



The ABA Journal has opened the nomination process for its annual Blawg 100, a list of the 100 best law-focused blogs on the Web.

The publication is requesting short submissions from people who have found that my blog, LawBiz Blog (www.lawbizblog.com) has provided valuable and timely information in my area, law practice management.

If you have enjoyed my blog postings over the past year (and prior years), I hope you will act as one of my "friends of court." The process is quick and easy, and should take no more than 5 minutes of your time. Simply [click on this link](#) and fill out the short form. (submission deadline: 7 p.m. ET on Friday, Sept 7)

Thanks in advance for taking part!

lawbiz.com

The Law School "Game": Win One, Lose One

The "Games" Used to Enroll Students

The 200-plus accredited U.S. law schools have faced plenty of criticism concerning the process as well as the statistics they use to "game" the process of enticing students to enroll. Basically the game is to tout how high the schools rank in ratings compiled by publications like US News & World Report, and how many graduates use their JDs to enter a prosperous career after they graduate. Of two recent stories about this gaming, carried in the ABA Journal online, one gave the schools a victory of sorts on one count - but neither constituted a ringing endorsement of law school ethics.

Buyer Beware Decision

In the victory, [a Michigan federal judge dismissed a suit](#) by 12 Cooley Law School graduates claiming they were misled about their job prospects. The judge held that statistics about percent of graduates employed and their average starting salaries reported by the school were

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What Clients Are Saying:

"literally true" even though they represented incomplete survey responses. But the judge also stated that the statistics, supplied in an ABA-required format, were "... so vague and incomplete as to be meaningless and could not reasonably be relied upon." Bottom line, the judge told the Cooley grads, "An ordinary prudent person would not have relied on the statistics to decide to spend \$100,000 or more" on a J.D. degree - lumping law schools in the same "buyer beware" category as used car salesmen.

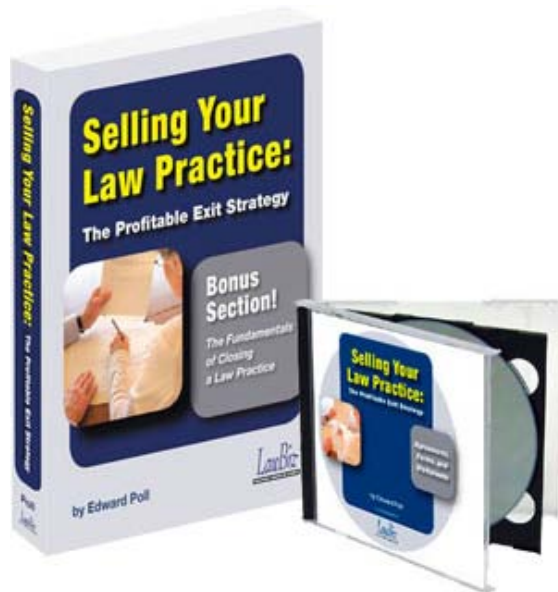
Law School is Publicly Censured

On the admissions side of the statistical game, [the University of Illinois, College of Law was publicly censured and fined \\$250,000](#) by the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar for intentionally reporting and publishing false admissions data in six out of the last 10 years. The action follows the revelation that the law school reported and/or published inaccurate LSAT scores and incoming student grade-point-average data for several entering classes, all as part of a scheme that was designed primarily to improve the standings of the law school's in U.S. News & World Report's annual law school rankings. The school accepted the sanctions but questioned the fine as excessive. However, the ABA asserted, in unusually clear language: "No matter what the competitive pressures, law schools must not cheat. The College of Law cheated." Or, as a cynic might say, the College of Law got caught...

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"When I had my own private practice as a solo practitioner, I wanted to run my office as efficiently and profitably as possible. I researched business coaches and discovered that most had "passive" models as their basis for coaching, i.e. they would promise all the things they would do for my practice without my having to invest time and energy into the process. I'm so glad I chose Ed Poll instead, for he had an "active" model, i.e. how much I got out of the coaching was directly dependent upon what I put into it. Over a period of six months, Ed conferenced with me and gave me weekly assignments for structuring my practice as well as giving me tips on how to work with clients from the initial interview through to the end of the case. After working with Ed, I didn't have a single outstanding account receivable over \$500. The time I spent working with Ed was invaluable and I would recommend him to any attorneys interested in improving the quality and profitability of their practices."

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