Top 10 Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Decide to Go to Law School

As heard by Peg Cheng, UW Pre-Law Adviser, in a presentation given by Edward Tom, Director of Admissions, UC Berkeley School of Law
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1. **Are you an opinionated person?**
   Can you articulate it in writing and in speech? Can you articulate the other side with equal fervor?

2. **Do you care?**
   Are you part of the 1% of the population that cares and wants to do something about it?

3. **Are you a bit of a ham?**
   Do you like to talk up in class and get into it?

4. **Are you an organized, detail-oriented person?**
   Lawyers need to read the fine print. Berkeley embeds secret things in their applications. You have to read the instructions!

5. **Do you read the Voter’s Pamphlet?**
   Those are laws!

6. **Do you know your strengths and weaknesses?**

7. **Do you have a good handle on your EGO?**
   If you are told fifteen times a day that you’re wrong, can you still feel good about yourself at the end of the day? If you can’t handle the process, don’t come to law school.

8. **Are you okay with ambiguity?**
   2+2=4, but what if 2+2=6? There are a lot of gray areas in law.

9. **After all these years, do you still like school?**
   Do you still like to read and write papers?

   “I care about spelling errors. We are not here to correct your personal statement.”

10. **Do you have any unfinished business in your life?**
    Travel dreams? Need to get away from school? Want to work for a while? Need to help out your family? Take care of unfinished business *before* you go to law school. *You can’t get off this train for a long time.*