

WHAT DO LAWYERS DO?

Pre-Law Society at VCU

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On March 4th, The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with The Pre-Law Society at VCU, presented the university's first "What Do Lawyers Do?" interactive panel. This event was moderated by the ABA's Diversity and Inclusion Director, Esther Hyun. The Pre-Law Society at VCU's first event of March could not have been kicked off any better, as lawyers Elaine Dai (corporate/intellectual property), Brandi Pikes (school/education law), and Ashley Salas (malpractice law) presented their answers as to what attorneys do practicing law in their respected fields - as well as when they were studying it.

The panelists answered questions, told stories, and presented valuable advice to students who are aspiring to attend law school, and eventually become attorneys. One piece of advice emphasized the importance of widening one's circle of relationships before, during, and after law school. This ultimately requires one to create their own opportunities. That begs the question: **how does someone create their own opportunities?**

The panelists expressed that this can be achieved in a number of ways. For students in particular - they need to **reach out**. Reach out to professors. Make them teach you. Capitalize as best you can with the resources at your disposal. They will ultimately branch out to new opportunities and relationships. Tangentially, a student pursuing the legal profession should **extend their outreach beyond the university**. Law firms and internships are a great way to widen a student's circle of relationships, aside from simultaneously garnering experience.



Perhaps the most resonating message presented by the panelists was this: **make sure to have hobbies outside of law school**. In the havoc and strain that is law school and the legal profession, it is easy to lose track of who you are. About 1.3 million people are practicing attorneys. Law may be a subject you hold tight to your chest, however, it's all of the idiosyncrasies combined that make up who you are. If you are what you repeatedly do, make sure you pursue the other things that nourish your own individuality and cultivate unique perspectives