

USC LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING QUESTIONNAIRE

TO: Students Who Worked In A Legal Setting During Summer
2003
FROM: Associate Dean Albert Brecht, Professor of Law
DATE: September 20, 2003

RESEARCH

The Law Library staff would appreciate your taking a few minutes to comment on your legal research experience this summer. We are interested in knowing what, if anything, we can do to better prepare students to perform the research demands experienced in legal settings.

Please feel free to include your comments also.

1. What type of legal setting did you work in this summer?

- Law firm
 - In house counsel
 - Law school research assistant
 - Other (e.g., government, public interest; please describe)
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2. Were you required to perform much research as a summer associate?

- Often
- Seldom
- Moderate amount

Comment:

3. Did most of your research require using books or computers?

- Mostly books
- Mostly computers
- Books and computers

Comment:

4. Did your employer have a law librarian to assist you in performing research?

___ Yes ___ No

Comment:

5. Did your employer have Lexis and Westlaw?

Lexis _____ Yes _____ No
Westlaw _____ Yes _____ No

6. Did you perform research on a database other than Lexis and Westlaw to avoid Lexis and Westlaw charges?

Other database(s) _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, which other database(s)?

9. Are there additional things we should be doing in law school to prepare you for research you may be required to perform?

Additional Comments:

LEGAL WRITING & ADVOCACY (SEE NEXT PAGE)

LEGAL WRITING AND ADVOCACY QUESTIONS

10. How much legal writing were you required to do?

- _____ None or almost none
- _____ Some
- _____ A lot

Comments:

11. If you answered some or a lot, what kinds of writing were you asked to do?

12. How prepared did you feel in doing predictive writing (such as in-house memo)?

- _____ Well prepared
- _____ Somewhat prepared
- _____ Not prepared
- _____ Not applicable

13. How prepared did you feel in doing persuasive writing (such as in briefs)?

- _____ Well prepared
- _____ Somewhat prepared
- _____ Not prepared
- _____ Not applicable

14. Were there any types of writing you were asked to do over the summer that had not been studied at all in legal writing class? What were they?

15. If there were any in-house writing workshops, what did they cover that you already knew? What did they cover that you wish you'd had in Legal Writing?

16. Do you have any feedback on these or related topics for the Legal Writing and Advocacy?

Additional Comments: