

LAWYER

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Young Lawyer Bucket List

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Being a young lawyer often involves a long list of newfound experiences. It also carries with it the task of building a solid foundation for a long and successful legal career. Upon graduating law school, young lawyers enter a much larger pond where it helps to establish certain milestones or “bucket list” items early on in their career. The formula for becoming a successful lawyer is no bright-line rule, but I believe the following bucket list items will prove invaluable to a young lawyer's future:

Join A Voluntary Bar Association

One of my favorite aspects of leading the HCBA YLD this year is recruiting new members and welcoming them to the Young Lawyers Division. The HCBA YLD consistently serves as a central hub for networking and making connections among young lawyers in Hillsborough County. It also provides opportunities for leadership, recognition, legal education, and community involvement. I truly believe that joining a local bar association like the HCBA YLD is one of the most important steps to furthering a young lawyer's career.

Find A Mentor

Having a mentor is important, not only for learning new aspects of the law, but also for building new connections. A good mentor not only lends guidance, but also vouches for you and can help you



build a solid reputation. Establishing a mentor relationship can sometimes be as easy as merely asking for advice from somebody on one occasion. If the advice is good, then go back to that person for more advice. Connect on something you both are passionate about, and find occasions to share with that person something about yourself. Importantly, stay in contact and keep them updated as to your career's progress.

Establish A Bragging Point

Everyone will have a different bragging point. Perhaps you drafted a winning brief, or you worked above and beyond to provide pro bono services to the community. Maybe you won a notable hearing involving a novel issue of law, or you worked to become board certified in a particular subject matter.

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Whatever the area of law you practice, set out to accomplish something noteworthy. Add it to your resume, or talk about it in future interviews, or even discuss it in an article for a local journal or for your local periodical. Then after you have established your first bragging point, work on establishing another.

Make Connections

Having a solid network will lead to so many benefits for a young lawyer, including building a reputation,

receiving job opportunities, maintaining a healthy work/life balance, and having a source for advice and guidance. Building connections may involve more than just attending events. I found that working together on a common project is one of the best way to forge a solid connection with somebody. Find a committee to join, or offer to assist in planning a legal event. In any event, keep making connections.

Though the above is not exhaustive, I believe that young lawyers would benefit from checking off each item on the young lawyer bucket list to further his or her legal career. ■

HCBA Celebrates Law Week

On March 4-8, the HCBA Young Lawyers Division coordinated another great Law Week program. The American Bar Association's 2024 Law Day theme was "Voices of Democracy." HCBA celebrated Law Week by sending volunteers across the county to speak to children about the Law Week theme, read at local schools, conduct mock trials, and lead courthouse tours.

