

four, or perhaps five, or ...); and numerous scholarly articles ... . Professor Fishman has also occasionally taken court assignments to defend indigent defendants, in which capacity he complains bitterly about prosecutors doing to him what he delighted in doing to defense attorneys when the shoe was on the other foot.

## Advice to Lawyers

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN Washington, DC, house many treasures, not the best-known of which are the books filed as “RG 267, Entry No. 56 – Records of the Office of the Clerk: Scrapbooks on Court’s History. 1880–1935.” These are, according to the official finding aid, fourteen volumes of Supreme Court-related miscellany, “[a]rranged chronologically by date of item. Contain chiefly newspaper clippings, but include a few magazine articles, cartoons, and humorous poems, concerning the Court and its members and officers.”

A full treatment of this collection would be too large to fit in a *Green Bag*, but a few samples are within our reach. In this issue we offer an entertaining morsel (see facing page) from the first Scrapbook. We have had no success identifying the author of this work, but we suspect it was an inside job. It appears to address some of the more trying aspects of the day-to-day interaction between the Clerk and the Bar, while also showing that the patience and good humor with which the Clerk’s office deals with the characters that practice at the high court is a thing of the past, as well as the present.

## The Ivey League

ANNA IVEY IS, we admit, a longtime friend of the *Green Bag*. We can nevertheless unblushingly endorse her new book about law school admissions because it is truly and simul-

# ADVICE TO LAWYERS.

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Upon entering the Clerk's room do not put your hat or overcoat on the rack, but walk straight to the Deputy Clerk's table and deposit all your luggage on that. If this does not divert his attention from his work, push his book a little to one side, sit down on the end or side of the table, wriggle as much as possible, and swing your legs about until the Clerk gets up and asks you to be seated in a chair. If, however, upon entering the room you find that some "early bird" has already taken the position on the table, get a chair and lean against it, being particular to spend at least five minutes in settling yourself, but never sit down in a chair when you can find a table to sit on. It is a well-known fact that the Clerk can write much faster and smoother when some one is shaking his table.

When you want information concerning any cause, whether pending now or already disposed of, ask the Clerk to give it, but in making inquiry never give the names of the parties whose names appear in the style of the cause, but be particular to inquire after some who are known in the case as "et al." The Clerk is perfectly familiar with every party who ever had the most remote interest in a cause in this court, and, as a matter of course, knows just what term the cause was tried, as well as the style of cause.

In order to keep well informed as to the business of the office, you are expected to overhaul every paper, book, record, brief, opinion, &c., found on any desk in the office. This being a public office, the Clerks have no *private business*, and it always delights them to have some one hanging around their desks looking over whatever papers may be on the same.

When writing for information in which you alone are interested, never put yourself to the trouble or expense of enclosing return postage, for the Clerk is "rich as Croesus," lives by robbery and theft, and can well afford not only to pay your postage, but will let you have \$5 or \$10 any time you want it; if he don't, he is a stingy scoundrel.

Adhere strictly to these rules and you will place us under lasting obligations.

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RG 267, Entry No. 56, Vol. 1. Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.

taneously useful and entertaining. Consider two passages. The first lists “some common reasons why people with very high numbers [grades and LSATs] are rejected” by law school admissions offices:

✱ Your application reveals that you’re an arrogant show-off. Every class at every school on the face of the earth has that one person who is universally reviled by students and faculty alike, and if you’re admitted, you’re likely to be that person.

✱ You have a demonstrated disposition to do or say things that are likely to get you kicked out of law school or the bar, whether it’s murder, sexual harassment, fraud, embezzlement, or a taste for heroin.

✱ You’re an aging, bitter PhD candidate who has never held a real job in her life, is fleeing to law school because she can’t find a job on the brutal academic market, doesn’t know the first thing about law school, the practice of law, or her post-JD job prospects, and thinks she deserves to be in law school because she’s the second coming of Akhil Amar, the legendary Yale Law School professor.

The second excerpt explains why not all of those high grades are really high:

All the Ivy League schools, as well as Stanford and Yeshiva, are notorious among law school admissions officers for their grade inflation. The administrations of Stanford, Princeton, and Harvard have publicly declared war on grade inflation, but they haven’t won those battles yet. Schools that are known, on the other hand, for their tough grading curves are Reed, Harvey Mudd, Swarthmore, Chicago, Johns Hopkins, Caltech, Georgia Tech, and the military academies. (To give you some idea, not a single person in Chicago’s class of 2004 graduated with a 4.0 average.) Admissions officers are also familiar with some of the more unusual transcripts, like those from Santa Cruz and St. John’s, which don’t use conventional grades but provide written evaluations instead.

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Anna Ivey, *THE IVEY GUIDE TO LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS* 15–16, 34–35 (Harcourt 2005).