

IMAGININGS OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND FICTION

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ABSTRACT

Through analysing references to legal education in New Zealand fiction this article highlights and critiques some of the most important issues facing legal educators. The various challenges that students experience in their journeys through legal education are reflected in fictional texts. More often than not, these reflections, or imaginings, are impressively accurate, especially when analysed in the context of contemporary legal education scholarship. The interplay between pedagogical research and fictional representations facilitates fascinating discussions as to why students choose to learn law, how legal teaching affects them and what are the relative experiences of elite and non-elite students. The findings in this article are based on a comprehensive study of New Zealand legal fiction and provide an alternative informational source for those who are interested in analysing, and those who are striving to improve, how we teach law in New Zealand.