

Pro Tips for Law Practice Mentees (Students and Grads in attendance at Spotlight on Practice)

We are so glad you will be joining us, your classmates, and our invited guests at Campus to Career's Spotlight on Practice. We have invited scores of lawyers to join us on January 30th for programming and networking events tailored to meet your needs. The Law Practice Mentors we have invited will be sorted, grouped, and located according to their (or one of their) practice areas. The lawyers will be prepared to answer your questions about their practice and day-to-day work with clients and colleagues.

You are invited to seek out those who work in an area of interest you'd like to explore, ask questions of the lawyers you meet, and learn more about how they lawyer. Here are some Pro Tips for a successful and productive afternoon:

1. Welcome each person you meet to our campus. Not everyone who will be here on January 30 graduated from Stetson Law, though many did. In any case, you are among the hosts and should graciously offer your thanks for their presence and efforts on our behalf.
2. Smile, make eye contact, and introduce yourself. Be prepared to tell anyone who asks just a little bit about yourself and what brought you to law school.
3. Avoid complaints, negative remarks about anything, especially about your professors, staff, peers or workload. Do not complain about your grades. You do not need to mention or answer questions about your grades. This is not an interview; it is a social occasion.
4. You can ask for a business card; if you do and you are given one, the first use of that card should be to send a thank-you note to the lawyer thanking them for coming to the event.
5. If you are given a card and you have cards, you can and should offer your card in return.
6. Prepare questions in advance so that you make yourself clear and so that you are understood. If you are having trouble coming up with questions you could ask, connect with the Office of Career and Professional Development for a strategy session.
7. Please do not monopolize anyone's attention or deliver a lengthy description of yourself, your assets, or your accomplishments—save this kind of content for a cover letter, or as a response to interview questions.
8. Take note of names by looking at name tags and/or business cards when they are offered.
9. Many of the people you will meet will represent more than one practice area, so you may encounter them a second or third time.
10. Appear interested and attentive. These lawyers are taking time out of their busy schedules to welcome you into the legal profession. This event is not the place to spend time on your cell phone, except for true emergencies.
11. You can step out of the crowd and make a few notes if it is helpful. If someone offers you a name or contact, or refers you to an article or a website, it's appropriate to reach for your notebook or phone and write down whatever you need to write.