

A REAL FAMILY PRACTICE

“This is a good place to work. We strive for excellence. We emphasize team work in a family atmosphere. We have a beautiful working environment as well as a great location. You can expect flexible scheduling, benefits, and salary commensurate with experience.”

Small wonder this firm appreciates the value of such a positive atmosphere. It is an “Oakland family law firm specializing in complex and high-end divorce cases.”

- www.craigslist.org.

THE GOLDEN DAYS OF LAW SCHOOL

In his comprehensive and handsome study of schooling in medieval England, Professor Nicholas Orme focuses briefly on legal education, including law school for the children of privilege:

The third group came from the aristocracy, especially those who came to be known in the fifteenth century as gentlemen. In their case practical studies developed a more exalted form based on ‘common’ or English law rather than on the arts of business. These studies developed in London, or more specifically in the suburbs along the Strand where the common lawyers lived, near the royal courts of law at Westminster. By or soon after 1400 ten lesser ‘inns of chancery’ and four greater ‘inns of court’ developed in this district, the latter consisting then as now of Gray’s Inn, Lincoln’s Inn, the Inner Temple, and the Middle Temple. The inns housed some seven hundred to eight hundred practising lawyers and two hundred to three hundred students in the fifteenth century, the practitioners exercising supervision over the studies and behaviour of the students. ‘Readings’ or lectures on the common law were held in the halls, and students practised how to work in the king’s law courts by pleading mock cases in ‘moots’, judged by their seniors. Students attended the real courts too, and observed the proceedings. Some of those who studied at the inns were gentlemen’s sons who aimed to become professional lawyers. Others were eldest sons who would inherit family property. For