

*The essential work for success in law school
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1000 DAYS TO THE BAR:
But the Practice of Law Begins Now
Second Edition

By Dennis J. Tonsing



*A no-nonsense approach to helping students achieve their
personal best in law school*

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With a new section focusing on how to do well on essay exams

*“What professors and students do in law school is serious business because the fortunes of their clients we have yet to meet are riding on our efforts. Dean Tonsing’s book is rooted deeply in that fundamental reality.”
— Professor Daniel B. Weddle, from the Foreword to the Second Edition*

The first edition of this essential work, published in 2003, provided first year law students with a fresh and novel approach to the study of law. Students discovered how to:

- Lay a solid foundation for the professional practice of law
- Achieve fluency in the “language of the law”
- Earn grades that reflect their best efforts
- Pass the bar exam the first time around

With this new edition, Dennis Tonsing maintains the central theme of the first, by identifying the core aspects of a lawstudent’s responsibilities. With refreshing clarity he explains the link between the immediate—the law school experience - and the permanent—the professional practice of law. He emphasizes “active learning” by showing students how to carefully organize their time to ensure mastery of every subject—yet avoid burnout. Tonsing also sets forth detailed “nuts and bolts” methods for every law school skill from reading and briefing to writing essay exam answers, while emphasizing that every day in law school is a small but vital step toward becoming a skilled legal practitioner. He encourages students to approach their 1000 days in law school note as a mere ivory tower exercise in legal theory, but instead as preparation for the real world of precise legal analysis and serious legal practice. In short, he emphasizes that the practice of law begins on the first day of law school. Tonsing makes this an underlying premise in this book, and thrusts his readers toward achieving one primary goal—excellence.

1000 DAYS TO THE BAR NOW AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

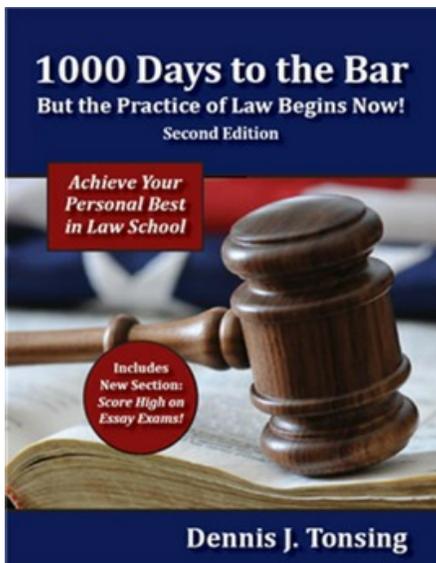
To help students realize this lofty aspiration, *1000 Days to the Bar* provides concrete instructions on developing an abundance of skills, including:

- Reading and briefing court opinions
- Transforming class notes into course summaries, outlines, and flow charts
- Committing essential elements of the law to memory
- Gaining fluency in the “language of the law”
- Internalizing—rather than memorizing—course material
- Managing scarce time and creating a personal *Flexible Time Resource Allocation Chart*

In this second edition Tonsing provides a new section, with material detailing a step-by-step approach to attacking law school essay exam questions. As he makes the analytical process explicit, rather than providing “tricks” and “silver bullets,” he does so in a way any novice legal thinker could follow to great effect, both on law school essay exams and in the development of his analytical skills. Students who implement these strategies will see much more than improved law school performance—they will experience improved legal reasoning. While mastering the skills required to meet the demands of law school, they will be learning to be outstanding legal thinkers. In other words, they’ll be learning to be outstanding lawyers.

The key to this book’s power is twofold: Tonsing breaks law school learning into understandable, logical and practical steps that maximize the effect of students’ study efforts; and he explicitly ties those steps to strategies practicing lawyers use to understand, analyze, and apply legal concepts in the real world representations of their clients.

Students who employ Dennis Tonsing’s methods only improve their law school performances; they come to understand the practical implications of their hard work for their transition into the world of practice.



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