

## INTERVIEW TIPS FOR THE EVENING STUDENT

In addition to researching the firm or organization that you are meeting with, as an evening student should be prepared to answer some specific questions about your situation and your plans for the future. Below are some specific questions for which you should be prepared:

### **Why did you decide to change careers and attend law school?**

If law school is a second career, have a concise explanation for pursuing your law degree and be confident about your choice to pursue the degree. The question is often asked of all students not just evening students or second career professionals. Do not view the question as an attack but consider it as an opportunity to tell your story. Be careful not to speak poorly of previous careers.

### **Why are you enrolled in the Evening Division?**

Let the interviewer know that you are serious about obtaining your degree, but other obligations preclude you from attending law school on a full-time basis.

### **Why aren't you participating in more activities such as Law Review or Moot Court?**

Most evening students find that time constraints do not permit them to become involved many school related activities, especially for the first two years. Many in the legal profession believe that Law Review/law journal participation is an indication of strong writing skills. If you are not on one of the law journals, think about past or current experiences that allowed you to hone your writing and research skills.

### **How will your past education or experiences benefit you in the practice of law?**

What special knowledge and or skills have you acquired from these experiences? Become comfortable and confident in verbalizing those skills and how you can use them in your legal career. Additionally, if you have a specialty that you intend to combine with the practice of law, you must demonstrate your technical expertise, point to your accomplishments and describe your contacts in the field.

### **What are your transferable skills?**

As in the question above, you possess skills gained from your experiences that are transferable to the legal profession. These may include advertising, advising, analyzing, drafting, editing, advocating, and researching, just to name a few.

### **Are you willing to be a first year associate?**

If you have held a position of authority and/or responsibility in your last or current profession, it may be difficult for you to start at an entry level position again. Think carefully about this issue. There may be legal positions that combine your previous experiences and law degree in such a way that you will not have to begin at the bottom.

### **How will you feel being supervised by someone who may have graduated college or law school after you?**

Again this is an issue of starting over in a new field, which may mean reporting to someone who is younger than you are. Indicate to the interviewer that you make judgments about individuals based on their abilities and how they treat you—not by chronological age. Tell the interviewer that you have worked and attended law school with people who are both younger and older than you and that age has never been an issue.

**If you have difficulty answering any of the questions above or if you have other questions about the interviewing process, please do not hesitate to speak with a Career Services Office counselor.**

*Contains excerpts from the George Washington University School Law Career Development Career Planning for the Evening Student handout.*