

## Mentoring Table Starters

Table 1

- Where do you look for jobs?
- What's the difference between general practice and boutique firms? Pros/cons?
- What's the difference between transactional and litigation practices? Pros/cons?
- How do you use social media in a job search? Is it creepy to let someone know you looked at their LinkedIn/firm profile?
- What's contract work? How do you find it?
- "Big law" vs. "Small law": what's the difference/pros and cons?
- How do I make my resume/cover letter stand out (in a good way)?
- How I make my interview stand out at a job fair (in a good way)?
- What do you do if you don't get a job in your practice area of choice?
- How do you find a job outside of New Hampshire?
- How should I dress for interviews?
- What should I bring to my interview?
- Are thank you notes good or cheesy?
- What should I ask at an interview?
- How do you make a good impression at an interview?
- What are some definite interview "don'ts"?
- What background information should I have in hand before my interview?
- What if I don't know who my interviewer will be? How do I prepare for that? I didn't get an offer from my summer firm. Is my life as an attorney over?
- What if I don't get an offer for summer work in the fall?
- I was offered a judicial clerkship that doesn't pay and a summer associate position that does. Which one should I take?
- Was my summer experience really what it's going to be like as an associate?
- How do I get interesting projects to work on over the summer?
- How do you get an in-house position? IS that even an option right out of school?

Table 2

- Do you have to be a lawyer if you have your JD?
- Is work/life balance something I can bring up at an interview? Does it make it sound like I don't want to work hard?
- How do you manage to be successful in work and at home?
- How do you find a job that's flexible to accommodate family needs?
- I don't know what kind of law I want to practice. Do I need to have that figured out before I graduate?

- Only 17% of equity partners at the 200 largest U.S. law firms are women. Does that mean the deck is stacked against women in the legal profession?
- Is NH a supportive jurisdiction for women legal professionals?
- What should I know about having a family/starting a family and maintaining a practice?
- Tell me three things you wish you would have known during your first year of practice.

Table 3

- What are the different types of IP practice and how do I figure out which one is right for me?
- How do I get a job in IP?
- What's the difference/pros&cons of working in an IP practice at a general practice firm vs. at a boutique firm?
- If my first job is for IP litigation, can I ever develop a transactional practice and vice versa?
- Is there room in NH for more IP attorneys or should I plan to move to a major metro area in another state?
- What happens if I fail the patent bar the first time I take it?
- How should I prepare for the patent bar?
- Are there any professional organizations I should consider joining? What's the best use of my time in those organizations?
- Which classes should I take to prepare to practice in IP?
- How do I make IP contacts while still in school?
- My summer work wasn't in IP. Does this mean I can't be an IP lawyer after graduation?

Table 4

- How do I find a mentor?
- What are the expectations for legal skills for first year associates?
- What didn't law school teach you about practice?
- What are three things you wish you had known as a first year associate?
- I'm planning on hanging out a shingle. What now?
- How did you develop a practice area / figure out what you liked doing?
- What are some of the things about working with partners I should keep in mind?
- Do you have anyone you consider to be a mentor? How did you develop that relationship?
- Are all associates on partnership track? If you're not, does it mean you're a failure?
- How do you ask for feedback on your work? Should you?
- How many hours should I plan to work as a first year associate? Is it what they told me at my interview?
- What should I do with feedback now that I've received it?
- What are some of the things I should keep in mind for performance reviews?
- If I'm interested in a particular practice area, how do I develop it?

Table 5

- Do I have to be nice to opposing counsel?
- What's the difference between ethics and morals?
- Is my reputation really the most valuable asset I'll bring to my career?
- What's a conflict of interest?
- What if I have a client who's driving me crazy? Can I fire them? Have you ever fired a client?
- I'm planning to start a solo practice. Should I take every client that walks through the door?
- What should I do if I go to a networking event and don't know anyone there?
- Is follow-up important? How do I follow up after making a contact?
- Where are some of the best networking opportunities?
- What does it mean to develop referral sources? How do I do that?
- What makes a good impression when you meet someone?
- How do you keep in touch with contacts over the years? Years is a long time, and sounds like a lot of work. Is it worth it?
- I have a blip on my criminal record for disturbing the peace during my reckless youth. How do I handle that on the character and fitness evaluation for the bar? Does this mean I can't be a lawyer?

Table 6

- How do I develop a relationship with my professors? Do they even want to know me?
- What law school clubs and organizations should I belong to?
- How do I know whether I'm spending enough time studying? Can you spend too much time studying?
- Should I be worried about passing the bar?
- I'm in the bottom third of my class. Does this mean I won't be able to find a job/support myself after graduation?
- Should I plan to take more than one bar exam?
- How do I choose a clinic or externship? Are some better than others?
- I didn't make law review. Does this mean I'm not a good writer/won't get a good job?
- I'm not interested in law review, but I want to get a good job. Is there something else I can do?
- Are there any professional organizations I can join as a law student?
- I want to teach at a law school after graduation. How do I make that happen?
- I'm on the fence about practicing law. Should I cut my losses now?
- Should I take out a bar study loan?

Table 7

- I have so many loans, I don't think I can afford to do public interest work. Am I right?
- How do you handle the stress of
- I want to practice in criminal law, but I'm not sure if defense or prosecution is right for me. How do you figure it out?

- How do you get summer work in criminal defense or prosecution?
- I want to work for the government. How do I make that happen?
- I'm interested in criminal law, but I'm worried I won't be able to leave my work at work at the end of the day. Is that a valid concern?
- What are the most helpful classes to take to prepare for a career in criminal law/public interest/government?