

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 your mentee's long-term career objectives.

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- Discuss different types of law practice, including, but 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 your experiences in different practice settings with your mentee. Consider inviting another experienced lawyer to discuss their experiences in different practice settings with you and your mentee.
- Share your career path with your 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 you specialize in an area of practice, share with your 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 your 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 your mentee's career objectives. If your mentee does not have clear objectives, help your mentee create a five-year plan that includes their career objectives and strategies for meeting them. If your mentee is not in the type of practice they would like to be in long-term, you can introduce your mentee to lawyers in the field your mentee would like to explore.
- Review your mentee's resume. Suggest activities, professional development, and personal development opportunities to strengthen your mentee's resume and help them distinguish themselves from others.
- Discuss networking opportunities that coincide with your mentee's objectives and how bar association and other types of community involvement can enhance career exploration and opportunities.

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- 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 your mentee tips for succeeding in the practice of law, especially in the practice setting in which your 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)

STARTING AND BUILDING A NICHE LAW PRACTICE:

[HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANBAR.ORG/GROUPS/LITIGATION/PODCAST/STARTING-BUILDING-NICHE-LAW-PRACTICE/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/podcast/starting-building-niche-law-practice/)

A PARTNER OFFERS SOME ADVICE TO NEW LAWYERS:

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[HTTPS://HLS.HARVARD.EDU/TODAY/A-PARTNER-OFFERS-SOME-ADVICE-TO-NEW-LAWYERS/](https://hls.harvard.edu/today/a-partner-offers-some-advice-to-new-lawyers/)

PUBLIC SECTOR CAREER PATHS:

[HTTPS://WWW.PSJD.ORG/PUBLIC_SECTOR_CAREER_PATHS](https://www.psjd.org/public_sector_career_paths)

MAKE A CAREER PLAN:

[HTTPS://CAPD.MIT.EDU/RESOURCES/MAKE-A-CAREER-PLAN/](https://capd.mit.edu/resources/make-a-career-plan/)

WHAT YOUNG LAWYERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CAREER PLANNING:

[HTTPS://CASCADEBUSNEWS.COM/YOUNG-LAWYERS-NEED-KNOW-CAREER-PLANNING/](https://cascadebusnews.com/young-lawyers-need-know-career-planning/)

8 CAREER PLANNING STEPS FOR YOUNG LAWYERS:

[HTTPS://WWW.LEGALPEOPLE.COM.AU/NEWS/8-CAREER-PLANNING-STEPS-FOR-LAWYERS/29654](https://www.legalpeople.com.au/news/8-career-planning-steps-for-lawyers/29654)