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ABOUT GhSL

Għaqda Studenti Tal-Ligi (The Malta Law Students' Society) is a faculty-based, non-profit organisation at the University of Malta that represents all law students within the Faculty of Laws.

The organisation plays a pivotal role in law students' academic and social life at the University of Malta. The organisation has also been responsible for publishing the prestigious *Id-Dritt*, and the *GhSL Online Law Journal*.

Moreover, GhSL boasts its own Thesis Library, located at the GhSL office in the Faculty of Laws. Additionally, GhSL is the only law organisation responsible for the distribution of authoritative law notes and past papers.

For further queries on this set of notes, as well as any other, please feel free to contact our **Resources Officer** at resources@ghsl.org.



Advice from an Alumna

By Dr Priscilla Mifsud Parker

The law course is a long journey, but one that, if well-travelled, will lead to beautiful destinations. In an industry which is today attracting many young individuals looking to develop their career in law, it is important to stay ON the beaten track and remain focused. It may go without saying that it is of great importance for all students to attain good academic grades, to be dedicated to their work, as well as to be determined in this highly-competitive industry in order to fulfil their dream of becoming lawyers one day. However what is crucial is that as students and later on as professionals we are innovative by being sensitive to the changes around us. These changes might be political, economic, environmental, socio-cultural or others; what is for sure is that they all have an impact on the profession of a lawyer. We are members of a dynamic profession which is very sensitive to its surroundings. The type and 'genre' of advice which is required from us is all affected by what is being experienced by the receivers of this advice.

Work experience is considered as a vital part of the staple diet of any prospective lawyer in order to put into practice and refine the knowledge gained from the theoretical reality of the lecture halls and lawbooks into the skills required for a successful career in law. An internship will not only show future recruiters that you have a genuine interest in pursuing a career in this sector, but that you have the practical knowledge and skills to succeed in your role.

Here are some personal suggestions that I feel helped me during my journey:

1. *Being Ambitious*

A powerful trait in any competitive industry, ambition will help you in your law course, in your career as a lawyer, as well as in your life. Whilst the law course can be quite intimidating and challenging, an ambitious individual who is dedicated to learning new things has the potential to understand and realize long-term goals. Do not view the journey as one whole insurmountable mountain but focus on the next small goal and once achieved move on to the next and goal by goal you will reach your final target point.

In this respect, gaining valuable work experience through an internship is an important step taken by an ambitious young lawyer who wants to attain certain skillsets, and remain a step ahead of his/her peers. By being inquisitive, analytical and humble enough to accept guidance and mentoring one is guaranteed a fruitful experience in a law firm. It is also not only a means to start focusing on the direction of your career and to build upon your chosen path, but will undoubtedly expose you to the international world. This is crucial, as most of the traditional legal sectors have been intertwined with new areas of legislation and all these together now present much more opportunity for intra-jurisdictional work.

2. *Networking*

By engaging with counterparty students abroad and in international fora one gains an insight into another reality and is exposed to different cultures, ways of communicating and is able to bridge



the differences between parties to a mundane discussion which will eventually become a transaction or a major project in professional life.

3. Organisational Skills

Organisation is key in any industry. Good organisation skills always stand out to a recruiter when considering potential applicants. Such skills can be obtained by gaining experience either through organising one's own work, study plan, student events or cultural/philanthropic events.

Going hand-in-hand with this, is having a study plan. By planning your studies ahead, one will have a sufficient amount of time to meet all the demands, while also being able to participate in productive outside activities. Reviewing notes or case briefs before class can also help you follow and participate in class discussions better, whilst following case-law allows you to apply them for specific situations. In view of the amount of material involved summarising and carving out the most crucial points is essential to then build your argument in papers.

4. Taking your own class notes

It is always important to take down your own notes as laws are always evolving and passed-down notes would provide the context but are not ideally used for the detail. Researching the particular topic and comparing Malta's law with that of other jurisdiction gives one a completely different outlook and commenting on these variances in an exam paper, dissertation or assignment would distinguish one student from another. Not to be overlooked are also the consultation papers, commentaries and other official public documents that are issued by local authorities from time to time on different areas of law and industry. Being abreast of what is happening in industry will help putting the particular law or regulation in context.

5. Participation

Participation is a main element of the learning process. Being actively involved during seminars and lectures and participating in legal debate sessions, mock trial competitions and moot courts are essential in order to improve your persuasive and presentation skills. If you find this very difficult (all of us have different characters and traits), then try to focus on participation in other events which will expose you to public speaking starting off in smaller groups in a more familiar environment and trying out new experiences and larger audiences as you go along.

6. Practice is the key to success

This leads us to our next point – practice. Attaining good grades is undoubtedly an important part of the law course, however, in themselves, they are not enough to show that you have substantial material to succeed. Working within a law firm introduces you to the world of work, and allows you to gain specific industry-related skills which one will only ever be able to learn in a workplace setting.

Work experience can provide you with valuable insight which will help you decide what your career aspirations are and in which areas you would like to further delve into.

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF LAWS
MAY TEST 1998/99
LL.D. I YEAR
CM011 - INTERNATIONAL SALE/DOCUMENTARY CREDITS
CREDIT VALUE: 1

DATE: 28th May 1999

TIME: 9.00a.m. – 10.00a.m.

Answer one question

- 1 Examine the obligations of the Seller of goods CIF.
 - 2 (a) Distinguish between an agency appointment and a distributorship appointment.
(b) Explain through comparative analysis, the importance of being aware of the foreign law regulating an agency appointment.
 - 3 (a) At what stage in time does risk and property pass on to the Buyer in a CIF and an FOB transaction, respectively.
(b) Examine and distinguish between the obligations of the Buyer in the sale of goods CIF and FOB respectively.
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UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF LAWS
LL.D. I YEAR/LL.D. II YEAR – JANUARY 2001 TESTS
INTERNATIONAL SALE & DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

CREDIT CODE: CM011

CREDIT VALUE: 1

DATE OF TEST: 25th JANUARY 2001

VENUE: GW Hall B & D

TIME: 4.45P.M. TO 5.45P.M.

ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 1 OR 2 OR 3

1. Question 1:

- 1.1. "From the business point of view, it has been said that the purpose of the C.I.F. contract is not a sale of goods themselves but a sale of documents relating to the goods" (Clive M. Schnibhoff). Discuss.
- 1.2. Goods were sold by X to Y on an F.O.B. basis. During the sea voyage the ship on which the goods were being transported, encountered rough seas and sank. Advise Y as to whether he is still bound to pay for the goods which did not reach their destination.

2. Question 2:

- 2.1. Advise Company A that is about to enter into an agreement for the sale of goods in a foreign country, on various safe methods of payment it can negotiate upon for the goods, short of payment in advance.
- 2.2. The law relating to letters of credit is said to be founded on two principles. Discuss.

3. Question 3:

- 3.1 Examine the difference between an agency and distributionship agreement.
- 3.2 X, a national of country 1, has appointed Y, a national of country 2, as his agent in country 2, for a definite period of two years, for the sale of X's products. Advise X, by reference to comparative legislation, as to whether he can refuse to renew Y's appointment on the expiration of the fixed term, and if so, upon what grounds, and whether Y is entitled to any compensation or indemnity on such termination.