives. -- Ruth Ann McKinney, Emerita Professor of Law, University of North Carolina School of Law This uniquely reader-centered text indeed empowers students to grow into complete legal writers. The authors gently yet firmly guide students through genre discovery: careful study of sample legal documents, by which students construct for themselves the conceptual frameworks that writers of such documents need. Students thus till the soil, plant seeds of understanding, and harvest their own insights--and thereby enjoy ground-up rather than top-down learning that is refreshingly autonomous and remarkably effective. -- Craig T. Smith, Assistant Dean for the Writing and Learning Resources Center and Clinical Professor of Law, University of North Carolina School of Law The Complete Legal Writer promises much and delivers more. The text covers fundamental concepts including legal logic and analysis, research methodology, the writing process, and citation literacy. The overall tone is refreshingly readable and will undoubtedly resonate with students. What sets the text apart is not the wide variety of sample legal documents offered, but its potential to equip students with a method of evaluating all documents/genres using an approach that will prepare them to write and ultimately to practice more effectively. The rhetorical legal genre approach is quite a discovery, and no law library collection would be complete without this book. --Marie Summerlin Hamm, Law Library Journal

core grammar for lawyers answers: ALWD Citation Manual Darby Dickerson, 2010-06-01
ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, now in its Fourth Edition, upholds a single and consistent system of citation for all forms of legal writing. Clearly and attractively presented in an easy-to-use format, edited by Darby Dickerson, a leading authority on American legal citation, the ALWD Citation Manual is simply an outstanding teaching tool. Endorsed by the Association of Legal Writing Directors, (ALWD), a nationwide society of legal writing program directors, the ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, features a single, consistent, logical system of citation that can be used for any type of legal document complete coverage of the citation rules that includes: - basic citation - citation for primary and secondary sources - citation of electronic sources - how to incorporate citations into documents - how to quote material and edit quotes properly - court-specific citation formats, commonly used abbreviations, and a sample legal memorandum with proper citation in the Appendices two-color page design that flags key points and highlights examples Fast Formatsquick guides for double-checking citations and Sidebars with facts and tips for avoiding common problems diagrams and charts that illustrate citation style at a glance The Fourth Edition provides facsimiles of research sources that a first-year law student would use, annotated with the elements in each citation and a sample citation for each flexible citation options for (1) the United States as a party to a suit and (2) using contractions in abbreviations new rules addressing citation of interdisciplinary sources (e.g., plays, concerts, operas) and new technology (e.g., Twitter, e-readers, YouTube video) updated examples throughout the text expanded list of law reviews in Appendix 5 Indispensable by design, the ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, Fourth Edition, keeps on getting better

core grammar for lawyers answers: *Grammar for Lawyers* Michael Meehan, Graham Tulloch, 2013 Offers a succinct and practical guide to effective legal writing and to precise legal reading, drawing on both the expertise of professional grammarians and the analytical skills of judges in interpreting legal writing in the courts. Meehan, Deakin University; Tulloch, Flinders University.

core grammar for lawyers answers: **Legal Research Demystified** Eric P. Voigt, 2019 Legal Research Demystified offers a real-world approach to legal research for first-year law students. The book guides students through eight steps to research common law issues and ten steps to research

statutory issues. It breaks down the research steps and process into bite-size pieces for novice researchers, minimizing the frustration often associated with learning new skills. This text also gives students context, explaining why and when a source or finding tool should be used when researching the law. The process of legal research, of course, is not linear. This book constantly reminds students of the recursive nature of legal research, and it identifies specific situations when they may deviate from the research steps. Through the book's step-by-step approach, students will connect seemingly unrelated tools (e.g., citators and the Key Number System) and understand how to leverage them to answer legal questions. Every chapter includes charts, diagrams, and screen captures to illustrate the research steps and finding methods. Each chapter concludes with a summary of key points section that reinforces important concepts from the chapter. This book provides students and professors with multiple assessment tools. Each chapter ends with true-false and multiple-choice questions that test students' understanding of chapter content. These questions are replicated on the book's companion website, Core Knowledge. Students may answer these end-of-chapter questions, as well as more advanced questions, on Core Knowledge and receive immediate feedback, including an explanation of why the answer is correct or incorrect. Professors can generate reports to track students' performance. Based on students' performance, professors will know whether to review a topic in more detail or to move to the next topic. (New books contain an access code to Core Knowledge; students purchasing used books can buy an access code separately.) Core Knowledge offers yet another assessment tool: interactive research exercises. These online exercises walk students through the research steps on Westlaw and Lexis Advance, giving professors the option to flip the classroom. Through many screen captures and tips, students can navigate both research platforms outside of class, allowing students and professors to dig deeper into the material during class. Each research exercise simulates a real-world research experience and contains self-grading questions. For example, in one exercise, students research on Westlaw to determine whether the client could recover damages against a neighbor for the emotional distress for the death of the client's dog. To answer the client's question, students must complete the research steps, including finding and reviewing secondary sources on Westlaw, using the Key Number System and KeyCite, and performing keyword searches. Professor support materials include a Teacher's Manual, sample syllabi, and sample research exams.

core grammar for lawyers answers: Getting to Maybe Richard Michael Fischl, Jeremy R. Paul, 1999-05-01 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. "This book should revolutionize the ordeal of studying for law school exams... Its clear, insightful, fun to read, and right on the money." — Duncan Kennedy, Carter Professor of General Jurisprudence, Harvard Law School "Finally a study aid that takes legal theory seriously... Students who master these lessons will surely write better exams. More importantly, they will also learn to be better lawyers." — Steven L. Winter, Brooklyn Law School "If you can't spot a 'fork in the law' or a 'fork in the facts' in an exam hypothetical, get this book. If you don't know how to play 'Czar of the Universe' on law school exams (or why), get this book. And if you

do want to learn how to think like a lawyer—a good one—get this book. It's, quite simply, stone cold brilliant.” — Pierre Schlag, University of Colorado School of Law (Law Preview Book Review on The Princeton Review website) Attend a Getting to Maybe seminar! Click here for more information.

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core grammar for lawyers answers: The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation Lester Kaufman, Jane Straus, 2021-04-16 The bestselling workbook and grammar guide, revised and updated! Hailed as one of the best books around for teaching grammar, The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation includes easy-to-understand rules, abundant examples, dozens of reproducible quizzes, and pre- and post-tests to help teach grammar to middle and high schoolers, college students, ESL students, homeschoolers, and more. This concise, entertaining workbook makes learning English grammar and usage simple and fun. This updated 12th edition reflects the latest updates to English usage and grammar, and includes answers to all reproducible quizzes to facilitate self-assessment and learning. Clear and concise, with easy-to-follow explanations, offering just the facts on English grammar, punctuation, and usage Fully updated to reflect the latest rules, along with even more quizzes and pre- and post-tests to help teach grammar Ideal for students from seventh grade through adulthood in the US and abroad For anyone who wants to understand the major rules and subtle guidelines of English grammar and usage, The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation offers comprehensive, straightforward instruction.

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core grammar for lawyers answers: Lawyers' Skills Julian S. Webb, Caroline Maughan, Mike Maughan, Marcus Keppel-Palmer, Andrew Boon, 2017-07-13 Lawyers' Skills helps students develop the legal skills required for successful practice in the modern solicitor's firm. The book equips students with a solid understanding of the theory and concepts underpinning the key skills areas of legal writing and drafting, interviewing and advising, practical legal research, and advocacy. Guidance is also provided on a range of other professional skills which should be mastered before going into practice, including effective time management, negotiation, and email etiquette. The inclusion of realistic examples from practice, tasks, and reflective exercises emphasizes the

interactive nature of skills as a subject and encourages students to develop, practise, and refine their legal skills. Chapter summaries, diagrams, and self-test questions are also featured throughout and provide additional learning support to students. The text is essential reading for all LPC students and is also a useful source of reference for newly-qualified practitioners.

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core grammar for lawyers answers: *A Little Life* Hanya Yanagihara, 2015-03-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning “portrait of the enduring grace of friendship” (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara’s stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara’s latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

core grammar for lawyers answers: Plain English for Lawyers Richard C. Wydick, 1998

core grammar for lawyers answers: *Legal Writing and Analysis* Linda Holdeman Edwards, 2011 This concise text offers a straightforward guide to developing legal writing and analysis skills for beginning legal writers. *Legal Writing and Analysis*, Third Edition, leads students logically through reading and analyzing the law, writing the discussion of a legal question, writing an office memo and professional letters. The author then focuses on writing for advocacy and concludes with style and formalities and a chapter devoted to oral argument. The Third Edition features new material throughout on drawing factual inferences, one of the most important kinds of reasoning for legal writers, as well as additional examples on the book’s companion web site. Among the features that make *Legal Writing and Analysis* a best-selling text : It tracks the traditional legal writing course syllabus, providing students with the necessary structure for organizing a legal discussion. The consistent use of the legal method approach, from an opening chapter providing an overview of a civil case and the lawyer’s role, to information about the legal system, case briefing, synthesizing cases, and statutory interpretation. The emphasis on analogical reasoning and synthesizing cases, as well as rule-based and policy-based reasoning, with explanations of how to use these types of reasoning to organize a legal discussion. Coverage of the use of precedent, particularly on how to use cases. Superior discussion of small-scale organization, including the thesis paragraph. Numerous examples and frequent short exercises to encourage students to apply concepts. Many exercises focus on first-year courses and others focus on professional responsibility. The Third Edition offers: New material on drawing factual inferences, one of the most important kinds of reasoning for legal writers. Citation materials updated to cover the new editions of both ALWD and the Bluebook. Companion web site will include additional examples of office memos, opposing briefs, letters, and summary judgment motions.

core grammar for lawyers answers: *Learning Legal Reasoning* John Delaney, 1987

Publisher description: This widely used book in many printings begins with answers to forty commonly asked questions of first-year law students. It specifies a six-step approach to briefing a case with specific guidelines for accomplishing each step. The process of briefing cases is then demonstrated with excellent and poor briefs of increasing complexity. Emphasis is placed initially on the techniques of briefing as an introduction to the learning of legal reasoning, the first priority of the first year of law school. In addition, the book also demonstrates the relevance of more advanced

modes of legal reasoning, including positivist, pragmatic, policy oriented, natural-law and other perspectives applied in decoding and understanding cases. In its introduction of jurisprudential perspectives, Learning Legal Reasoning transcends the typical technical/positivist orientation of most first-year materials.

core grammar for lawyers answers: One L Scott Turow, 2014-05-22 One L, Scott Turow's journal of his first year at law school was a bestseller when it was first published in 1977, and has gone on to become a virtual bible for prospective law students. Not only does it introduce with remarkable clarity the ideas and issues that are the stuff of legal education; it brings alive the anxiety and competitiveness - with others and, even more, with oneself - that set the tone in this crucible of character building. Turow's multidimensional delving into his protagonists' psyches and his marvellous gift for suspense prefigure the achievements of his bestselling first novel, Presumed Innocent. Each September, a new crop of students enter Harvard Law School to begin an intense, often gruelling, sometimes harrowing year of introduction to the law. Turow's group of One Ls are fresh, bright, ambitious, and more than a little daunting. Even more impressive are the faculty: Perini, the dazzling, combative professor of contracts, who presents himself as the students' antagonist in their struggle to master his subject; Zechman, the reserved professor of torts who seems so indecisive the students fear he cannot teach; and Nicky Morris, a young, appealing man who stressed the humanistic aspects of law. Will the One Ls survive? Will they excel? Will they make the Law Review, the outward and visible sign of success in this ultra-conservative microcosm? With remarkable insight into both his fellows and himself, Turow leads us through the ups and downs, the small triumphs and tragedies of the year, in an absorbing and thought-provoking narrative that teaches the reader not only about law school and the law but about the human beings who make them what they are.

core grammar for lawyers answers: *Legal Writing* KRISTEN KONRAD. TISCIONE, 2021-07-08 CasebookPlus Softbound - New, softbound print book includes lifetime digital access to an eBook, with the ability to highlight and take notes, and 12-month access to a digital Learning Library that includes self-assessment quizzes tied to this book, leading study aids, an outline starter, and Gilbert Law Dictionary.

core grammar for lawyers answers: *The Language of Judges* Lawrence M. Solan, 2010-08-15 Since many legal disputes are battles over the meaning of a statute, contract, testimony, or the Constitution, judges must interpret language in order to decide why one proposed meaning overrides another. And in making their decisions about meaning appear authoritative and fair, judges often write about the nature of linguistic interpretation. In the first book to examine the linguistic analysis of law, Lawrence M. Solan shows that judges sometimes inaccurately portray the way we use language, creating inconsistencies in their decisions and threatening the fairness of the judicial system. Solan uses a wealth of examples to illustrate the way linguistics enters the process of judicial decision making: a death penalty case that the Supreme Court decided by analyzing the use of adjectives in a jury instruction; criminal cases whose outcomes depend on the Supreme Court's analysis of the relationship between adverbs and prepositional phrases; and cases focused on the meaning of certain words in the Constitution. Solan finds that judges often describe our use of language poorly because there is no clear relationship between the principles of linguistics and the jurisprudential goals that the judge wishes to promote. A major contribution to the growing interdisciplinary scholarship on law and its social and cultural context, Solan's lucid, engaging book is equally accessible to linguists, lawyers, philosophers, anthropologists, literary theorists, and political scientists.

core grammar for lawyers answers: *How to Be a Lawyer* Jason Mendelson, Alex Paul, 2022-06-15 Transform your legal education into a successful and fulfilling legal career In *How to Be a Lawyer: The Path from Law School to Success*, a team of veteran lawyers and entrepreneurs delivers an eye-opening discussion of how to translate your years of training and education into a running start in the world of practice. The book bridges the gap between law school and practice, whether you hope to be a big firm transactional attorney, a solo criminal lawyer, work for the

government or any other legal profession. You'll discover how you can use what you learned in law school and how you can develop the real skills you'll need as you deal with clients and colleagues. The authors explain what your professors won't tell you in law school and what employers and clients will actually expect from you. You'll also find: Case studies and guest chapters describing the transition to major areas of law and how it can and should affect your law school decision making Expert advice on making your first job a successful one Guidance on how to avoid the most common career pitfalls and client mistakes Unfiltered opinions from clients about what they really think about lawyers An ideal resource for aspiring and current law students and early career lawyers, *How to Be a Lawyer* is the practical blueprint you need to build your legal career from scratch.

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