



LAWYER TO LAWYER MENTORING PROGRAM
WORKSHEET G
INTRODUCTION TO CAREER PATHS AND SETTING CAREER OBJECTIVES

Worksheet G is intended to facilitate discussion about different career paths and practice settings for lawyers, resources for exploring career options, and setting and achieving the mentee's long-term career objectives.

* * *

- Discuss the different types of law practice, which include, but are not limited to, government or public office, private practice (large firm vs. small firm vs. solo practice), corporate, environmental, the judiciary, non-traditional legal positions, and Legal Aid. Discuss with the mentee your experiences in different practice settings. Consider inviting another experienced lawyer to discuss with you and the mentee his or her experiences in different practice settings.
- Share your career path with the mentee. Discuss the long-term goals you had as a new lawyer, how your goals changed over time, any successes and failures you experienced, and what you might have done differently.
- If the mentor specializes in an area of practice, share with the mentee how you acquired the expertise in that area, why you chose that concentration, and how to secure a job in your practice concentration.
- Describe to the mentee your typical day with respect to things such as court appearances, trial work, research and writing, client contact, discovery, mediation/dispute resolution, hours/vacation/benefits/quality of life, etc. Share what you enjoy most and least about your practice area. What or who was most instrumental in your developing practice expertise? What has been your greatest achievement?
- Discuss the mentee's career objectives. If the mentee does not have clear objectives, help the mentee create a five-year plan that includes his or her career objectives and strategies for meeting them. If the mentee is not in the type of practice he or she would like to be in long-term, the mentor may try to introduce the mentee to lawyers in the field the mentee would like to explore.
- Review the mentee's resume. Suggest activities and professional and personal development opportunities to strengthen the mentee's resume and help him or her to distinguish himself or herself from others.



- Discuss networking opportunities that would coincide with the mentee’s objectives and how bar association and other types of community involvement can enhance career exploration and opportunities.
 - If your mentee is a government or non-traditional attorney, discuss the attached article, “Charting Your Future: Creating an Individual Development Plan” by Anne E. Dewey-Balzhiser.
 - Share with the mentee tips for succeeding in the practice of law, especially in the practice setting in which the mentee works. Discuss the suggestions made in the attached articles.
-

RESOURCES

DEBORAH ARRON, WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A LAW DEGREE?: A LAWYER’S GUIDE TO CAREER ALTERNATIVES, INSIDE, OUTSIDE AND AROUND THE LAW (2003)

CLIFF ENNICO, YOUR LEGAL CAREER: FINDING SUCCESS AND SATISFACTION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION (1998)

HINDI GREENBERG, THE LAWYER’S CAREER CHANGE HANDBOOK: MORE THAN 300 THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH A LAW DEGREE (1998)

RON HOGAN, VIEW FROM THE TOP: LAW FIRM LEADERS UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL LEGAL CAREER (2005)

GARY A. MUNNEKE ET AL., NONLEGAL CAREERS FOR LAWYERS, 5TH EDITION (2006)

GARY A. MUNNEKE, CAREERS IN LAW (2003)

GARY A. MUNNEKE, THE LEGAL CAREER GUIDE, 5TH EDITION: FROM LAW STUDENT TO LAWYER (2008)

KIMM ALAYNE WALTON, GUERRILLA TACTICS FOR GETTING THE LEGAL JOB OF YOUR DREAMS, 2ND EDITION (2008)

KIMM ALAYNE WALTON, AMERICA’S GREATEST PLACES TO WORK WITH A LAW DEGREE AND HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF ANY JOB, NO MATTER WHERE IT IS! (1998)



BUILDING A NICHE LAW PRACTICE:

[HTTP://WWW.ABAJOURNAL.COM/MAGAZINE/ARTICLE/BUILDING_NICHE_LAW_PRACTICE](http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/building_niche_law_practice)

PARTNER ADVICE FOR NEW LAWYERS:

[HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANBAR.ORG/PUBLICATIONS/LAW_PRACTICE_TODAY_HOME/LAW_PRACTICE_TODAY_ARCHIVE/MARCH12/PARTNER-ADVICE-FOR-NEWER-LAWYERS.HTML](https://www.americanbar.org/publications/law_practice_today_home/law_practice_today_archive/march12/partner-advice-for-newer-lawyers.html)

GOVERNMENT JOBS FOR LAW GRADS:

[HTTPS://ABAFORLAWSTUDENTS.COM/2011/10/01/WORKING-FOR-UNCLE-SAM-GOVERNMENT-JOBS-LAW-GRADS/](https://abaforlawstudents.com/2011/10/01/working-for-uncle-sam-government-jobs-law-grads/)

CHARTING YOUR FUTURE:

[HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANBAR.ORG/CONTENT/DAM/ABA/PUBLICATIONS/PASS_IT_ON/DEWEY-BALZHISER_PIO_FALL06.AUTHCHECKDAM.PDF](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/pass_it_on/dewey-balzhiser_pio_fall06.authcheckdam.pdf)

CAREER PLANNING FOR LAWYERS: [HTTPS://WWW.LEXISNEXIS.COM/LEGALNEWSROOM/LEXIS-HUB/B/CAREERGUIDANCE/ARCHIVE/2010/10/14/CAREER-PLANNING-FOR-LAWYERS.ASPX](https://www.lexisnexis.com/legalnewsroom/lexis-hub/b/careerguidance/archive/2010/10/14/career-planning-for-lawyers.aspx)

YOUNG LAWYERS MUST CREATE A CAREER PLAN:

[HTTP://APPS.AMERICANBAR.ORG/LITIGATION/COMMITTEES/YOUNGADVOCATE/ARTICLES/WINTER2015-0315-YOUNG-LAWYERS-MUST-CREATE-CAREER-PLAN.HTML](http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/youngadvocate/articles/winter2015-0315-young-lawyers-must-create-career-plan.html)