

What Do You Tell Young Lawyers?

To follow up on Wendy Lascher's article in Citations collecting some of our comments on "What do you tell clients?"

What wisdom do you have for young lawyers?

A judge I worked for told me:

"People will come to you, but you can't help everybody."

Roger Rosen, California

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Get out before it's too late!

Jonathan Stein, California

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I gave that advice to 1Ls.

Mitchell Goldstein, Virginia

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Don't be an a\*shole...we have enough of those already!

Bobby Lott, Jr., Alabama

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Your client got themselves into this situation, it is not \*your\* fault.

Do not lose sleep, money, or peace of mind over their bad decisions.

You will make enough bad decisions of your own, do not take responsibility for your clients' bad decisions.

Frank Kautz, Massachusetts

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Always be nice to the clerk of court.

One judge's signature is as good as another's.

jennifer j. rose, Mexico

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You and opposing counsel can grab coffee or lunch. You don't have to fight, just because your clients are fighting.

Set boundaries and enforce them. Reevaluate them periodically. Your supervisors, coworkers, opposing parties, and clients will all push on them.

Never say something in an e-mail you wouldn't want read in open court.

Corrine Bielejeski, California

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Life is too short to take on your client's problems. Empathize but don't internalize their issues, especially in the area of family law.

Tell your clients that the case is a marathon not a sprint. Things don't get done like in a 30-minute or 60-minute tv show.

Joseph A. DeWoskin, Kansas

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I would tell young lawyers:

Just because you CAN do something does not mean you SHOULD do it.

Example: Young debt collector sued my 94-year-old client on a Macy's debt.

I emailed him and asked him to send me some documents to prove the debt.

She is 94 and she does not remember having a Macy's card. He told me to serve formal discovery. Yes, he CAN make me do that, but it does not mean he SHOULD make me do that. His client now has a zero percent chance of collecting on this.

Jonathan Stein

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I'd rather be fishing than working for free.

Linda Silveria, California

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"Try to get into the electrician's union."

Robert Thomas Hayes Link, California

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Do not get in the mud with your opponent. You both are covered in mud after that. I want you going to court clean and looking good.

He continues to want to play tit for tat. I continue to tell him let the other guy be an asshole. One day, you will be able to level the score, most often at the verdict phase of the trial.

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

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My mentor told me years ago that I have two choices when it comes to collecting money which is, of course, what drives everything. I can work hard and not get paid or I can sit on the front porch in a rocker and not get paid. Which one sounds better to you?

Robert "Robby" W. Hughes, Jr.

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