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Forget the Lawyer Jokes

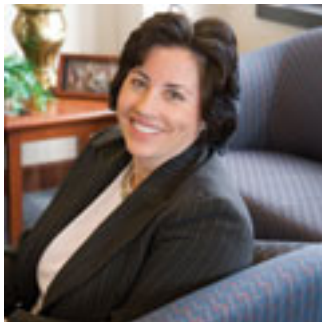
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Forget the Lawyer Jokes

10.31.2007 | Law The University of Dayton School of Law's new curriculum has captured the attention of the national media — and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Lisa Kloppenberg, dean of the University of Dayton's School of Law, is quoted in the Oct. 31 issue of *The New York Times* about a national effort to change the way aspiring lawyers are taught. UD's new curriculum features an accelerated, two-year program, mandatory externships and a skills-based competency test. Law schools face dual responsibilities — preparing students to pass the bar exam and training them to practice law in a field that requires skills beyond the analytical.

"It's a balancing act," Kloppenberg told *The New York Times*. To help better prepare students for practice, the law school in 2005 introduced a requirement that all students participate in an "externship," an apprenticeship with a practicing lawyer, as part of its "lawyer as problem solver" program.

The University of Dayton is one of 10 law schools in the country participating in a Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching project to examine the way law schools teach and recommend curricular changes. The national dialogue begins Dec. 7-8 at Stanford Law School.

Since 2005, the School of Law's new curriculum has prompted attention from *Time* magazine, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the national Associated Press wire, National Public Radio, CNN Radio, the national legal press and regional media.