

PRESENTATION TO CELT WORKSHOP



ALBANY LAW SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

Report on “What The Best Law Teachers Do:
Educators In Action”

WHAT THE BEST LAW TEACHERS DO



- **What is exceptional learning in law school?**
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- **What personal qualities do the Best Law Teachers Possess?**
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- **How do the best law teachers relate to their students?**
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- **What do the best law teachers expect from their students?**
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- **How do the best law teachers prepare to teach?**
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- **How do the best law teachers engage students in and out of the classroom?**
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- **How do the best law teachers provide feedback and assess students?**
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- **What lasting lessons do students take away?**
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BEST TEACHER AND TEACHING METAPHOR



- You learnt the most from?
- Left you with Lasting Lessons
- What made that teacher so effective?
- What metaphor would you use for teaching?

THE BEST LAW TEACHER



- Quiet command
- **Passion for materials**
- Sense of humor
- **Preparedness**
- Simple and accessible language
- **Good listener**
- Extremely interactive
- **Set high expectations**
- Respect for students
- **Not afraid to take risks**
- Practical applications
- **Teaches to different styles**

TEACHING METAPHORS



- Coaching
- Music (being a conductor)
- Trees (growing things)
- Being a tour guide
- Cooking
- Drummer
- Running a three-ring circus

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



- "Studying Best Law Teachers"
- "How to Teach the Socratic Method with a Heart"
- Building an Integrated Learning Community: A Law & Public Policy Model"
- "Teaching Deliberately: From Course Design to the Classroom and Beyond"
- "Enhancing Teaching/Scholarship Synergy"
- "Ill-Structured Simulations in Law School"
- Full schedule at:
<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/research-faculty/conferences/teachers/schedule/>

SOCRATIC METHOD WITH A HEART



- **I. Why I once thought the Socratic method was a tool of oppression.**
- **II. Why I was wrong**
- **III. The Socratic method done badly**
- **IV. The Socratic method done well**
- **V. Why nothing substitutes for liking and respecting the people you teach**

TEACHING/SCHOLARSHIP SYNERGY



- - The Doctrinal
- - The Theoretical
- - The Methodological
- - The Professional