

# **Above The Law Biglaw**



## **Above the Law BigLaw: Navigating the Complexities of Elite Legal Practice**

The world of BigLaw - those prestigious, high-profile law firms - is often shrouded in mystery and myth. For aspiring lawyers, it represents the pinnacle of success; for those within, it's a demanding, high-stakes environment. This post delves into the realities of BigLaw, exploring its culture, challenges, and the often-discussed perception of being "above the law." We'll unpack the truth behind the headlines, analyzing ethical considerations, career paths, and the impact on both lawyers and society.

## **H2: The Allure and Illusion of Being "Above the Law"**

The phrase "above the law" evokes images of untouchable power and impunity. While no legal entity is truly above the law, the perception persists surrounding BigLaw firms, particularly concerning their influence, resources, and the high-powered individuals they represent. This perception is fueled by several factors:

### **H3: High-Stakes Litigation and Powerful Clients**

BigLaw firms often handle cases with significant financial or political ramifications. Representing powerful corporations, wealthy individuals, or governments naturally brings a level of influence. This can lead to accusations of leveraging resources to influence outcomes, even if those actions remain within legal boundaries. The sheer scale of their operations and the financial stakes involved often overshadow the ethical considerations involved.

### **H3: The Culture of Winning at All Costs**

The intensely competitive environment of BigLaw can foster a culture prioritizing winning over ethical considerations. The pressure to secure lucrative deals and maintain a firm's reputation can sometimes blur the lines of acceptable conduct. This isn't to say that all BigLaw lawyers are unethical; however, the pressure cooker environment can create situations where ethical compromises are made.

### **H3: Access to Resources and Expertise**

BigLaw firms possess vast resources, including top legal talent and extensive research capabilities. This access to expertise can be used ethically and effectively to ensure justice, but it can also be perceived as giving an unfair advantage in legal battles, perpetuating the "above the law" perception.

## **H2: Ethical Considerations and Accountability in BigLaw**

Despite the perception, BigLaw firms are subject to the same laws and ethical regulations as any other legal entity. Professional conduct rules, disciplinary processes, and legal repercussions exist to ensure accountability. However, the enforcement of these rules within the context of BigLaw's power dynamics can be complex and challenging.

### **H3: Conflicts of Interest and Client Confidentiality**

Navigating conflicts of interest is a constant challenge. BigLaw firms frequently represent multiple clients with potentially conflicting interests. Maintaining client confidentiality is paramount, yet sometimes conflicts arise that necessitate careful ethical navigation and, in some cases, even recusal.

from a case.

### **H3: The Role of Professional Associations and Regulators**

Professional organizations like state bar associations and regulatory bodies play a vital role in overseeing the ethical conduct of lawyers. They investigate complaints, impose sanctions, and set standards for professional responsibility. While these mechanisms exist, their effectiveness in addressing ethical breaches within the powerful world of BigLaw can be debated.

## **H2: Career Paths and the Reality of BigLaw Life**

The path to BigLaw is highly competitive. Years of rigorous academic achievement, demanding internships, and networking are prerequisites. The reality of life within these firms is often demanding, characterized by long hours, intense pressure, and a highly hierarchical structure.

### **H3: The Billable Hour System and its Impact**

The billable hour system, a cornerstone of BigLaw compensation, significantly influences the firm's culture and the lawyers' working lives. Pressure to maximize billable hours can lead to burnout, reduced work-life balance, and potential compromises in quality of work.

### **H3: Opportunities for Advancement and Specialization**

Despite the challenges, BigLaw offers significant opportunities for career advancement and specialization. Lawyers can develop expertise in niche areas of law, gain invaluable experience, and potentially earn substantial salaries. However, this success often comes at a significant personal cost.

## **H2: The Impact of BigLaw on Society**

BigLaw's influence extends beyond individual cases and affects society at large. The firms play a significant role in shaping legal precedents, influencing legislation, and representing powerful interests. This influence necessitates ongoing scrutiny and discussions regarding its impact on social justice and equity.

# Conclusion

The perception of BigLaw firms as "above the law" is a complex issue stemming from a confluence of factors – power, resources, and the inherent pressures of the legal profession. While no entity truly exists outside the bounds of the law, the perception remains a subject of ongoing debate and scrutiny. Understanding the intricacies of BigLaw, its ethical considerations, and its impact on society is crucial for both aspiring lawyers and the public alike. Striking a balance between ambition, success, and ethical conduct remains a vital challenge within the elite world of BigLaw.

## FAQs

Q1: Are all BigLaw lawyers unethical?

A1: Absolutely not. The vast majority of BigLaw lawyers are ethical and dedicated to upholding the law. However, the system's inherent pressures can create situations where ethical dilemmas arise.

Q2: What mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability in BigLaw?

A2: State bar associations, regulatory bodies, and internal firm policies are in place to ensure accountability. However, the effectiveness of these mechanisms in addressing breaches within powerful firms can be a point of contention.

Q3: What are the long-term consequences of the billable hour system?

A3: The billable hour system can lead to burnout, decreased work-life balance, and potentially compromises in the quality of legal work. Alternatives are being explored, but remain a subject of ongoing discussion.

Q4: How can BigLaw firms improve their ethical practices?

A4: Improvements could include stronger internal ethical guidelines, increased transparency, better training for associates on ethical issues, and robust mechanisms for reporting and investigating ethical breaches.

Q5: Is a career in BigLaw worth it?

A5: This is a highly personal question. A BigLaw career offers high earning potential and career advancement, but it demands significant personal sacrifices. Aspiring lawyers should carefully weigh the pros and cons based on their individual values and career goals.

**above the law biglaw: Biglaw** Lindsay Cameron, 2017-08 Chosen one of the Best Books of 2015 by Good Housekeeping and Redbook\*\*A Harper's Bazaar Must-Read\*\*Film and TV Rights Optioned to Paramount\*\*A 2015 USA Best Book Award Winner\*As featured in:Huffington Post Books, Harper's Bazaar Magazine, Bloomberg BNA, Vault, Working Mother Magazine, Chicago

Tribune, The New York times, Redbook Magazine, Good Housekeeping Magazine: 20 Best Books by Women in 2015, BuzzFeed: September Reads You Must Find Time For, San Francisco Book Review: Best Books for Sweater Weather, Sheknows.com: Most Anticipated Novels of Fall, Culturalist: Best Book Club Reads, YourTango: Incredible Books Every Smart Woman Should Read this Fall

**above the law biglaw: Big Law** Ron Liebman, 2017-01-10 "Big Law has it all. A locomotive drive, a fantastic, appealing, big-hearted narrative voice, and an inside and very entertaining look at the intersection of big law and big business. Smart and truly unputdownable." —John Lescroart As a young partner at Dunn & Sullivan, one of New York's most prestigious law firms, Carney Blake has represented dozens of high-profile clients. But being a pawn of Big Law often means defending the corporate dirt bags of the world—the spillers, the drillers, and the killers. Morality aside, Carney is starting to make a name for himself, despite having a father who resents his success and an unpredictable big brother bent on self-destruction. So when Carney is suddenly asked by his firm's chairman to represent the plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit—and not, as usual, the corporate bad guys—he warily accepts. Maybe they're turning a corner, he thinks. And even if they aren't, when else has a junior partner been assigned such a major case, with a possible billion dollar payout? But Carney can't fool himself for very long. As he digs deeper into the case, he uncovers corruption and maliciously orchestrated schemes that go straight to the top of Dunn & Sullivan—along with the true motives behind his placement on the case. Written by former top litigator Ron Liebman, Big Law is a thrilling, fast-paced roman à clef that exposes the secrecy, deception, and machinations underlining America's most powerful mega-firms.

**above the law biglaw: The Associate** John Grisham, 2010-04-21 Kyle McAvoy is one of the greatest legal students of his generation. He has a brilliant mind and a glittering future ahead of him. But he has a secret from the past that threatens to destroy his entire livelihood. When this secret catches up with him in the form of a compromising video, Kyle is left with an impossible choice. He can take a job in New York at the largest law firm in the world and share the sordid secrets of its biggest trial to date. Or his past will be exposed to the masses. It's a deadly game of blackmail. And someone is making him play.

**above the law biglaw: Supreme Ambitions** David Lat, 2015 Supreme Ambitions details the rise of Audrey Coyne, a recent Yale Law School graduate who dreams of clerking for the U.S. Supreme Court someday. Audrey moves to California to clerk for Judge Christina Wong Stinson, a highly regarded appeals-court judge who is Audrey's ticket to a Supreme Court clerkship. While working for the powerful and driven Judge Stinson, Audrey discovers that high ambitions come with a high price. Toss in some headline-making cases, a little romance, and a pesky judicial gossip blog, and you have a legal novel with the inside scoop you'd expect from the founder of Above the Law, one of the nation's most widely read and influential legal websites.

**above the law biglaw: Biglaw** Sarah Powell, 2013 Popular culture usually portrays the life of a junior associate in one of America's elite law firms--collectively Biglaw--either as a glamorous and lucrative (if morally dubious) adventure, or as a hellish immersion in mind-numbing servitude to psychotic senior partners, while the available advice books on being an associate usually give little insight into what Biglaw practice is really like, or why it is the way it is. In this book, Sarah Powell (herself a veteran of Biglaw associate life) gives a clear-eyed, intensely personal, and at the same time institutionally sophisticated account of what associates experience and why. Rather than being random and inexplicable, the unrelenting demands and intense hierarchy to which elite firms subject their junior lawyers are inextricably linked to the firms' chief claim to their prestige and their enormous incomes--the sometimes explicit boast that Biglaw can handle any legal issue, at any time, with superb competence and matchless speed. Powell provides the reader a unique window onto an associate's day-by-day life in an elite firm, while showing how the details make a harrowing kind of sense in the light of these firms' structure and modes of operation. Neither an expose nor a whitewash, her book employs telling anecdotes and savvy advice in crafting an informed and intensely practical guide to survival as an associate in Biglaw. But her insights into elite law practice will be of equal interest to anyone seeking to understand one of our society's most powerful

institutions.

**above the law biglaw: The Curmudgeon's Guide to Practicing Law** Mark Herrmann, 2006 This collection of essays written by The Curmudgeon, offers practical, honest and you need to know this advice for surviving and thriving in a law firm. The book covers the basics of law practice and law firm etiquette, from doing effective research and writing to dressing for success, dealing with staff and clients and building a law practice. Concise, humorous and full of valuable (albeit curmudgeonly) insight, this is a must-read for every newly minted law school graduate or new lawyer.

**above the law biglaw: Life After Law** Liz Brown, 2016-10-14 Written by Harvard-trained ex-law firm partner Liz Brown, *Life After Law: Finding Work You Love with the J.D. You Have* provides specific, realistic, and honest advice on alternative careers for lawyers. Unlike generic career guides, *Life After Law* shows lawyers how to reframe their legal experience to their competitive advantage, no matter how long they have been in or out of practice, to find work they truly love. Brown herself moved from a high-powered partnership into an alternative career and draws from this experience, as well as that of dozens of former practicing attorneys, in the book. She acknowledges that changing careers is hard much harder than it was for most lawyers to get their first legal job after law school but it can ultimately be more fulfilling for many than a life in law. *Life After Law* offers an alternative framework and valuable analytic tools for potential careers to help launch lawyers into new fields and make them attractive hires for non-legal employers.

**above the law biglaw: The Lawyer Bubble** Steven J Harper, 2016-03-08 A noble profession is facing its defining moment. From law schools to the prestigious firms that represent the pinnacle of a legal career, a crisis is unfolding. News headlines tell part of the story—the growing oversupply of new lawyers, widespread career dissatisfaction, and spectacular implosions of pre-eminent law firms. Yet eager hordes of bright young people continue to step over each other as they seek jobs with high rates of depression, life-consuming hours, and little assurance of financial stability. The Great Recession has only worsened these trends, but correction is possible and, now, imperative. In *The Lawyer Bubble*, Steven J. Harper reveals how a culture of short-term thinking has blinded some of the nation's finest minds to the long-run implications of their actions. Law school deans have ceded independent judgment to flawed U.S. News & World Report rankings criteria in the quest to maximize immediate results. Senior partners in the nation's large law firms have focused on current profits to enhance American Lawyer rankings and individual wealth at great cost to their institutions. Yet, wiser decisions—being honest about the legal job market, revisiting the financial incentives currently driving bad behavior, eliminating the billable hour model, and more—can take the profession to a better place. A devastating indictment of the greed, shortsightedness, and dishonesty that now permeate the legal profession, this insider account is essential reading for anyone who wants to know how things went so wrong and how the profession can right itself once again.

**above the law biglaw: The Trust Revolution** M.Todd Henderson, Salen Churi, 2019-08-15 Traces the history of innovation and trust, demonstrating how the Internet offers new ways to rehabilitate and strengthen trust.

**above the law biglaw: Inside Straight** Mark Herrmann, 2012 This hilarious new book from acclaimed author Mark Herrmann is a compilation of the best blog posts about life as an in-house counsel—dealing with the lawyers and law firms he throws business to, dealing with the management of his company, dealing with communications and writing issues and more. You'll be entertained and educated, and have your eyes opened to a few things in the legal arena.

**above the law biglaw: Remaking Law Firms** George Beaton, Imme Kaschner, 2016-06-07 This book provides examples of innovative and successful business models from remade law firms to inspire change that goes beyond thinking and planning, and leads straight to implementing change and better client service.

**above the law biglaw: Glass Half Full** Benjamin H. Barton, 2015 A counterintuitive and optimistic reconsideration of the crisis in the American legal profession

**above the law biglaw: The Code of Capital** Katharina Pistor, 2020-11-03 Capital is the defining feature of modern economies, yet most people have no idea where it actually comes from. What is it, exactly, that transforms mere wealth into an asset that automatically creates more wealth? The Code of Capital explains how capital is created behind closed doors in the offices of private attorneys, and why this little-known fact is one of the biggest reasons for the widening wealth gap between the holders of capital and everybody else. In this revealing book, Katharina Pistor argues that the law selectively codes certain assets, endowing them with the capacity to protect and produce private wealth. With the right legal coding, any object, claim, or idea can be turned into capital - and lawyers are the keepers of the code. Pistor describes how they pick and choose among different legal systems and legal devices for the ones that best serve their clients' needs, and how techniques that were first perfected centuries ago to code landholdings as capital are being used today to code stocks, bonds, ideas, and even expectations--assets that exist only in law. A powerful new way of thinking about one of the most pernicious problems of our time, The Code of Capital explores the different ways that debt, complex financial products, and other assets are coded to give financial advantage to their holders. This provocative book paints a troubling portrait of the pervasive global nature of the code, the people who shape it, and the governments that enforce it.--Provided by publisher.

**above the law biglaw: Lawyers at Work** Clare Cosslett, 2012-12-03 With probing questions and articulate answers, Cosslett and her subjects shed light on the challenges of legal practice in the current legal market. BLS Law Notes, 11.16.12 Lawyers at Work reveals what it means and what it takes to be a satisfied, sane, and successful lawyer in today's tough legal marketplace. Through incisive in-depth interviews, a top legal headhunter gives the 3rd degree to 15 successful lawyers who run the gamut of the legal profession. Practice areas represented in these profiles range from employment discrimination to corporate defense, from federal white collar prosecution to the legal structuring of complex derivative instruments, from antitrust in DC to trusts & estates in Florida, from divorce in New York to international mergers in Paris, from intellectual property in Silicon Valley to creeping expropriation in India, and from entertainment law in Hollywood to welfare rights in the Bronx. Law firm sizes range from one of the biggest in the world with over two thousand lawyers to a one-lawyer general practice. Career levels range from biglaw partners and courtroom superstars to mid-level associates and ex-lawyers. Though many of the interviewees in Lawyers at Work are generic adversaries, the interviewer brings out commonalities in their ways of working, methods of reasoning, and sources of personal motivation. Readers hear from the practitioner's own unbuttoned lips about their career formation, daily work grind, victories and setbacks, guiding principles, professional rewards, and practical advice for aspiring lawyers.

**above the law biglaw: *The Happier Attorney*** Brita Long, 2019-05-18 The greatest threat to the integrity of the legal system is a broke and unhappy attorney. Whether you are new to the practice or have been practicing law since the Ford Administration, you should be paid- in full- for the work you perform. You should be paid for your superior judgment, your skills, your ability to negotiate, and your knowledge-not how many hours you took to draft a pleading. The Happier Attorney: A comprehensive Guide to Charging Flat Fees for Legal Services is a step by step guide that will teach you: -What hourly billing is really costing you in money and more importantly time. -Why hourly billing is bad for clients and horrible for attorneys. -Why clients love flat fees. -How you can obtain a collection rate of 100%. -How flat fees improve your work product. -How flat fees will increase your income significantly. -How flat fees will save you so much time you won't know what to do with your time. -How flat fees will decrease staff time and costs. -How to manage one's time so that you can meet your responsibilities and have lots of time outside the office. -How to ethically and easily address any issues that arise from flat fee billing. In the nearly 19 years of owning her own practice, and well over a decade of using exclusively flat fees, even for family law litigation, Brita Long is in a unique position to share everything that you would want and need to know when you are considering moving from hourly billing to flat fees. The relief of only working as many hours as you want to work and still make the money you want to make, and have earned, is only a few hours away.

**above the law biglaw:** Best Practices in Law Firm Business Development and Marketing Deborah Brightman Farone, 2019 Best Practices in Law Firm Business Development and Marketing is a unique resource for law firm leaders, practicing attorneys, legal marketers, consultants, and educators who want to uncover the best marketing practices in the legal profession. Find out how the most successful law firm leaders are creating and developing firm cultures to encourage business development, and how smaller firms and single practitioners are executing on marketing plans to make an impact. This book uncovers the best practices in the wide arena of legal marketing and covers topics including: the most successful ways to create long-term relationships with clients, how personalities, leadership, and collaboration contribute to a firm's culture and brand, what characteristics management should look for when hiring a CMO, how compensation, firm culture, training, and coaching can support and incentivize business development steps to take to build an individual reputation and brand, including the use of press, speaking engagements, and social media, the essential approach to support women lawyers with business development -- including ideas on networking, mentorship versus sponsorship, and authenticity in marketing how new technologies are being applied to deliver better service, attract clients, and generate business, the important role of legal operations, the procurement professional, and legal process outsourcing, practical methods for evaluating AI solutions to business needs such as billing, e-discovery, and technology-assisted review. Culled from scores of interviews with law firm leaders, chief marketing officers, and legal innovation visionaries, Best Practices provides actionable advice and real-world thinking. Each chapter is filled with information that can be scaled to apply to a single-person law practice as well as a large international law firm. In addition, the book features special Think Pieces from some of the nation's leading experts in legal marketing.

**above the law biglaw:** *Way Worse Than Being a Dentist* Jd Msw Will Meyerhofer, William P. Meyerhofer, 2011 THE COMPLETE, INFAMOUS IN-HOUSE COUNSELING COLUMNS (SO F AR) AS FEATURED ON ABOVE THE LAW.COM AND THE PEOPLE'S THERAPIST.COM.

**above the law biglaw: Breakdown** Norman Bacal, 2017-02-28 A history of Heenan Blaikie, a Canadian law firm which went from being a leading firm to its collapse in 2014.--Source inconnue.

**above the law biglaw:** After the JD Ronit Dinovitzer, 2004 The After the JD project will track the professional lives of more than 5,000 lawyers during their first ten years after law school. While most of the project will unfold in coming years, the data presented here provide a first snapshot of the stratified random national sample, based on questionnaires administered two to three years into the new lawyers' careers. The findings presented here will be elaborated and augmented through face-to-face interviews with a sub-sample of roughly 10% of the survey respondents. Building on this first wave, the future work of AJD will employ follow-up questionnaires and personal interviews six and ten years into the respondents' careers. When completed, it will be the first national study of the factors -- personal and professional -- that account for the wide spectrum of legal careers and experiences--Introduction

**above the law biglaw:** Off-Ramps and On-Ramps Sylvia Ann Hewlett, 2007-05-15 With talent shortages looming over the next decade, what can companies do to attract and retain the large number of professional women who are forced off the career highway? By documenting the successful efforts of a group of cutting-edge global companies to retain talented women and reintegrate them if they've already left, Off-Ramps and On-Ramps answers this critical question. Working closely with companies such as Ernst & Young, Goldman Sachs, Time Warner, General Electric and others, author Sylvia Ann Hewlett identifies what works and why. Based on firsthand experience with these companies, along with extensive data that provides the most comprehensive and nuanced portrait of women's career paths, this book documents the actions forward-thinking companies must take to reverse the female brain drain and ensure their access to talent over the long term.

**above the law biglaw:** *All the Beautiful People We Once Knew* Edward Carlson, 2017-08-01 For fans of Don DeLillo and Joseph O'Neill, an enthralling debut about the one percent, what they'll do to stay on top, and the callous gaze they turn on those below them. Burned-out and alienated,



Kilgore associate attorney Stephen Harker spends his work days defending insurance companies against spurious litigation commenced by private soldiers who supported US military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Harker's charismatic, womanizing boss assigns him a case defending insurance behemoth WorldScore against a lawsuit filed by Major Mike Bud Thomas, a veteran, former contract soldier, and divorced father seeking compensation for PTSD and injuries suffered in Afghanistan. Just as Harker turns the firm's full legal power on the wounded, unstable veteran, he commences an unhealthy relationship with his boss's estranged bohemian wife, setting himself up for a downward existential spiral that almost destroys Harker, until a brutal act of violence presents him with a final shot at redemption. All the Beautiful People We Once Knew is a riveting insider's indictment of the world of the corporate elite and the savage determination with which they fight to maintain control. In a society where the very institutions that should support our returning veterans instead view them with suspicion, this stunning debut is a grim reflection on the ever-growing rift between the classes.

**above the law biglaw:** Motivating Millennials Ryan Avery, James Goodnow, 2017-06-19 In Motivating Millennials, we will show how Millennials can be your greatest asset and we do this by focusing on three major areas: recognizing, recruiting, and retaining top talent.

**above the law biglaw:** The White Coat Investor James M. Dahle, 2014-01 Written by a practicing emergency physician, The White Coat Investor is a high-yield manual that specifically deals with the financial issues facing medical students, residents, physicians, dentists, and similar high-income professionals. Doctors are highly-educated and extensively trained at making difficult diagnoses and performing life saving procedures. However, they receive little to no training in business, personal finance, investing, insurance, taxes, estate planning, and asset protection. This book fills in the gaps and will teach you to use your high income to escape from your student loans, provide for your family, build wealth, and stop getting ripped off by unscrupulous financial professionals. Straight talk and clear explanations allow the book to be easily digested by a novice to the subject matter yet the book also contains advanced concepts specific to physicians you won't find in other financial books. This book will teach you how to: Graduate from medical school with as little debt as possible Escape from student loans within two to five years of residency graduation Purchase the right types and amounts of insurance Decide when to buy a house and how much to spend on it Learn to invest in a sensible, low-cost and effective manner with or without the assistance of an advisor Avoid investments which are designed to be sold, not bought Select advisors who give great service and advice at a fair price Become a millionaire within five to ten years of residency graduation Use a Backdoor Roth IRA and Stealth IRA to boost your retirement funds and decrease your taxes Protect your hard-won assets from professional and personal lawsuits Avoid estate taxes, avoid probate, and ensure your children and your money go where you want when you die Minimize your tax burden, keeping more of your hard-earned money Decide between an employee job and an independent contractor job Choose between sole proprietorship, Limited Liability Company, S Corporation, and C Corporation Take a look at the first pages of the book by clicking on the Look Inside feature Praise For The White Coat Investor Much of my financial planning practice is helping doctors to correct mistakes that reading this book would have avoided in the first place. - Allan S. Roth, MBA, CPA, CFP(R), Author of How a Second Grader Beats Wall Street Jim Dahle has done a lot of thinking about the peculiar financial problems facing physicians, and you, lucky reader, are about to reap the bounty of both his experience and his research. - William J. Bernstein, MD, Author of The Investor's Manifesto and seven other investing books This book should be in every career counselor's office and delivered with every medical degree. - Rick Van Ness, Author of Common Sense Investing The White Coat Investor provides an expert consult for your finances. I now feel confident I can be a millionaire at 40 without feeling like a jerk. - Joe Jones, DO Jim Dahle has done for physician financial illiteracy what penicillin did for neurosyphilis. - Dennis Bethel, MD An excellent practical personal finance guide for physicians in training and in practice from a non biased source we can actually trust. - Greg E Wilde, M.D Scroll up, click the buy button, and get started today!

**above the law biglaw: The Client-Centered Law Firm** Jack Newton, 2020-01-28 The legal industry has long been risk averse, but when it comes to adapting to the experience-driven world created by companies like Netflix, Uber, and Airbnb, adherence to the old status quo could be the death knell for today's law firms. In *The Client-Centered Law Firm*, Clio cofounder Jack Newton offers a clear-eyed and timely look at how providing a client-centered experience and running an efficient, profitable law firm aren't opposing ideas. With this approach, they drive each other. Covering the what, why, and how of running a client-centered practice, with examples from law firms leading this revolution as well as practical strategies for implementation, *The Client-Centered Law Firm* is a rallying call to unlock the enormous latent demand in the legal market by providing client-centered experiences, improving internal processes, and raising the bottom line.

**above the law biglaw: Blood of Tyrants** Logan Beirne, 2014-12-02 *Blood of Tyrants* reveals the surprising details of our Founding Fathers' approach to government and this history's impact on today. Delving into forgotten—and often lurid—facts of the Revolutionary War, Logan Beirne focuses on the nation's first commander in chief, George Washington, as he shaped the very meaning of the United States Constitution in the heat of battle. Key episodes of the Revolution illustrate how the Founders dealt with thorny wartime issues: How do we protect citizens' rights when the nation is struggling to defend itself? Who decides war strategy? When should we use military tribunals instead of civilian trials? Should we inflict harsh treatment on enemy captives if it means saving American lives? Beirne finds evidence in previously unexplored documents such as General Washington's letters debating the use of torture, an eyewitness account of the military tribunal that executed a British prisoner, Founders' letters warning against government debt, and communications pointing to a power struggle between Washington and the Continental Congress. Vivid stories from the Revolution set the stage for Washington's pivotal role in the drafting of the Constitution. The Founders saw the first American commander in chief as the template for all future presidents: a leader who would fiercely defend Americans' rights and liberties against all forms of aggression. Pulling the reader directly into dramatic scenes from history, *Blood of Tyrants* fills a void in our understanding of the presidency and our ingenious Founders' pragmatic approach to issues we still face today.

**above the law biglaw: Law is a Buyer's Market** Jordan Furlong, 2017 Law has become a buyer's market, and it's never going back. Re-envisioning the purpose of law firms and the role of lawyers, Jordan Furlong has designed a transformative client-first law firm that rethinks the business model, culture, service, competitiveness, growth strategies, diversity, and leadership of modern legal enterprises.

**above the law biglaw: Life is a Brief Opportunity for Joy** Will Meyerhofer, 2010 This book is a guide to discovering joy, the simple pleasure of living each day. I am a psychotherapist, with an office in New York City. As I work with patients and listen to their stories, I search for themes that define the human condition. These themes have melded into a philosophy centered upon living with joy. No book can substitute for the process of psychotherapy. But I hope these ideas will introduce you to the work of self-discovery at the heart of that experience.

**above the law biglaw: Ending the Gauntlet** Lauren Stiller Rikleen, 2006

**above the law biglaw: Tomorrow's Lawyers** Richard E. Susskind, 2017 *Tomorrow's Lawyers* predicts that we are at the beginning of a period of fundamental transformation in law: a time in which we will see greater change than we have seen in the past two centuries. Where the future of the legal service will be a world of internet-based global businesses, online document production, commoditized service, legal process outsourcing, and web based simulation practice. Legal markets will be liberalized, with new jobs for lawyers and new employers too. This book is a definitive guide to this future - for young and aspiring lawyers, and for all who want to modernize our legal and justice systems. It introduces the new legal landscape and offers practical guidance for those who intend to build careers and businesses in law. ... This new edition has been fully updated to include an introduction to online dispute resolution, Susskind's views on the debates surrounding artificial intelligence and its role in the legal world, a new analysis of new jobs available for lawyers, and a

retrospective evaluation of *The Future of Law*, Susskind's prediction published in 1996 about the future of legal services. -- Publisher's website.

**above the law biglaw: Big Law in Latin America and Spain** Manuel Gómez, Rogelio Pérez-Perdomo, 2017-11-22 This book, part of the Stanford Law School research project on the future of the legal profession, thoroughly examines the future of “big law,” defined as the large and mid-size multiservice highly specialized law firms that provide sophisticated, complex and generally costly legal work to multinationals, large and mid-size domestic corporations, and other business clients. By systematically gathering, assessing, and analyzing the best available quantitative and qualitative data on the first tier of the corporate legal services market of Latin America and Spain, and interviewing a broadly representative sample of corporate legal officers, law firm partners, and other stakeholders in each of the countries covered, this book provides a nuanced perspective on changes in “big law” during the last two decades until the present. It also explores the factors that are driving these changes, and the implications for the future of legal profession, legal education and its relationship with the corporate sector and society in general.

**above the law biglaw:** *The Anointed* Jeremiah Lambert, Geoffrey S. Stewart, 2021-03-16 This is the story of how and why such powerhouse Wall Street law firms as Cravath, Swaine & Moore, Davis Polk & Wardwell, and Sullivan & Cromwell, grew from nineteenth-century entrepreneurial origins into icons of institutional law practice; how, as white-shoe bastions with the social standards of an exclusive gentlemen's club, they promoted the values of an east coast elite; and how they adapted to a radically changed legal world, surviving snobbish insularity and ferocious competition to remain at the pinnacle of a transformed profession. It is no accident these firms are found in New York, the largest city in the world's largest economy and also the nation's largest port, principal banking center, and epicenter of industry. At the dawn of the twentieth century, linked by canals, railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, transatlantic steamships and undersea cables, New York became the economic nerve center of the United States. It also wielded formidable political power and supplied every President or Vice President of the United States between the Civil War and the Great War.

**above the law biglaw: Behind the Biglaw Curtain** Marissa Geannette, 2020-06-19 Guidebook for junior lawyers navigating their first few years as associates in Biglaw. Advice from a former Biglaw attorney on how to succeed in the challenging legal environment that is Biglaw. Tips on how to achieve success no matter your goal. An insider's real perspective.

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**above the law biglaw:** *Surviving and Succeeding in Large Law Firms* Paul McCoy, 2021-07-15

Practicing law in a law firm is challenging, to say the least. A law degree and the technical skills taught by law firms are only small parts of what you need to survive and succeed in a law firm. Most of what you need to know will take you decades of experience to learn through trial and error. As a result, new lawyers find themselves slogging through life as a firm associate unsure whether or not their efforts are really getting them anywhere in the long run. This state of perpetual uncertainty, pushing slowly forward into a black void, leaves many very unhappy with their work life and, as a consequence, their overall life suffers. There is an easier way. Imagine knowing that the steps you are taking are in fact leading to success. Imagine having a mentor who has already worked his way up the learning curve, already learned through trial and error what works and what doesn't work, who could share with you techniques and insights that could substantially increase your chances of

surviving and succeeding at a law firm. Imagine if such mentor was always immediately available to you at your request. Well, this book was written precisely to be a virtual mentor for the multitudes of lawyers struggling to survive and succeed in law firms. This book is a must read for any law student considering a career at a law firm. This book is also an invaluable asset for any associate at a law firm struggling to survive and succeed. Give yourself an edge and learn from a lawyer who not only survived but succeeded in the world of prestigious, global law firms.

**above the law biglaw: *Lawyers, Liars, and the Art of Storytelling*** Jonathan Shapiro, 2016 The practice of law is the business of persuasion, and storytelling is the most effective means of persuading. A credible lawyer capable of telling a well-reasoned story that moves the listener will always beat the lawyer who cannot. This entertaining book shows you how to convey legal information in a cogent, persuasive way to the client who needs the help, to opposing counsel, and to the decision-maker who has to make the final call.

**above the law biglaw: *Unexpected Consequences of Compensation Law*** Prue Vines, Arno Akkermans, 2020-09-03 This book explores the performance of compensation law in addressing the needs of the injured. Compensation procedure can be dangerous to your health and may fail to compensate without aggravation/creating other problems. This book takes a refreshing and insightful approach to the law of compensation considering, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the actual effect of compensation law on people seeking compensation. Tort law, workers' compensation, medical law, industrial injury law and other schemes are examined and unintended consequences for injured people are considered. These include ongoing physical and mental illness, failure to rehabilitate, the impact on social security entitlements, medical care as well as the impact on those who serve - the lawyers, administrators, medical practitioners etc. All are explored in this timely and fascinating book. The contributors include lawyers, psychologists, and medical practitioners from multiple jurisdictions including Australia, the Netherlands, Canada, Italy and the UK.

**above the law biglaw: *The American Legal Profession*** Christopher P. Banks, 2023-11-10 This book is a tight and fresh analysis of the American legal profession and its significance to society and its citizens. The book's primary objective is to expose, and correct, the principal misconceptions— myths— surrounding prelaw study, law school admission, law school, and the American legal profession itself. These issues are vitally important to prelaw advisors and instructors in light of the difficult problems caused by the Great Recessions of 2008 and 2020- 2021 and the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Aimed equally at prelaw advisors and potential law students, this book can be used as a supplement in the interdisciplinary undergraduate law-related instructional market, including courses that cater to majors/minors in political science and criminal justice in particular. It can also be used in career counselling, internships, and the extensive paralegal program market. New to the Second Edition • Expanded coverage to include paralegal and legal assistant training. • New material on women and minority law students who are transforming law schools and the profession. • Explores challenges to the legal profession posed by economic recession, COVID-19, high tuition rates, exploding student loan debt, internet technological advances, and global competitive pressures, including legal outsourcing and DIY legal services. • Updated data and tables along with all underlying research.

**above the law biglaw: *Legal Tech and the Future of Civil Justice*** David Freeman Engstrom, 2023-02-28 New digital technologies, from AI-fired 'legal tech' tools to virtual proceedings, are transforming the legal system. But much of the debate surrounding legal tech has zoomed out to a nebulous future of 'robo-judges' and 'robo-lawyers.' This volume is an antidote. Zeroing in on the near- to medium-term, it provides a concrete, empirically minded synthesis of the impact of new digital technologies on litigation and access to justice. How far and fast can legal tech advance given regulatory, organizational, and technological constraints? How will new technologies affect lawyers and litigants, and how should procedural rules adapt? How can technology expand - or curtail - access to justice? And how must judicial administration change to promote healthy technological development and open courthouse doors for all? By engaging these essential questions, this volume

helps to map the opportunities and the perils of a rapidly digitizing legal system - and provides grounded advice for a sensible path forward.

**above the law biglaw: Women Leading Justice** Elaine Gunnison, Jacqueline B. Helfgott, 2018-11-02 The women's movement and increasing social consciousness regarding gender disparity and discrimination has helped to make gains over the past several decades to reduce gender disparity for women in the workplace. However, gender discrimination and disparity continue to exist. Women continue to receive lower wages, and fewer opportunities for promotion and professional advancement - and this is particularly true in male dominated professions such as criminal justice. Building on original qualitative data, this book explores the experiences of female criminal justice professionals who have risen to the top of their professional ladders. The book includes first-hand narrative accounts of high ranking successful professional women working across a range of fields such as policing, courts, corrections, victim and restorative justice services and criminal justice research agencies in the United States and Canada. This book highlights the barriers that successful female criminal justice professionals have to overcome to obtain their positions, and identifies key themes that these women see as having allowed them to break through those barriers and to navigate their professional environments. This book provides students interested in entering the criminal justice field - and working professionals already in the field - with knowledge about women who have risen through the ranks and up the professional ladder to break through the glass and the brass ceilings of their profession.

**above the law biglaw: Teaching Law** Robin L. West, 2013-11-18 Teaching Law re-imagines law school teaching and scholarship by going beyond crises now besetting the legal academy and examining deeper and longer-lasting challenges. The book argues that the legal academy has long neglected the need to focus teaching and scholarship on the ideals of justice that law fitfully serves, the political origins of law, and the development of a respectful but critical relationship with the legal profession. It suggests reforms to improve the quality of legal education and responds to concerns that law schools eschew the study of justice, rendering students amoralist; that law schools slight the political sources of law, particularly in legislative action; and that law schools have ignored the profession entirely. These areas of neglect have impoverished legal teaching and scholarship as the academy is refashioned in response to current financial exigencies, and addressing them is long overdue.

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