Future of the Legal Workplace Advisory Group Innovative Ideas for

Law Student Professional Development Programming Topics

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The Future of the Legal Workplace Advisory Group continues to provide resources for our members' most pressing needs. While our law school members continue to strive to prepare law students to thrive in the legal profession, the legal workplace is changing rapidly. The COVID-19 pandemic ushered in a change to hybrid work, major social developments are punctuating the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and technological innovation creates new opportunities (and challenges) with respect to how lawyers will work moving forward. These developments provide a challenge and an opportunity to prepare our students for success in the rapidly changing legal profession.

To help students prepare for the hybrid workplace, below are topics for law schools to consider including in their professional development programming.

- **Career-building strategies.** Consider offering programming for students and new graduates to help them build their careers in today's rapidly changing legal workplace. For a closer look, please see this group's resource <u>Innovative Ideas for Students on Career-Building Strategies: How to Develop and Maintain Your Professional Identity in a Hybrid Environment</u>.

- **Job interview skills.** Today's law students must be ready to succeed in multiple interview formats including in-person and virtual. Consider training your students on what they will need to do to shine in each of these formats. For a deeper dive, please see <u>Innovative Ideas for Students on Successful Virtual and In-Person Interviews</u>.

- **Managing student expectations about the legal profession.** In an era in which the legal profession is adjusting to the "new normal" of hybrid work and other forms of workplace flexibility, students could benefit from programming to help them understand the perspective of their employers and their clients.

- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion.** Events over the past few years have amplified the importance of including DEI programming as an indispensable aspect of law students'

professional development. Consider collaborating with DEI professionals to help build cultural competence in your students.

- **Preparing law students for hybrid work.** While most of today's students experience law school primarily in-person, they are entering a hybrid workplace. Consider offering programming to arm your students with the knowledge and skills they will need to thrive in a hybrid work environment. For example, schools may want to offer programming to help students understand how best to build relationships with colleagues, how to seek feedback, how to find mentors, and how to make the most of in-person time in a hybrid environment. Other topics focused on a hybrid workplace could include best practices on communication, etiquette, optimizing the use of technology, fostering inclusion, and more.

- **Technology best practices:** Today's lawyers and their employers have access to a dizzying array of technology designed to help improve the efficiency and quality of legal services. Moreover, the influence of Artificial Intelligence on the legal profession is already here and it is growing. Consider offering programs to help your students understand technological tools legal employers are using, how and when to use those tools, and how best to navigate the ethical issues that will inevitably arise.

This resource is provided on behalf of the
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