

Best Piece of Advice Ever

Don't be afraid.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

That sounds like terrible advice to me. Fear excels as a powerful motivator.

Steven Finnell, California

No. I'm always afraid of screwing up. However, I will not be intimidated by threats.

John Davidson

"Your client will lie to you."

That sounded awfully cynical and harsh to me. However, I was a Woman of a Certain Age when I graduated law school, and I knew it would be true to a degree.

Some clients simply refused to or could not acknowledge reality so they told me the version that allowed them to motor on comfortably in life.

Others had a vendetta going for the other party and I was their means to that end. A few were mentally or emotionally "scratch and dent" parties in the relationship. They didn't mean to lie, they just had to modify the truth to live with it.

My advice to clients was this: You might as well tell me the truth now.

The other party is sure going to force it out. And if it comes out in the courtroom, if you use me to lie to the court, I will withdraw on the spot.

CJ Stevens, Montana

1. Clients will not tell you the truth or all of the facts, either intentionally or because they do not know or do not recall correctly.
2. Clients will lie about their intentions to pay.
3. You can't trust some other lawyers.
4. It is not fair; it is not justice, but, get over it.
5. Don't be discouraged when you lose or get a result that is not satisfactory. Eventually it happens to everyone.
6. A judge said to clients during a settlement conference: "If you are looking for justice, you have come to the wrong place."

Roger Rosen, California

Be able to explain the reason for everything you want to do

Patrick W. Begos, Connecticut

There will be natural ebbs and flows in solo practice. Learn to enjoy the slow times.

Shell Bleiweiss, Illinois

Never could follow that one after the first couple of days

Patrick W. Begos

Even when faced with the worst, take the high road.

Cory H. Hurwitz, California

Oldie but goodie: deciding to decline a case/client can be the best decision you could make. Trust that if you do, you then should be available to take on that better case/client when it comes along.

Michael L. Boli, California

1. Keep your eyes open as you never know what opportunities may present themselves. (My advice to myself)

2. You cannot care more about a client's case than s/he does. (Very sage advice given to me when I first began practicing)

Amber Nicole Ying, Indiana

"S*** happens. What are you gonna do..."

Ryan Kim

"You don't control what [opponent] does. You control what YOU do."

L. Maxwell Taylor, Vermont

Most important thing I learned before becoming street legal (naturally, I learned it in my bar review course, not in l-sk00l):

"If all else fails, the law is what is boldly asserted and plausibly maintained."

James S. Tyre, California

"You are the only one who will be a guardian of your own schedule and time..."

Tyler S. St Cyr, Vermont

"If someone has to go to jail, make sure it's the client and not you."

Christine Fitzgerald

Best advice I have received:

- 1) you learn by going out and making your mistakes more than you will with your head buried in a book.
- 2) you win some but you lose more
- 3) Argue. That's what your client hired you for in the first place.

Anthony Reeves, Florida

Sorry if this has already been mentioned.

Do not ask a question of a witness (particularly a hostile witness) if you do not know the answer.

A corollary to that is do not expect for hostiles to make your case.

Rob V. Robertson, Texas

"Say what you have to say and sit down. Anything more invites trouble."

Matthew M. Cree, Indiana

As a litigator: don't make it personal, you represent the client, you are not the client.

As a solo: don't ever f---ing practice law like anyone else, it is your business not anyone else's.

Matthew S. Johnston, Maryland

Quit working so hard for people who owe you money. It is much more enjoyable to go broke sitting on your front porch.

Robert "Robby" W. Hughes, Jr., Georgia
