



Off the Record With.....Plaintiffs' Attorneys and Defense Attorneys

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.; BW Salle Modeme

Scott Adrian, Law Offices of Richard A. Fisher; Matt Mann, Reyes & Barsoum; Daniel Selarz, Selarz & Sarbaz; Hannah Sweiss, Lewitt Hackman

Off the Record With... is a CSO sponsored brownbag lunch series created to give current students the chance to explore career opportunities, network with you in a small group setting, and have an opportunity to get insight into the legal world. This will take place in an interactive and conversational environment, where no formal preparation or program is required.

The Plaintiffs' Attorneys and Defense Attorneys session provides an opportunity for students to gain a general understanding of the differences and similarities between plaintiff and defense work. During the first 15 minutes, yourself and the three other panelists will be asked to give a brief introduction of yourselves and provide background about what it means to be a plaintiff lawyer or a defense attorney. After that, I open the room to questions to get the conversation started, and will interject with a few moderated questions from the below talking points. The last 15 minutes I encourage everyone to get up and mingle, giving students an opportunity to meet you and ask their individual questions.

Below are a few conversation topics to consider discussing with the group:

- Description of your day-to-day job responsibilities and practice area
- How you obtained your present position
- Is this your first position after law school? If not, where were you before? How did you obtain those positions?
- Can you tell us some differences between working as a plaintiffs' lawyer versus a defense attorney and vice versa?
- Are there some personality traits that make someone better prepared for one side versus the other? What are those personality traits?
- While in law school, did you work, extern, volunteer? What did you do to obtain those positions? Did those experiences help you obtain your current position?
- What advice would you give law students in terms of their job search?
- Do you think networking is important in the job search?
- What are some things a student can do while still in school to better prepare him/her for a plaintiffs' practice or defense practice?
- Can you please explain the different methods by which plaintiffs and defense attorneys are paid – contingency fee, billable hour?

For questions please contact: Elizabeth Bernstein, Sr. Assistant Director of Career Services; eberstein@swlaw.edu; 213-738-6794