

The background of the slide is a solid brown color with a pattern of stylized, overlapping autumn leaves in various shades of brown and tan. The leaves are scattered across the entire area, creating a textured, seasonal feel.

**Buying a Statistic or Investing in People: Law
School Scholarship Programs and Their Impact
on Student Well-Being**

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Understanding the Calculus

- How do law schools use scholarship programs?
 - Attract diverse student populations focused on diversity, leadership, service, background.
 - Attract the best possible class of incoming first years in terms of objective criteria – LSAT and GPA

Different Scholarship Programs

- Law schools generally have one of two types of scholarship programs –
 - Unconditional renewal programs (or noncompetitive renewal programs)
 - Conditional renewal programs (or competitive renewal programs)
- How does the type of scholarship program impact a school's ability to recruit a strong class when focusing on objective criteria?

Comparing Law Schools

- The analysis contained in the chart is based on the assumption that the schools are generally identical – with comparable applicant pools and comparable yield analysis.
- Law School A uses an unconditional (noncompetitive) scholarship program –
 - It admits 797 of the 1500 applicants and gets a yield with a profile of 159/157/155 with 80 students sharing \$1.2 million
- Law School B uses a conditional (competitive) scholarship program –
 - It admits 753 of the 1500 applicants and gets a yield with a profile of 160/158/156 with 96 students sharing \$1.62 million

The Difference in Years 2 and 3

- Law School A – unconditional renewal --has 240 students on scholarship over the three years – 80 students in the first year, second year and third year and \$1.2 million in scholarship assistance in each year.
- Law School B has 202 students on scholarship over the three years – 96 in the first year, but only 53 in the second year and the third year.
 - Renewal condition of top-third
 - Assume only 53 of the 67 students in the top-third are scholarship recipients
 - If 21 of the full scholarship recipients and 16 of the half and quarter scholarship recipients are in the top-third, then renewed scholarships total \$990,000 in the second and third years (leaving \$1.62 million for the first year).

Scholarship Programs Send a Message

- How will these different scholarship programs impact the culture of Law School A and Law School B?
 - Law School A – Scholarships are used to invest in students for being academically gifted and for bringing their background, experience and leadership to the school and the school continues to value them for these overall contributions
 - Law School B – Scholarships are used to invest in students for being academically gifted and for bringing their background, experience and leadership to the school, but the school only values those in the second and third year who excel in law school.

Scholarship Decisions Impact Competitiveness

- Students in Law School A do not need to be hyper-competitive regarding their grades because their grades do not impact the renewability of scholarships.
- Students in Law School B are likely to be hyper-competitive regarding their grades because their grades determine whether they retain scholarship assistance.
- Princeton Review Rankings are consistent with this hypothesis.

Thoughts for the Future

- Law schools interested in humanizing legal education should be focused on developing unconditional (noncompetitive) renewal programs
- Alternatively, law schools should be required to disclose the actual nature of their programs with specific information about
 - Number of students who receive scholarships as first year students and who retain scholarships as second and third year students
 - Amount of scholarships distributed to first year students and to second and third year students.