

CONTENTS

About the Editors xi

About the Authors xii

Acknowledgments xv

Glossary of Names, Terms, and Abbreviations xix

Introduction xxiii

CHAPTER 1 Caveat Emptor: Earning an American Diploma 1

Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang

Education 3

Cultural Immersion 6

Language Training 7

Prestige 8

Networking 14

Career Advancement 15

Notes on the U.S. Legal Job Market 17

Conclusion 21

CHAPTER 2 Choices and Opportunities 23

Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang

U.S. Law Schools, in General 24

Accreditation 25

Rankings 26

Degree Options	29
Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree for Foreign Lawyers	30
Post-J.D. Degrees	32
Master of Laws (LL.M.)	32
LL.M. Programs	32
General Versus Specialized Programs	32
Thesis-Based Programs	33
Part-Time Programs	35
Summer Programs	35
Offshore Programs	36
Online Programs	37
Other Masteral Law Degrees	38
Doctoral Degrees (Research Based)	39
Joint Degrees or Combined Programs	42
Nondegree Options	44
Certificate Programs	44
Visiting Scholars and Other Programs	45
Special Programs/Continuing Legal Education	47
Other Considerations	47
Language Learning Resources	48
Extracurricular Activities	49
Legal Market	50
Environment	50
The University	52
Sports	52
Conclusion	53

CHAPTER 3 The Application Process: Demystifying the Experience 85

Johana Mantilla Gómez

Overview of Application Process	87
---------------------------------	----

General Themes: What Makes a Candidate Stand Out	87
Demonstrate Your Potential For Success	88
Academic and Intellectual Preparedness	88
Maturity	90
Curiosity, Resourcefulness, and a Healthy Dose of Excitement	91
English Proficiency	92
Drive	93
Keep It Real	94
Find a Place Where You Can Belong	97
Practical Tips for a Solid Application	100
Conclusion	110

CHAPTER 4 Counting the Costs: Financing Your U.S. Legal Education 111

Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang

The Costs	112
Sources of Funds	114
Personal and Family Resources	115
In-State Tuition	115
Grants, Scholarships, and Fellowships	116
Through Law Schools	116
Outside Programs	122
Notes on Preparing Applications for Financial Aid	124
Loans	124
Conclusion	125

CHAPTER 5 The Law School Experience: In a Nutshell 127

Zubin Billimoria, Malte Richter, Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang

Common Law and Civil Law Distinguished	129
Program and Curriculum	131
The Socratic Method	133

Classroom Life	134
Law Professors	137
Tenured and Tenure-Track Professors	137
Nontenured Professors	138
Language	139
Program Elements	139
Nature of Proficiency Issues	140
Right Attitude	144
Social Life: Notes for International Students	144
Research and Writing Programs	148
Work/Study Opportunities	149
Extracurricular Activities: On-Campus and Off-Campus	150
Final Exams: Preparation and What Really Counts	151
Honor Code	153
Honors, Distinctions, and Awards	153
Graduation	154
Practical Tips	155
Predeparture	156
Preparing for Classes	156
Language Learning	156
Balancing Act	157
Networking	157
Preparing for Exams	157
Conclusion	158

CHAPTER 6 U.S. Bar Exams 221

Mohammad A. Syed, Yufeng (Ethan) Ma

The Legal Profession in the United States: An Introduction	223
Mandatory Bar Versus Private and Voluntary Bar Associations	224
Admission and Licensure	225

Licensure of Foreign Law Graduates	228
As Foreign Legal Consultants	228
As U.S.-Licensed Lawyers	229
Preparation	236
Format of the Exam	238
Commentaries	241
The Intellectual Property (Patent) Bar	243
Policy Considerations	245

CHAPTER 7 Understanding the Playing Field: Career Opportunities for Foreign Lawyers 259

Johana Mantilla Gómez

Planning Ahead: The Impact of Degree Choices	260
Focus on Decision Making: Not All Students Are Created Equal	261
Career Positioning: Not All Degrees Are Created Equal	263
Juris Doctor (J.D.)	263
Achieving Dual Accreditation (or Dual Bar Admission)	264
A Desire to Relocate to the United States	265
Plans to Practice U.S. Law	265
Access to Broader Career Opportunities	266
Master of Laws (LL.M.)	268
The LL.M. Is Intended to Broaden Your Understanding of U.S. Law and Enhance Your Career Opportunities Back Home	269
The LL.M. Will Not Qualify a Foreign Law Graduate to Sit for the Bar in Most States	270
Finding a Job in the U.S. Will Be Hard	270
Although Very Competitive, There Are Opportunities Available Out There	271
Law Firms	272
Nonprofit Organizations	274
U.S. Government	276

Research-Based Doctoral Degrees (S.J.D. or J.S.D.) 277

Mapping Out the Options: A Career Path Decision Tree 279

A Caveat: Beyond the Degree Is the Actual Marketplace 280

A Challenging Picture: Employment Statistics for the Class of 2010 280

An Attitudinal Map for Your Job Search: Not All Approaches Are Equally Effective 284

 Be Prepared 285

 Be Realistic 286

 Be Persistent 287

 Be Creative 288

 Be Shameless 288

 Be Persuasive 289

 Be Charming 290

 Be Social 291

 Be Smart 291

 Be Assertive 292

Resources on the How-To's of Job Hunting 292

 For J.D.'s 292

 For LL.M.'s 293

 For J.S.D.'s or S.J.D.'s 294

Conclusion 295

CHAPTER 8 Who's Who Among U.S.-Educated Lawyers Around the World 297

Chief Executive Officers 298

Founding Partners 300

BigLaw 304

Ambassadors of Law Firms 308

All-American 309

Professors: Foreign-Based 311

Professors: U.S.-Based 316

The Magistrates	321
International Jurists	324
Globetrotters	328
Government, Politics, and Diplomacy	330
Public Interest/NGO Lawyers	333
Other Callings	334
Other Corners of the World	336

CHAPTER 9 Other Essentials 339

Immigration Issues	339
--------------------	-----

Donna D. Scadova

Obtaining a Visa	340
Arriving in the United States	341
Maintaining your Status in the United States	342
Postdegree Immigration Options	343
FAQs on Other Immigration Issues	345

College Towns for Foodies	346
---------------------------	-----

George I. Aquino

Ann Arbor, Michigan	346
Berkeley, California	346
Chapel Hill, North Carolina	347
Chicago, Illinois	347
Grand Rapids, Michigan	348
Los Angeles, California	349
New York, New York	349

Tourist Attractions with a Legal Bent	350
---------------------------------------	-----

Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang

Ventura, California: Birthplace of Perry Mason	350
Williamsburg, Virginia: Colonial Williamsburg	351
Springfield, Illinois: Land of Lincoln	351

Savannah, Georgia: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* 352

St. Louis, Missouri: *The Dred Scott Case* 352

Monroeville, Alabama: *To Kill A Mockingbird* 353

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: *National Constitution Center* 353

Washington, D.C.: *Museum of Crime and Punishment* 354

Las Vegas, Nevada: *The Mob Museum* 354

New York, New York: *Tenement Museum* 354

Questions You Were Afraid to Ask 355

AFTERWORD 361

A Few (Well-Picked) Insights to Help You Stay Afloat in a U.S. Law School

Johana Mantilla Gómez

Life and Career in Michigan, U.S.A.

Albert Vincent Y. Yu Chang

CONCLUSION 379

AVAILABLE RESOURCES 381

PHOTO CREDITS 387