

LAWCROSSING'S
CAREER
ADVICE
REVEALED

PART II



LAWCROSSING™
THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF LEGAL JOBS ON EARTH

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LawCrossing's Career Advice Revealed, Part II

by LawCrossing

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Introduction

After the success of *LawCrossing's Career Advice Revealed, Part I*, the LawCrossing staff unanimously voted to continue the tradition of dishing out tips and advice to attorneys all over the world—tips and advice that can be found here, in *LawCrossing's Career Advice Revealed, Part II*.

Packed full of even more articles for the young attorney, the seasoned attorney, and the attorney looking for a career change, this informative sequel is perfect for attorneys in all walks of life. Because your career as a legal professional will go through cycles, LawCrossing has created a career advice book that you can take with you through it all. From tips on landing your first position to advice on staying competitive in the legal field, this book has it all.

While the first book in this two-book series focused on interview tips, new electronic developments in legal practice, and work-life balance, its sequel covers issues like writing the perfect resume, hiring the best and most efficient staff, and alternative careers for legal professionals.

Get specific advice on preparing for a job interview in the section for young attorneys. Get competitive when it comes to crafting your team by checking out the section for seasoned attorneys. And get real about your future and your plans for it by exploring the section for attorneys considering career changes.

In short, like its predecessor, *LawCrossing's Career Advice Revealed, Part II* is a book that will be with you through it all, ready and waiting to lend helpful advice and tips on how to be the best you can be at any stage of your legal career.

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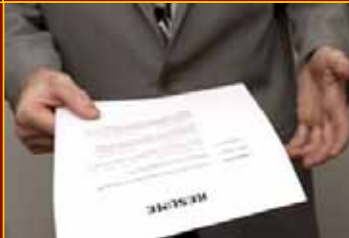
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Advice for Job-Seekers



Young lawyers, new challenges

By Frank C. Lee



Just because you have graduated from law school does not mean you have nothing left to learn.

Fresh-out-of-law-school graduates looking to hang their shingles out for the first time may benefit greatly from the experiences of those who came before them—and that is where the state bar associations come in.

These professional affiliations often set up special mentoring programs and workshops to acclimate those newly admitted to the bar to the legal community as quickly as possible. These groups offer young lawyers ways to fulfill the career goals and dreams they had in law school, such as impacting policy and serving the community, and perhaps most important, resources to understand better the practice of law as a business.

“When you are a young lawyer and you are just starting out and, just ‘magically’ because the state bar confers upon you a law license, there’s still a lot that you don’t know,” said Rich Wilson, elected chairman of the Young Lawyers Section of the West Virginia State Bar.

Any West Virginia lawyer 36 years old or under or any attorney who has been practicing the law for less than 10 years in that state is automatically admitted to the Young Lawyers Section, according to Mr. Wilson.

“When you come out of law school, you have a significant learning curve,” Mr. Wilson said. “In law school, they equip you with the basics—where to find information, how to find it—but the real education comes from getting out there and talking to practitioners.”

A 1991 graduate of West Virginia University College of Law in Morgantown, Mr. Wilson became a solo practitioner on April Fool’s Day in 2003 as a personal injury lawyer specializing in medical malpractice and nursing home negligence.

“The modern practice of law, obviously, has changed drastically in the last five years, let alone in the last decade. And one of the big issues that the bar association is looking at is the provision for online computer legal research,” Mr. Wilson said.

The Young Lawyers Section provides a forum in which young lawyers can network with other lawyers in the state, as well as a two-volume practice handbook that gives a sound foundation to young attorneys by detailing every area of the law in West Virginia.

“There’s 36 or 37 different chapters ranging from oil, gas, and mineral rights to insurance law to Social Security law. It’s quite a good starting point for the young practitioner just coming out,” Mr. Wilson said.

The West Virginia State Bar is the organization of all lawyers licensed to practice law in West Virginia and exists to serve members, the legal profession, and the public.

Whether or not the West Virginia State Bar should conduct random audits of trust accounts managed by lawyers and how best to provide civil legal services to the poor are just some of the issues facing a new generation of attorneys.

“Young lawyers have stepped up to the plate and weighed in on these issues, and that’s vital,” said Mr. Wilson, of Wilson Law Offices in Moundsville, WV.

“The best thing young lawyers can do is avail themselves of the opportunity to create policy, to create a legacy for themselves that they will, in the future, have to deal with.”

Pete Kurelac practices law with his older sister, Patricia Kurelac, in Moundsville, WV. A 2004 graduate of the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, WV, he will automatically become a member of the Young Lawyers Section of the West Virginia State Bar.

“Communication with clients—when first they come into the office, where to begin with clients, building a rapport—that’s something I could use help with because, in school, it’s just ‘black letter law’ that we’re learning,” Mr. Kurelac said.

The 25-year-old attorney admits life after law school may be a bit daunting at first for the uninitiated. But as one of the soon-to-be 1,800 young lawyers of the West Virginia State Bar and its 4,500 members, he will definitely not be alone in his professional growth.

“There wasn’t any magical wealth of knowledge that entered me as soon as I passed the bar,” Mr. Kurelac said with a self-effacing laugh.

The West Virginia State Bar offers a DVD to its members as part of its “Bridge the Gap” program, which consists of important presentations on the practice of law in that state’s court system, legal ethics, and office management.

