

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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**Farewell to
Dean Seligman**



Washington University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF LAW

Two Alumnae Shed Light on the Legal Profession

by Ann Nicholson

Two alumnae share their secrets of the legal profession in recently published books. Lisa (Salevitz) Sherman, JD '93, co-wrote the light-hearted and insightful *Sisters-in-Law: An uncensored guide for women practicing law in the real world*, while Deborah Schneider, JD '99, co-authored the more serious self-help book, *Should You Really Be a Lawyer?: The Guide to Smart Career Choices Before, During, & After Law School*.

Sisters-in-Law, writes O.J. Simpson defense attorney Robert Shapiro, is "a must read ... loaded with wisdom, candor, insight, and laugh-out-loud humor ... (setting) the standard in the legal profession for aspiring and practicing female lawyers, as well as their male counterparts."

Reviewer Karen Koenig, JD '93, of counsel with the Atlanta firm of Paul, Hasting, Janofsky & Walker, writes: "Funny, informative, and utterly irreverent! *Sisters-in-Law* is complete with real-life office antics, acres of advice, and honest reassurance (that) neophyte lawyers will find nowhere else."

Published by Sphinx Publishing, this 261-page book compares the practice of law to "a woman's never-ending search for the right pair of shoes." Topics include "Picking out the Perfect Pair of Shoes: Securing Your First Legal Position," "Strutting in Your New Shoes: The Nuts and Bolts of Practicing Law," and "Footloose and Fancy Free: Having a Life as a Sister."

Despite a whimsical tone, Sherman, an attorney at Manning and Marder in Los Angeles, and her co-author, attorney Deborah Turchiano, offer sound advice. As they explain, "Truth be told, most of us are a far cry from Ally McBeal (both in our day-to-day practice and in our suit size). ... We set out to write a practice guide that would give aspiring and newly practicing lawyers, as well as unhappy practitioners, substantive and practical advice on how to succeed at practicing law."

In *Should You Really Be a Lawyer?*, Schneider draws upon her experience as a career decisionmaking consultant and former director of career development at the University of California Hastings College of Law. Inspired by the lessons from her own personal and professional journey, as well as by those she has assisted with career decisions, Schneider lends an analytical and research-based approach to her book.

Published by DecisionBooks, the 239-page guide includes topics such as "L Is for Law School: What's It All About?," "S Is for Self-Assessment: Is Law Right for You?," "A Is for Attorneys: What They Do and Where They Work," and "T Is for Try It Out: Get Some Practice Before Getting into Practice."

Reviewer Kathy Wright, pre-law adviser at Stanford University, says the book "raises all the questions that pre-law students should ask themselves (but often don't) before spending thousands of dollars and precious time applying to, and attending, law school. This book should be mandatory reading for every pre-law student."

Schneider and her co-author, journalist Gary Belsky, write that their book is "intended to help you approach the decision of whether to become a lawyer or to remain one, and how to find the right career for you ..."

The book includes a series of decision assessment quizzes about going to law school and continuing law practice, as well as tips for selecting the right career. ♦

