To the Bag

IT WASN’T ALL ABOUT THE MONEY, AND MAYBE IT SHOULDN’T BE

To the Bag:

Both legal education and law practice are undergoing both external scrutiny and unusual introspection in response to the exigencies of the legal marketplace during our economic downturn. (Reports reflect a loss of 2,700 law-related jobs in 2011, while law schools continue to turn out around 45,000 graduates each year.)

Perhaps one option will be a return to the apprenticeship program, which some suggest should replace the third year of law
Apropos of that subject, I attach a letter Franklin Roosevelt received from Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, Counsellors at Law, offering him an apprenticeship at the firm. (The letter is from the FDR Library in Hyde Park, New York, located under “Law Practice Correspondence – Carter, Ledyard & Milburn” in the FDR: Family, Business and Personal Papers.)

Young Franklin was invited to “come to us the first year without salary” and, after a year, should you remain “the salary would be rather small.” We’ve come a long way.

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