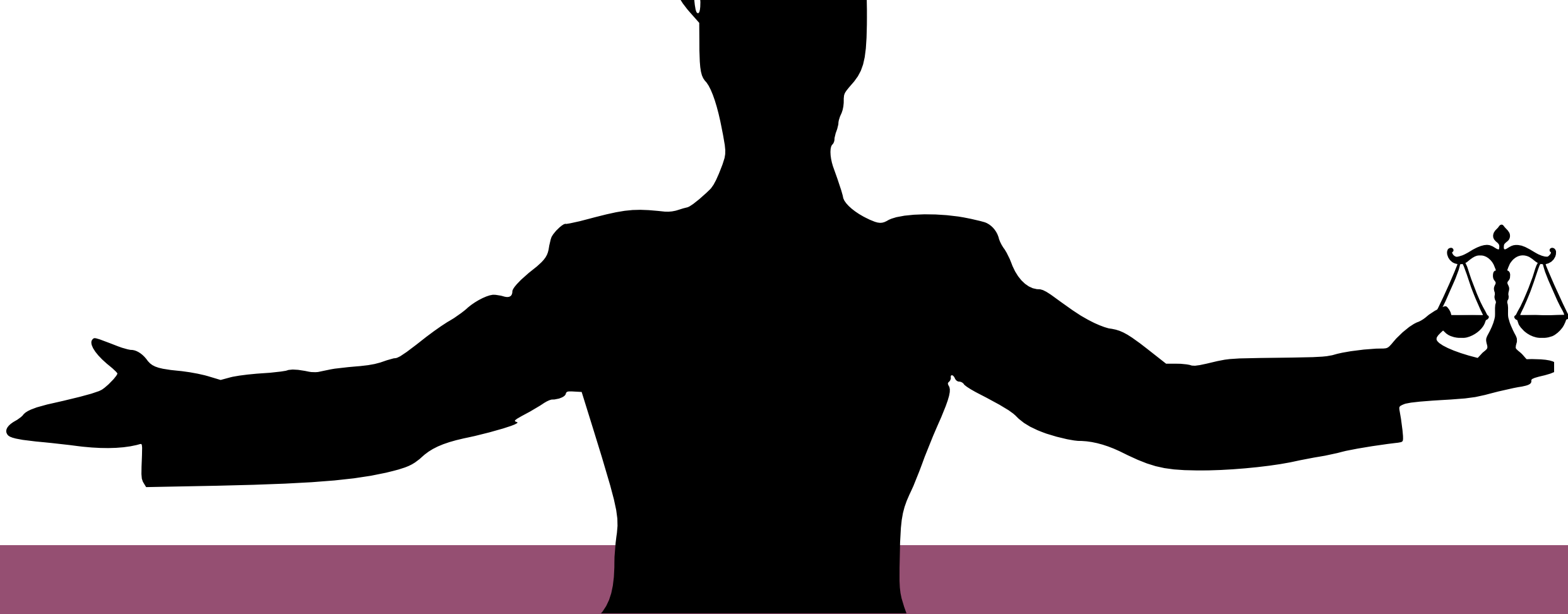




PURPLE REIGN

HOW THE ARTISTRY OF PRINCE HELPS LAW STUDENTS – AND THE PROFESSORS THAT TEACH THEM – EXPLORE PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

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Derrick Alexander Pope, Presenter

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Purple Reign: How the Artistry of Prince Helps Law Students – and the Professors that Teach them – Explore Professional Identity

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American Bar Association

A lawyer is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system, and *a public citizen with a special responsibility for the quality of justice.*

ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, preamble

Standard 303. CURRICULUM

Adopted February 2022

(b) A law school shall provide substantial opportunities to students for:

- (1) law clinics or field placement(s);
- (2) student participation in pro bono legal services, including law-related public service activities; and
- (3) *the development of professional identity.*

Interpretation 303-5

The development of professional identity should involve an *intentional exploration* of the values, guiding principles, and well-being practices considered foundational to successful legal practice. Because developing a professional identity requires *reflection and growth over time*, Students should have frequent opportunities for such development during each year of law school and in *a variety of courses* and co-curricular and professional development activities.

THE DYNAMIC AREAS *of* EXPLORATION

1

TERRITORY *of* INSPIRATION

- Set of personal values
- An agreement we reached with ourselves
- A useful referent to integrate into the profession
- *Personal Retrieval System*

3

DOMAIN *of* REALIZATION

- Perceived conflict between what was *thought* about the law and what was *taught* about the law
- “Sensitive Professional and Moral Judgment” (ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct)
- *Sense of spirituality or greater purpose in life* (ABA Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being)

2

ZONE *of* PREPARATION

- Inculcation of professional values
- “Temporary anesthesia”
- Thinking Like a Lawyer

4

DIMENSION *of* ELEVATION

- Wondrously syncretic being
- A Lawyer Thinking Like . . .

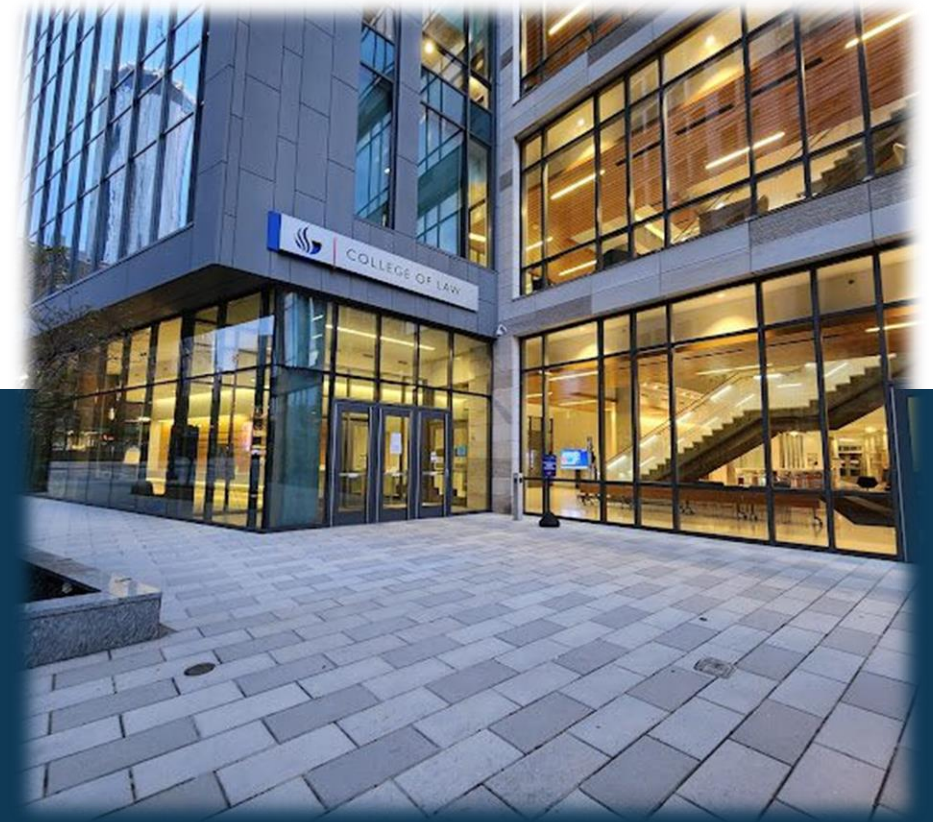


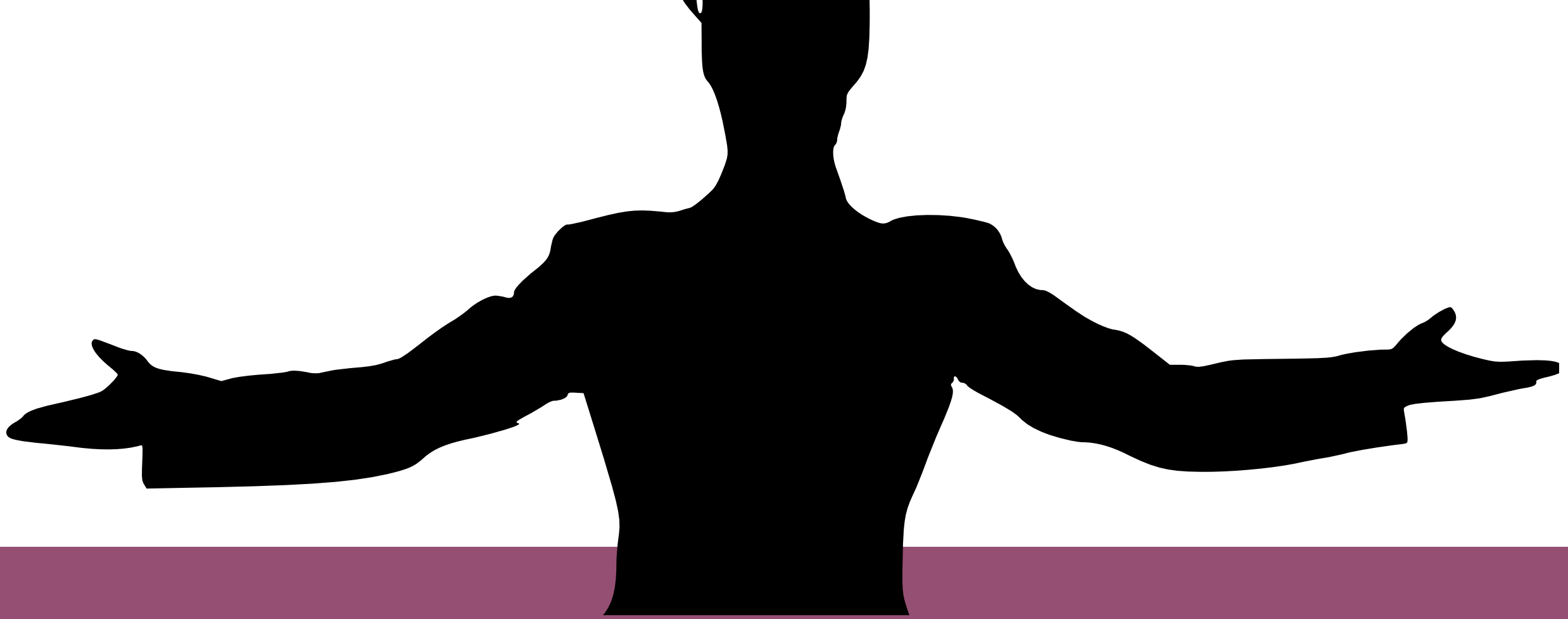
The *Territory* of INSPIRATION

This first area places specific emphasis on where it all started. It recalls the spark of intrigue that produced the intangible thought of becoming a lawyer and how that spark led to the affirmative steps of applying to law school. It traces the possibly forgotten set of experiences and traits left unattended that are the foundation of a professional identity. Becoming reacquainted with this area puts you in touch with a pre-existing value modality that may operate as *a personal retrieval system*, a useful referent to integrate into professional values. It may also reactivate long-held, but dormant values, all with an eye towards gaining a renewed sense of purpose and vitality.

The *Zone* of PREPARATION

This is the area where immersion into the professional culture takes place. New entrants take that first step in law school and they continue the preparatory efforts once they become members of the bar. Accordingly, the zone of preparation dissects the conversion of mindset associated with “thinking like a lawyer” and the accompanying scaling away or submersion of one set of values to make way for a competing, more dominant array of guiding principles. In addition, this area demonstrates the efforts used by the organized bar to impress upon its members a sense of devotion to lasting professional values. Lastly, this zone introduces the student to the “landscape of communities” – both within and beyond law school – that contribute to the development of professional identity.





THE DOMAIN OF REALIZATION



THE GREATEST ROMANCE EVER SOLD



Most law students experience the disorienting moment of coming face to face with the creeping doubt that what they thought about the law stands in stark contrast to what they are being taught about the law. Students begin to perceive a conflict between their personal values and professional values.

Here, Prince's lyrics to *The Greatest Romance Ever Sold* aids professional identity by demonstrating that instead of a conflict to be resolved, there is instead a compliment to be lived out. Broaching the idea that the two should have never been separate from one another, the lyrics become a portal through which to enter into a special intimacy with the just and moral imperative.

So what do you know,
you and me, finally
face 2 face

Checking each other up
and down, in all the
obvious places

Was there ever a reason for us to be apart

The air that fills up this room,
says not hardly.

So this is where you end, and you and I begin. . . *the
greatest romance that's ever been sold*

THE GREATEST ROMANCE EVER SOLD



Once the law student has been shown that the just and moral imperative is more than a mere flirtation, *Prince* heightens the awareness by challenging the thinking around the relationship between the two. Here, the lyrics help us see that our body of laws – Constitutions, statutes, regulations, judicial decision, commentaries and treatises – should be designed to respond to the concerns of the just and moral imperative, instead of the endeavor to make morality and what is just conform to the image of law.

Moreover, the lyrics make it possible for us to invite into our professional identities the guiding didactic of a sense of spirituality and greater purpose in life. It helps us gain a sense that moral imagination undergirds the rule of law.

Now your mind is open
To poetry seldom heard

Your heart has never been broken
Until you heard these words

Your body was designed to respond to mine
In spite of your desire to mold me

And in the middle of it all
We kiss and like rain (we fall)...
into *the greatest romance that's ever
been sold*

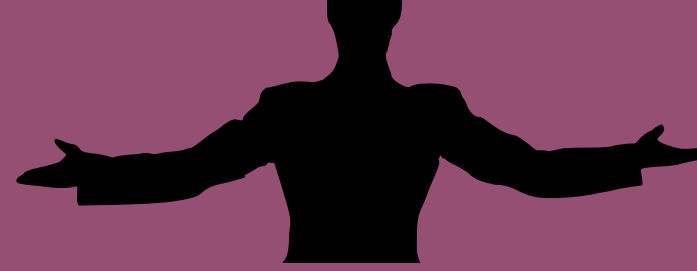
The *Dimension* of ELEVATION



The successful journey towards professional identity is rewarded with arriving at the landing spot that hosts the sought-after reconciled and integrated dynamic of the personal and the professional. This area ponders and consecrates the sentience associated with achieving and maintaining a sense of wholeness of being as you conduct the activities and discharge the obligations of being a lawyer. Now, out from under the effects of the temporary anesthesia, which teaches thinking like a lawyer, law students are more receptive to being a *lawyer thinking like* a wondrously syncretic.

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

T. S. Eliot



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for more information

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