
TEACHING AND LEARNING OF PROCEDURAL LAW COURSES: AN OVERVIEW OF THE BEST PRACTICE IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Procedural law courses are important components in legal education in all law schools in Malaysia. The courses include Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence as well as a more specific courses such as Bankruptcy and Winding-up. These are taught as compulsory courses in upper years in which students have already completed substantive areas of law. In law schools that include Syariah law (Islamic law) as part of their curriculum, Syariah procedural courses both for criminal and civil proceedings are also taught. Similar to many other professional courses, teaching and learning professional skills require special approach different from traditional approach of lecture and

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INTRODUCTION

With the increasing number of law graduates in the market, the expectation from prospective employers is much higher compared to previous decades. The law schools are now challenged to conform to the 'new reality', that is to meet the demand of the market for 'practice ...professionals. In other words, the contemporary development in legal education sees the trend that law schools needs and can do more to prepare students for practice (Fliyd, Griffin, and Sneddon 2011).

A common critic is that local law graduates are in need of improvement in legal skills. Law school programs are often criticised as too academic, too theoretical and not practical enough to prepare students for legal practice (Nor et al. 2011). In the same token, a recent study on the directions of legal .. lacking among the law students are thinking across different areas of law; arguing positions orally, mediating disputes and creative thinking in finding legal solutions (Kementerian Pengajian Malaysia 2013). From law practitioners' perspective,

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CONCLUSION

As discussed above, the emphasis for the development of the essential skills for law graduates requires a well-planned teaching methodology. The broad array of pedagogical

approaches which integrate the teaching and learning theory, doctrinal and practical aspects of law with context-based instruction using simulated cases, teamwork and various other activities will enhance the prospect of producing the law graduates that meet the contemporary challenges. Other aspects such as collaboration with law practitioners as well as the greater use of legal clinic will facilitates the students' retention and learning experience.

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