

PROFESSOR MORGAN: A LASTING IMPRESSION

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When I first decided to go to law school I considered how difficult it would be. I wondered about the teaching style of the professors and considered how I would survive the first exams. I worried about the time it would take and the difficulty of attending school alongside my wife with a 3-year-old child. What I failed to realize was how wonderful the experience could be. In particular, Professor Dan Morgan was instrumental in making my experience as a law student a positive one.

A good professor can recite and explain the material, answer students' questions, and certainly prepare them for the exam. But a great professor will carefully break down the material and provide witty and understandable examples so that the students forever remember the lessons. Daniel Morgan is a great professor. When students enter his classroom, he instantly creates a nonintimidating environment by smiling and welcoming them as if he were inviting them into his home. His unparalleled experience and extensive knowledge of the subject material are complemented by his energetic and charismatic personality. His animated and active approach to teaching helps to instill life-long lessons in every student.

When Professor Morgan taught class, his personality filled the room. After the first few minutes of class, his lively sentiment brought us back from the depths of distress and fatigue that consumes law students at the end of a long day. Professor Morgan did not stand behind the podium and read from a pre-scripted list of lessons. Instead, he moved about the room and spoke loud and clear so that each student felt his presence. To help us learn in a variety of ways, Professor Morgan would bring in props and use student volunteers. For example, one student frequently rode a skateboard to class each day. For Professor Morgan, this was a golden opportunity to use an everyday object to teach us lessons

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throughout the semester. From negligence to attractive nuisance to assault and battery, this skateboard became the center of attention for classroom discussions. Professor Morgan also had a few props of his own, including "Pat." Before he brought Pat to class, Professor Morgan actually made Pat seem like a real person. Imagine our surprise when he brought in a fully clothed, life-sized mannequin and placed it in a chair facing the entire class. Pat, Professor Morgan explained, was our reasonable prudent person.

Professor Morgan proved to me that even the most grueling subjects can be interesting and even fun at times. Amid the barrage of various 1L courses, one of the toughest of the bunch is Torts. It is daunting not because it is a four-hour course or because it covers an overwhelming amount of material but because of the convoluted and intricate fact patterns. As a night student, I sometimes found it difficult to give my full attention to the study of law after a long day of work. This was never the case in Professor Morgan's class, though, as he helped me not only to learn the material but to enjoy it as well.

Unlike what many may think of law school professors, Professor Morgan was not intimidating. He never discouraged a student from asking questions during class or offering an answer to a tough problem. Given Professor Morgan's approachability, many students stayed after class to continue discussing the day's lecture. Though it was already late, he was happy to entertain each of our questions.

Professor Morgan's greatness extended into and after finals. He dedicated hours to answering students' questions in the weeks leading up to the final exam. Professor Morgan was more than happy to explain every facet of tort law to each and every one of us. Likely the result of his experience as a seasoned litigator, Professor Morgan was great at explaining things in such a way that anyone—even a befuddled 1L—could understand. This instilled in me a higher level of confidence that has not only allowed me to excel in his course but that has also stayed with me throughout law school.

The following semester, I happened to run into Professor Morgan. Not only did he remember me by my first name, but he also told me he was proud of me for making it through my first semester of law school. He told me that I have a real knack for the law and that I would make a fine attorney one day. Those words of encouragement continue to push me forward as I make my way through law school. Professor Morgan

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was not required to tell me this, but that is the kind of caring professor he is.

Thank you, Professor Morgan, for your entertaining and understandable approach to teaching. Thank you for providing a cheerful attitude while maintaining a level of teaching integrity that all professors should strive for.