

TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	ROOM
8 <sup>30</sup> -10	CP/K	CP/K	CP/K	CP/K	SLEEP	MC
10-11	TORTS	PROPA	TORTS	PROPA	TORTS	MC
11-12	CL	CL	CL	CL	CL	216



by Roxie Rosemond

From the early age of about eight, I can remember telling people that when I grew up I wanted to be a lawyer. When asked why, my childish reply was that lawyers made good money. Popular television programs of the time added to this desire—"Perry Mason," "The Untouchables," "The FBI," etc. Other occupations or professions were not ones I considered because I didn't feel I had the necessary qualifications. I could talk, I like to read (anything), I was reasonably intelligent, and I had "strong" opinions on just about everything. (My husband frequently remarks that I would argue with the devil.) I decided that with these qualities I could become a lawyer if I worked at it.

Some of the most vivid memories I have of my childhood are those times my mother or another adult chastised me for expressing opinions or asking questions about things that children were not to be concerned with. My opinion was, and still is, that everyone who could vote in an election should. This was a right and responsibility of all Americans. Why did Blacks in Clarksville, Va., care little about voting: what was the "poll tax"; what was the "Klan"?

Those questions have been answered now. However, when I expressed those opinions, asked those questions, and received vague, unresponsive answers, I couldn't understand what was wrong, only that something was wrong. Upon graduation from high school, I concluded that the "something" was that in general people were not concerned about the situation or preferred not to be bothered out of misunderstanding or fear. My desire to become a lawyer grew stronger. As a lawyer, I could help people understand what their rights were and how to insist that those rights be recognized.

I inquired more about law school during my freshman year at Norfolk State. I wanted to know which law schools were good, what law school was like, and what most of them required for admission. Much to my dismay, I discovered that in addition to satisfactory grades, recommendations, and so on, it

was necessary to take and receive a satisfactory score on the Law School Admissions Test. Rumors were that the LSAT was hell. Law students and others knowledgeable about law school told me what sounded like horror stories about the workload, classroom inquisitions, and the comprehensive examinations.

Firm conviction gave way. I stopped thinking about others and concentrated more on myself. I decided that maybe I should reassess my plans to become a lawyer. The very thought of taking the LSAT struck a fear in me that I had seldom before felt. During my junior year I made excuses not to take the test. Senior year I interviewed for management positions and took the Graduate Record Examination. The interviews were unsuccessful and the GRE scores were mediocre. However, I still couldn't muster the courage to take the LSAT, and used other personal reasons as an excuse not to take it.

Two or three weeks after graduation from college I took a job as a cashier in a 7-11 store. That job was a real eye opener. What followed was one of the most depressing periods of my life. Customers were rude, the hours were bad, and the work was pure drudgery. By December of 1977 it occurred to me that there had to be something better. Like a drowning man reaching for a rope, I latched on to my old childhood dream of becoming a lawyer.

I had two months to work with, so everything became a race against time. The law schools I wanted to apply to had early deadlines for the submission of applications. Transcripts had to be mailed and I didn't have any money. Finally, I put things in perspective and, through a holler-sholler system of organization, I made it.

Actually, the LSAT was not so bad, and law school classes are not so bad. Since I've been here my worst experiences have been not understanding the famous Sullivan lecture on the merger of tort and contract law, and going completely blank while reciting a case in class. Other than those experiences, even with all the work, being at Marshall-Wythe is very comforting and very satisfying.

Constitutional Law

Property

Contracts

Torts

Civil Procedure