Law School with Kids

Rash decisions are not necessarily wrong decisions. No doubt, law school was a good match for my temperament and talents. So my decision to go was likely the right decision, but I often wonder at the rashness of my approach. Okay, today I shudder at the rashness of my approach. It recalls to life some of those painful moments when the socratic method revealed that I was not at all prepared for class. As painful as law school was at times, I do wish sometimes I could go back and do better, even if just to prove to myself that I’m not an idiot.

I went to law school with two children — a two year old and a 3 month old infant. I wasn’t good at juggling the two kids before I started school, let alone once it started My husband was entering his Phd program and he wasn’t good at it either. We were these two incredibly incompetent, even clownish parents, trying to do way more than is logical, given our skill set.

I truly tried to put my kids first most of the time, but sometimes I was really just didn’t want to let go of the control. For instance, instead of getting a babysitter, I attended orientation with my 3 month old infant strapped to my chest. I remember not getting very much out of the orientation when it was probably an invaluable time to talk to professors and new classmates.

I didn’t like asking for help, and I paid for it. I remember barely turning in legal writing assignments and almost failing the blue book exam as a 1L because I remember trying to juggle the babies as I approached the final deadlines.

So there it was, I’m not sure how I got through those 3 years. I had another baby after 2nd year, and so I never actually applied for any summer employment. I didn’t think that there was any way I could do it, and I know I couldn’t have without help.

I took the Pennsylvania Bar Exam the July after law school and I passed just fine. I guess I learned more than I thought. I did learn a lot more than just law though. I’ll never approach something as serious as that like that again. I’ll get help. I’ll figure things out and plan ahead of time. I realize that you can’t fake or wing it through most serious endeavors.