Law school. It’s prestigious. It’s honorable. It’s professional. It’s tough, it’s exhausting, and it makes you think like a lawyer. It also gives you just enough tools to go out and get yourself into trouble.

If you have recently passed the bar, you are now equipped to go to court for your clients. You are now equipped to receive payment for the services you render. You are now equipped to practice law.

The problem with practice, as in any endeavor, is that if you practice incorrectly, you begin to develop habits that keep your growth to a minimum. And the problem with law practice is that you don’t even know how to start!

One thing law school does not do is help you successfully engage in the practice of law. With the amount of law graduates who are beginning a solo practice right out of law school, or joining up with other recent grads to make a small firm, there should be something out there that tells these armed and dangerous attorneys where to aim their weaponry and how to discharge it appropriately.

I’m not a genius or a law practice guru. But I am a young attorney who has learned some fundamental practice tips over three years of practicing by myself and then one-and-a-half years in a small firm that I started from the ground up. I’ve learned much from experienced solo- and small-firm mentors as well as the school of hard knocks. This book started as a series of practice lessons on my blog for the recent law school graduate solo attorney—or more aptly, the 4L. I continued to blog these lessons as
I forged ahead. Each of the lessons in this book is one I learned by forging ahead, many times blindly, and coming out on the other end still alive, still admitted to practice law, and so far, without ethical complaints or malpractice suits.

I decided to start these mini-lessons, which became this book, because these are the tools, pleadings, ideas, and steps of procedure that I wish had been at my disposal when I started my law firm at the age of 26—on the first day I became an attorney. I thank you for picking up this book. You are the purpose for its existence.

Here's to a safe, happy, and malpractice-free practice!