

2017

# My Grandmother Was Mrs. Palsgraf: Ways to Rethink Legal Education to Help Students Become Lawyers, Rather Than Just Thinking Like Them

Ian Gallacher

*Syracuse University College of Law*, [igallach@law.syr.edu](mailto:igallach@law.syr.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/lawpub>

 Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

46 Cap. L. Rev. \_\_ (2018)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Law at SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Law Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact [surface@syr.edu](mailto:surface@syr.edu).



**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF LAW ♦ OFFICE OF THE FACULTY  
Syracuse ♦ New York ♦ 13244

IAN GALLACHER  
*Professor of Law*  
igallach@law.syr.edu

Tel (O): 315-443-4105

Re: My Grandmother Was Mrs. Palsgraf Article

Dear Editors:

I am sending my article, *My Grandmother Was Mrs. Palsgraf: Ways To Rethink Legal Education To Help Students Become Lawyers, Rather Than Just Thinking Like Them*, for your consideration.

This article, which takes a piece of my family history as its starting point, looks at the way law is taught – especially in the first year of law school – and concludes that it ill-serves the students, the practicing bar, and the clients of practicing lawyers. It then outlines some possible changes to legal education in American law schools in an attempt to improve the experience for everyone.

This relatively short (just over 18,000 words) article is a continuation of my previous work in the areas of legal education and the ways we prepare law students to become lawyers, reflected most directly in two previous articles: *Thinking Like Non-Lawyers: Why Empathy is a Core Lawyering Skill and Why Legal Education Should Change to Reflect its Importance*, 8 *Legal Comm. & Rhetoric: J ALWD* 109 (2011), and “*No Country for Old Men: Junior Associates and the Real-World Practice of Law*,” 13 *Legal Comm & Rhetoric: J ALWD* 193 (2016).

I hope you find the topic intriguing and will consider publishing this piece. Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Gallacher