

Kelly Dove - Advice to New Associate / Law Student

Advice I would give to a new associate or a law student is, it's never too early to start developing your reputation, and I think what that means is the quality of your work product, the relationships you start, how you treat other people, those things follow you from law school through your career. It was something that I know I had law professors say in college. The people that you know now are going to remember you, and it's true. So, whether in law school you are the kind of person who's helpful to other people, who's known as one of the more intelligent people in the class or hardworking or any number of those traits, they really follow you. So, even ten years after you're out of law school and you run into your former classmates or people who know the same people you know, those reputational issues follow you.

And I think the same thing goes for being a new associate. You might not know exactly where your career trajectory will take you, but if you really work on doing your best work and building your relationships with other people, you foster that reputation, and that follows you wherever you go. And I think that just can't be underestimated in what a value it can be, and to look at it from a slightly more negative perspective, it can also be a detriment if you did not treat people respectfully. People do tend to remember those things, too. So, I think if you treat your work and take your work very seriously, treat other people with respect, your reputation follows you wherever you go, and you should really think about that from the very beginning of your legal career, as early as your first year of law school.

[End of Audio]