

**1L DEPROGRAMMING**  
**National Lawyers Guild Fall 2021 Disorientation**

**1. Law school and the legal profession are really tough, restrictive spaces to be in!**

**2. Examples from us 2L's and 3L's:**

- a. "Professionalism" - in how we speak, dress, etc. A lot of it is just racism, classism, and sexism.
- b. "The Law is Objective and Good,"/ "The Rule of Law" when in reality the law is a social construct and is extremely flawed.
- c. Barriers to even becoming a lawyer or doing certain types of law. Unless you work in a private firm during school, you are often unpaid. Once you start work, many jobs are low paid such as PI. But there's still a ton of work, steep fees, lots of tests, and lots of stress.
- d. Harmful law school policies and bureaucracy.
- e. Lack of flexibility and heavy demands on time that make school harder for students with disabilities and students who are parents or have other family/life obligations.
- f. Law school is infantilizing: lockers, demeaning professors, dictated schedules (for 1Ls)
- g. Your first week of class - being thrown into a restrictive space with problematic values and norms (aka property rights are paramount, the only option for "criminals" is going to prison, etc.)
- h. Law school and Legal Culture Grind

**3. 1L's - Unpacking time in small groups! Here are some guiding questions to help facilitate discussion.**

- a. What have you noticed from your exposure to law school and the profession so far? Is there anything that is "assumed" in your classes?
- b. Have you noticed anything at or related to school that felt weird or wrong to you, even if you didn't know why?
- c. Are there procedures, requirements, etc. that you think simply \*do not have to be this difficult\*? For example, the LSAT or the case method of teaching.
- d. Does it feel like everyone here has some ties to the legal field already (parents, old bosses, etc)
- e. What do you wish was different about school?

**4. What's Next?**

- a. Question everything!
  - i. Where did this law/statute/practice come from?
  - ii. Who benefits from this law/statute/practice?

- iii. Who is excluded from this law/statute/practice?
- iv. Is this law/statute/practice worth preserving?

b. Tangible Action

- i. Personal - How do YOU personally deal with it all?
  - 1. How do you prioritize your own wellness and make personal choices that allow you to exist outside of the institution, find community, and make it through this experience?
    - a. 2Ls, 3Ls, share too! Example: I deliberately schedule “no screen time” hours in the evening.
- ii. Political - How can WE organize to transform the future of this school and profession?
  - 1. What can we do in an organized way to push back against institutional harms?
  - 2. How do we build trust and community while holding people accountable to harm they produce?
  - 3. What organizations can we join up and work with to dismantle oppression?
  - 4. What is the role of lawyers in the movement????

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