

January 2021

The Law Review - What Value?

Diana A. Cachey

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/dlr>

Recommended Citation

Diana A. Cachey, *The Law Review - What Value?*, 70 *Denv. U. L. Rev.* 3 (1992).

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Denver Law Review at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact jennifer.cox@du.edu, dig-commons@du.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

THE LAW REVIEW—WHAT VALUE?

Over the years, the institution known as “the Law Review” maintained a prestigious post in the law school environment. An often sought-after position, membership on a law review also maintained its fortunate dominance as a law firm interview drawing card, which job placement advertisements repeatedly confirm. But despite the law review’s unchanging position, the question of “what value is there in law reviews and law review membership?” remains a viable debate on the law school campus—as it was in 1966, when Lowell Noteboom addressed this question in the *Denver University Law Review*.

Any editor of a symposium issue will recount that the reactions of practitioners, solicited for publication in a law review, range from lukewarm to immediate affirmative. Why then do some attorneys eagerly present their legal analysis and criticisms in law reviews or bar association journals, while others “would rather be just trying cases” instead? In 1966, Mr. Noteboom highlighted the academic and lawyering skills advantages of law review membership or publication, but omitted a significant consideration of the modern day lawyer—one not overlooked by law firms in hiring interviews—*rainmaking*.

Rainmaking, or the power to develop a lucrative client base, may be an unseemly topic to some, expecting more than just dollars and cents from a law review editor. But the demands of law school and clerking on students certainly make the economic analysis of whether to participate in law review a reality. And rainmaking is an important and necessary skill, such that some law firms, whose attorneys publish often, realize the marketing power behind the written-word. Naysayers frequently question the authoritativeness of a law review citation in a brief or opinion. Yet citations to law reviews are common because the written-word influences. As professionals very aware of (and good at) the art of persuasion, lawyers routinely present their persuasion via the written-word. Publishing in a law review is another way a lawyer persuades. And in this competitive global marketplace, clients look for experts. Publishing says “you are the expert.”

Yet Mr. Noteboom was astute for his day and the skills that he noted were acquired through law review membership remain extremely important today. In today’s economy, these skills—precision, attention to detail, editing, research and scholarly analysis—intensify as ingredients for success in a difficult market. No one can deny that the economy and joblessness are major concerns to the modern lawyer—this year’s presidential elections themselves show the economy ranks as the number one issue! This economic concern makes bringing the best skills to the job a more urgent concern than perhaps it was in 1966. Furthermore, law

review articles make excellent research tools, evidenced by the fact that they are offered on both Westlaw and Lexis databases.

“The law review man gains much from his experience to be sure,” claimed a previous Editor-in-Chief. But one thing that certainly has changed since then is law school demographics. In 1966, it is not unlikely that the phrase “the law review man” was completely accurate because no women were members of the *Review*. This year, half of the 100th graduating class will be women, the Editor of this Issue is a woman, and, last year, an outgoing Board of Editors elected a woman to the position of Editor-in-Chief for the first time in seventy years. To that I am compelled to add and end with: “We’ve come a long way!”

Diana A. Cachey
Editor-in-Chief