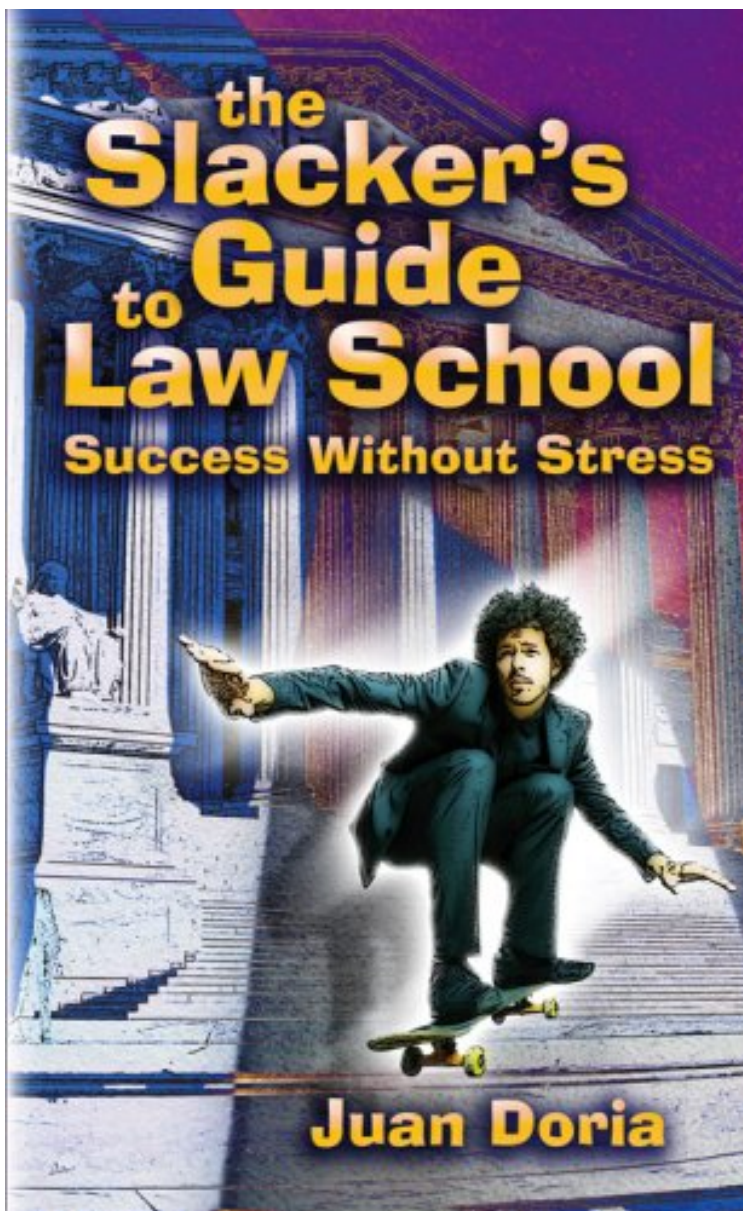


(Ebook pdf) The Slacker's Guide to Law School: Success Without Stress

## The Slacker's Guide to Law School: Success Without Stress

*Juan Doria*

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**Juan Doria : The Slacker's Guide to Law School: Success Without Stress** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Slacker's Guide to Law School: Success Without Stress:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Don't be misled by the title By Charles Cooper I've got to admit, the title seems odd at first glance. Surely law school is no place for slackers? Surely the rigor of a legal education

punishes those who don't want to put in the endless hours of hard work? But the book, as it states clearly and up-front on the back cover, "is not about laziness". It's about coping with law school and emerging on the other side without feeling that the past three years have been played by someone else's rules. I'll admit, I'm a law grad for whom the time spent in law school felt as if I was merely going through the motions, doing exactly what I was told to do by the so-called experts who assumed (wrongly) that my only goal in life was straight A grades in law school classes followed by a stellar legal career. Were I to go through law school again, I'd do things differently: family would come first all the time, I'd take effective shortcuts, I'd minimize stress, and I'd do whatever I could to enjoy those three years while still succeeding in my studies. And this is where the Slacker's Guide comes in. Many law school guide books are written with a "This Is The RIGHT Way" attitude - the authors fail to acknowledge that there are many paths to success, and what worked well for them doesn't necessarily work well for others whose aptitude, interests, goals and circumstances differ. And that's what I like about the law school guides published by the Fine Print Press - it's a diverse set of books that offer multiple paths to multiple goals, rather than a rigid set of rules to landing a job in a mega law firm that are rammed down the reader's throat as if some kind of magic formula for success. The Slacker's Guide fills a true gap in the market, and offers advice to those students (and there are many of them) who just want to be normal people during law school and after law school. Normal people with normal jobs with normal stress. People who are happy to define their own goals, even if that goal isn't striving to become the a Supreme Court justice. To quote the author, "I like to get home at a reasonable hour and play with my daughter. Therefore, a job working 70-hour-weeks at a big law firm never seemed like a successful fate to me." If anything, this isn't a book about law school; it's a book about learning how to set your own definition of what constitutes success. The book goes through the typical topics, such as determining whether law is a good career choice, where and how to apply, and what to expect during class and exams. These sections, however, rather than merely rehashing the same old material one can find in the same old traditional law school guides, approach the topics from a "you've been told that this is important by other people, but you need to think about why (and even if) this is important to you" angle. The reader is encouraged to think about a legal education and a legal career not in terms of other people's definitions of success, but in terms of achieving success on a personal level. Using me as an example, this kind of thinking took me many years to develop. My first job out of law school was what most would consider something of a position for failures - unprestigious practice area, awful salary, no benefits, bad location etc. I was happy there, I enjoyed the work, but I let everyone else's definition of success lead me to believe that I needed to be working in a fancier firm doing fancier work. And I ended up in a larger, more prestigious firm, and spent three stressful years and far too many hours sitting in an office working on matters I disliked for clients I disliked. Sure, I was more successful in the eyes of other people, but by my own standards, I came to realize that this wasn't success at all. Success would be a position in which I was happy, paying the bills, and spending time with my family. And that's where I am right now. The book is an easy read, and contains many amusing and helpful anecdotes, stories and hints. In fact, many of the topics are covered in a narrative style, using the author's own experiences to convey the point. It also covers some subjects that other guides simply don't touch upon, notably the use of (or rather, why you probably shouldn't use) performance enhancing drugs, and life outside law school (dating, partying, and what happens when you mix law students, grapefruit and a swimming pool - you'll have to buy the book to find out about that one). Overall, the value of the material contained in this book is cleverly hidden behind a simple, conversational style, but don't let the author's casual and personal nature make you think that the information contained inside is equally informal and light. The Slacker's Guide should be read by all incoming law students, not necessarily for the sake of reading yet another law school guide, but because this is the one guide that carries a deeper message: don't lose yourself in your quest for that legal education. It's easy to let law school change who you are, and who you've worked so hard to become in your years leading up to that point in your life. It's easy to let others tell you what you should be doing in order to become a success, and it's easy to let the overwhelming stress change you into something you're not comfortable being. The Slacker's Guide will help you realize that there's no simple formula for law school success other than the one that's already locked away in the back of your mind.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. More reasonable that one might suspect

By M. A. Smith

I'm not sure about the experiences of the person who gave the book one star, but this book really hit a home run. I'm a slightly older students than many of my classmates and approached law school differently than they did. Doria tempers all of his suggestions with a good balance of other options. But, he is right. I saw the kids in the libraries from morning til late, the ones that had zero life outside of school, that never missed a class and hung on every word. I approached it as the game of academia it truly is, and did great! And I had my sanity in the end. My career is the same path. You don't have to do all the school tells you. You don't have to work 180 hour days upon graduation. You don't have to be on law review. Almost everyone plays the game the same way. Do it your way, but be smart about it, and you set yourself apart. People remember you. Reject the herd mentality and figure out the game quickly. What supplements give you the information you need without the 20 extra pages of fluff? What events, positions, extra curricular activities can you find that set you apart from others that AREN'T what the rest of the herd is doing? The best thing I ever did was skip test review sessions. One star might balk at that, but 3 hours of confused students asking questions better left for a one on one with the prof will only mess up one's head. I'd say Doria has some great points

here, worth at least thinking about. A good future lawyer should be able to take his advice, and all the counter advice, and make a realistic plan that fits their habits. (BTW, if you want ANY advice at all, the one thing you should do is have a career after undergrad and before law school. I had a 1L spring internship, practically unheard of, and a paid summer internship my 1L year, essentially non-existent, all because I had a prior career. I had a job for after school before I started law school, which made law school so much more relaxing. If an employer can hire someone with customer experience, that understands the reality of work, that has already succeeded at one career, over some student with a resume that only includes school, you are a shoe in. Plus, school is MUCH easier when you have a bigger, more realistic, view of the world outside. Oh, you also have an upper hand in the scholarship department. A 15K law degree beats the hell out of a 150K one.)

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Great Read for All Prospective Law School Students By M. L. This is a great read for any prospective law school student who values a real-world view of student life. The author does an excellent job putting together the various facets of attending law school and how he personally tackled the challenges associated with them in a humorous and easy to read context. I chuckled out loud about a dozen times - not a normal response when reading a law prep book. This isn't your "one-stop-shop" law prep book; the depth when it comes to specifics of preparing for law school is lacking somewhat. This book does however key in on some crucial elements of law school life such as balance and stress - two elements in law school that will determine success or failure. Juan covers the entire time-line with regards to law school; from deciding whether to go, getting in, getting through and getting a job once you graduate. This is a must read in your beginning law school preparation. The value of having the right attitude and perspective is paramount to success in law school. This book does a great job providing another angle of law school that you won't read anywhere else. In comparing this book to others I have read, I would describe it as this: "Planet Law School II" is the bible of law school prep, not something to read cover to cover but good to pick out what information you need when you need it. "The Slacker's Guide" is on the other side of the spectrum, easy to read cover to cover in an entertaining way. "Getting In, Getting Good, and Getting the Gold" fits nicely in-between; another book that should be in anyone's arsenal of law prep books. Get this book, read it, and move on - you'll be happy that you did. Matthew Lewis

The title of this book, *The Slacker's Guide to Law School*, might strike some as irreverent. "Slacker" is a term of pride and even endearment among the latest generation of student, however, and this book gives prospective law students a realistic idea of what exactly they are getting into. This book is not about laziness, but about succeeding on one's own terms. Thus the subtitle: *Success without Stress*. (Juan Doria)

From the Publisher This book is not about laziness, but rather is about succeeding on one's own terms. Thus the subtitle: *Success Without Stress*. Both are important, and neither should be seen as the negation of the other. It is possible to be successful as a law student and lawyer without giving up your soul, and it is equally possible to enjoy a healthy and balanced life without giving up success. Students should: (1) set their own goals and not get caught up in the hype of what everyone else is pursuing; (2) establish methods of study, fine-tuning one that works best; and (3) maintain a healthy life balance. For the careful "slacker," it is possible to make time for hobbies, socializing, dating, or even starting a family. This reduces stress, makes law school more enjoyable, and can even boost performance in class.

From the Author This book is titled "*The Slacker's Guide to Law School: Success Without Stress*." Whether the title is good or bad is for others (including you) to decide, but either way, it requires some explanation. It is a bit of a misnomer, since no law student can truly be a slacker, and no slacker can truly be a law student. Law school is tough work, and actual slackers don't tend to volunteer for three years of tough work. This is comparable to a cookbook titled "*The Anorexic's Guide to Gourmet Cuisine*." So this book is not exactly geared toward slackers who are pondering the idea of going to law school. Rather, it is intended for anyone attending, applying to, or considering law school. To this large group, it offers advice in the form of the "slacker approach." Though there is no escaping the fact that law school is tough work, most students make it tougher than it actually has to be. They study, work, and worry more than they really have to. This book and its slacker approach shows you that it is possible to cut the work in half, study efficiently, and get good grades, while keeping a level head and maintaining an enjoyable, relatively stress-free lifestyle. This approach is not for everyone, but just about anyone can benefit from it.

From the Back Cover From the book: "My first year of law school, I lived in an apartment complex that housed only first-year law students. Living there was exhausting; it was like Melrose Place...but with ugly people, really boring plot lines, and far too little sex. Everyone was perpetually concerned with what everyone else was doing. People would look up at their neighbors' windows to see who was studying, and for how long. Comments would be made behind people's backs, such as: 'Today in class, Professor Such-and-So asked [random student's name] a question and he didn't know the answer at all!' It was pathetic." [Flip this cover for the rest of the story.] (Juan Doria)