

Top 10 Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Decide to Go to Law School

As heard by Peg Cheng, Prelaw Adviser, in a presentation given by
Edward Tom, Dean of Admissions, Berkeley School of Law

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- 1. Are you an opinionated person?**
Can you articulate it in writing and in speech? Can you articulate the other side with equal fervor?
- 2. Do you care?**
Are you part of the 1% of the population that cares and wants to do something about it?
- 3. Are you a bit of a ham?**
Do you like to talk up in class and get into it?
- 4. Are you an organized, detail-oriented person?**
Lawyers need to read the fine print. Berkeley embeds secret things in their applications. You have to read the instructions!
- 5. Do you read the Voter's Pamphlet?**
Those are laws!
- 6. Do you know your strengths and weaknesses?**
- 7. Do you have a good handle on your EGO?**
If you are told fifteen times a day that you're wrong, can you still feel good about yourself at the end of the day? If you can't handle the process, don't come to law school.
- 8. Are you okay with ambiguity?**
 $2+2=4$, but what if $2+2=6$? There are a lot of gray areas in law.
- 9. After all these years, do you still like school?**
Do you still like to read and write papers?

"I care about spelling errors. We are not here to correct your personal statement."
- 10. Do you have any unfinished business in your life?**
Travel dreams? Need to get away from school? Want to work for a while? Need to help out your family? Take care of unfinished business *before* you go to law school. *You can't get off this train for a long time.*

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