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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