

Law Firm Legal Research Requirements and the Legal Academy Beyond Carnegie

By Patrick Meyer. 35 Whittier L. Rev. 419 (2014).

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Reviewer's Summary:

Meyer begins by briefly describing historical assessments of law student learning with respect to legal research skills, then moves on to describe, in greater detail, several recent surveys (dating from 2010-2013) of attorneys and law librarians regarding the research skills of new attorneys. These surveys included an ABA report regarding legal technology, including research technology, a report from the National Conference of Bar Examiners regarding activities of newly licensed attorneys, a AALL special interest section survey regarding new associate research skills, a vendor-sponsored study of law firm associates regarding research methods, and the author's own survey of private law librarians. Synthesizing the findings of these studies, Meyer concludes that some print instruction should be incorporated into the 1L curriculum, that Advanced Legal Research should be a required upper-level course, and that legal research skills should be assessed in state bar exams.

Summarized by: Meredith Capps, Vanderbilt University Law School, in 2020.