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COMMENTARY

Law school: A $75,000-plus investment that can pay off

Degree can help you in current job or offer new career

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There's an old adage: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." And, Lansing has more than its fair share of them.

The question is: Should you become one of them? Getting legal advice can prove expensive, but not getting it can prove more so.

A law degree may be an attractive option if you constantly encounter legal questions in your business, but forego answers to them because of the cost.

Flexible schedules at local schools allow an ambitious person to pursue a law degree while maintaining an active business or career.

Of course, besides viewing law school as a change of pace, you can use it for a change of careers.

Whether to change pace or to change careers, you should know that going to law school involves significant costs and becoming a lawyer involves significant risks.

Law school tuition can run upward of $75,000, not including living expenses.

Scholarships and incentives can reduce tuition costs, but law school is just part of the equation.

Passing the bar and finding a job are also a part. The bar requires time, study, and money, and a job in the competitive Lansing marketplace requires timing, skill and luck.

While becoming a lawyer presents substantial risks, it can also provide substantial rewards — risks and rewards only you can weigh.

And even if you do become a lawyer, don't be bashful about seeking legal advice. Remember, there's another old adage about lawyers: "A lawyer who represents himself has a fool for a client."