

**Student responses to question: How have you changed since entering law school?**

- Two ways that I have changed since I have began law school is that I have become a much happier person and I have matured with regard to how I interact with other people in the world. I am happier because I am doing what I enjoy and have wanted to do for some time now. I am at a place that at one time I never thought I would be.
- One way that I have changed since I have entered law school is that I am more withdrawn from my life outside of school. I have become more focused on myself at times forgetting about my friends and family. It is bizarre to see the person who I have become. I was a psychology major and I notice all of the little changes that occur in my personality and it makes me upset, I try to fight the person I am becoming but whenever I become upset with myself for being so withdrawn I choke back those feelings and move on.
- The best thing I liked about the article was when they talked about law students having a drinking problem. They drink to reduce stress. I agree with this because, I myself, have been drinking more than I ever have here in law school. It does reduce my stress. Even the professors tell us to grab a beer and calm down. I'm not saying that almost all the professors in this school are alcoholics, but you know what, I wouldn't be surprised. I wouldn't be surprised if I became one. Law school is a lot of work, and alcohol is definitely better then taking drugs.
- Since I have begun law school I have changed drastically and not necessarily for the better. I see a more negative attitude and the lack of enthusiasm for the law that I had before I started law school. I can also see that even though I may be more hostile and unsatisfied I do project a confident front. I really do agree with the article that we become internally conflicted and that what we feel isn't what we portray to everyone else. Secondly, I've noticed my need and want of being alone and shying away from others, when all my life I have been very outgoing and sociable. Even when I have a free moment I'd rather spend it alone.
- I think not only about my legal [education], but about life. I question my purpose of being here, why I do things the way I do, and why I feel the way that I do. Suddenly, I feel as if I know nothing.
- I am irritated that we had to do this assignment that had nothing to do with rights and remedies. This touchy feely stuff makes me angry. I am feeling aggressive, so to deal with this problem I am going to take some barbiturates and drink a fifth of Jim Beam. The last paragraph is only a joke, I did not look forward to reading this assignment but I really enjoyed it. The Cicchino article was good. The study of studies about lawyers was a little harder to read but it did make sense. Thanks for the little break from property.
- One day I was sitting in the waiting area of a law firm and a less privileged person came in with a problem. He said that he was homeless and that he needed to get a problem resolved

with social security and that he would pay the lawyer as soon as he got his check. The attorney didn't even consider his problem, he wanted nothing to do with it, and sent him down the street to "Legal Services." I walked out of that office in tears – I couldn't believe how "cold" the attorney was towards the guy. It made me think a lot and I came to a decision. I decided that I still want to have my own firm one day but I will never turn down a "less privileged" human being. That's the whole idea – we all need to remember that "people are not things and should not be treated as things."

- I've always been very conscientious and detailed oriented-which I already knew plays a factor in my stress levels. Yet, since law school I've noticed the stress increase tremendously. My mind is constantly racing-thinking about cases, readings, lectures; which in turn effects sleep and increases stress. Also, as the Daicoff article mentioned, I've noticed that my stress and anxiety levels have increased due to the fact that an entire semester will pass before a student receives any feedback-the whole semester I'm in constant limbo wondering if I'm studying or briefing cases correctly.
- Moody – mood varies greatly. It's like I have PMS everyday.
- Another way in which I have changed is I've become a passenger on a very emotional roller coaster ride. I was a moody person before, but now, I find myself more uptight and sometimes second-guessing myself about being in law school.
- One noticeable effect of law school is the time it takes me to "get back to being human" going into summer break after my 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- My wife thinks I'm turning into an Asshole and that I'm too emotional at home with the kids.
- More assertive, more confident.
- Personally, I would say that my thinking has changed drastically since I began law school. I rarely have a conversation nowadays that does not consider the law in some way. Over the holidays, I was in the care with some friends of mine and saw a woman walking a relatively large dog. Before law school, I would have just commented that she had a very large dog, but now I comment on how if that dog injures another animal or human, she, the owner, is going to be held strictly liable for those damages (with some exceptions of course). Also, in regards to the way my thinking has changed, I have learned that I underestimated law school. Never in my right mind did I think I would be relieved and overjoyed to receive an 88; in my undergraduate career, I would have been in tears, feeling like a complete failure. Needless to say, that all has changed, and I would dare say that it has been a change for the better.
- Footnote 96, "Desire to enter politics, to restructure society, and to serve the underprivileged became increasingly more important motives for entering law." I loved this footnote...it reassured me. The article spoke so much about the personality traits of entering law students, law students and their motives, which scared me a little, because I began to doubt myself and my motives. The article implied that being a "feeling" type person, which I am, may be detrimental to a law student. However, FN96 reassured me that being a "feeling" type

person, and serving the underprivileged are connected somehow and thus will lead me to the successful place I hope to reach.

- One of my overbearing parents is a psychologist who left the field for a time because of the inanity of the majority of the work that was being done in the 60's – 80's. She taught me to always take these studies with a large grain of salt. No doubt it is her fault that I'm "internally insecure, awkward and anxious." I'm sure I would quite arrogant and strident in my comments here. It's probably sleep deprivation and the six hours of work I have in front of me. Or, perhaps I am just the average self centered s.o.b. that these studies seem to conclude are attracted to the law. As you can probably glean by now, I wasn't very interested in either of these articles. Maybe if we were asked to read them over vacation I wouldn't be so resentful of the lost time. Can you tell, I've become testy and irritable?
- I am learning how to write persuasively and I do not like it. I am learning to bury unfavorable facts in the middle of an argument and re-word something so that it doesn't exactly mis-state the law, but it comes very close to it. This seems so contrary to being honest because it seems like its purposely misleading, yet people are comfortable with this, but I am not. I enjoyed the article's definition of what it means to be brave which is not necessarily to stand up for ourselves, but to stand up for each other and to fight for those who can't fight for themselves. Being a lawyer isn't about me, it's about others and I just realized that this week.
- I think I have changed by becoming more aggressive and more stressed. I have always been an analytical thinker; I think law school has allowed me to think clearer and more in-depth. I have yet to resort to substance abuse as this article says.
- Instead of claiming that I am always right, I respect people's views greatly now.
- I would say that I am constantly tired and I cannot wait for Friday to come so I can go straight to the bar.
- But first semester made me doubt. I felt as though everything was tossed up in the air and I had to wait and see how it would all settle. In October I was seriously depressed, convinced I had made a terrible mistake; I considered not retuning (though, interestingly, none of my family took me seriously). I had always succeeded at whatever I attempted, but no longer. Midterms were disastrous. My strongest skill had always been my writing, and now to be told it was trash was personally devastating. In the past, I have never been much concerned about grades. Now, I obsess over them. They have become the Goal, instead of just waypoints on the journey. I have always been a "big picture" person, but now I must put on blinders and stay utterly focused on the task at hand. Now, instead of telling myself, "I can do this," my thoughts run more to "Will I be able to do this?" or sometimes worse, "I can't do this." And yet, every so often, I catch a glimmer...as when I read the Cicchino article...that I am on the right path...
- The whole grading system seems a bit archaic. I feel like I am going through some sort of initiation. I have taken courses such as biochemistry, microbiology, and precalculus and

succeeded. That is what is so puzzling to me about law school, I know many of us got C's and D's on a torts exam. I never studied for anything so hard in my life. I think many of us are questioning our intelligence right now, which I really have never done before. Then people wonder why one might lose self confidence in law school.

- I am much more assertive and self-assured.
- Some might also be concerned that I am taking too many drugs to get through school (leally prescribed drugs of course).
- Sleep deprived, absent –both physically and mentally, isolated, irritable, stressed, excessively sober – no time or energy to partake.
- I chose to discuss the question with my wife. She noticed that she gets fewer back rubs.
- More family oriented.
- I am more my own person and much happier. I have more self-esteem and deal better with decisions. I do not second guess myself and do not avoid confrontations any more.
- One of my friends specifically reminds me that my humor has become more cynical and less enjoyable, which I'm not sure is a good thing. I have noticed that I used to be more outgoing and extroverted, but now feel constantly intimidated and have withdrawn and become more introverted and introspective.
- My mother says I am very isolated now, and cranky. I sleep much less than before I came to law school.
- I've become more aware of my own strengths and weaknesses and have been able to manage my time in effective ways.
- Law school is like alcohol without the high. I don't think it has changed my personality. I think that law school had brought out certain characteristics that are already present.
- More anti-social. I use to love reading-I hate it. Moody. Want to vomit on everyone.
- I now read books for fun. Two months ago I never read anything other than a newspaper. Now I read chapters of novels before I go to bed. Reading has become fun.
- I go right to the point with less chit-chat.
- I am unreachable and a slave to my schedule. All of my meals come out of vending machines.