

The background of the slide is a solid red color. In the top left corner, the word "RUTGERS" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, are the words "THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY". A large, faint, circular seal of Rutgers University is visible in the background, centered behind the text. The seal contains the text "RUTGERS UNIVERSITY" and "THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY" around its perimeter, with a central emblem.

RUTGERS

THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

Opportunities For Evening/ Part-time students:

How Do I get Legal Experience when
I already have a full-time job?

Why is legal experience important?

- Legal employers expect you to graduate law school with some practical legal experience
- Traditional legal experience model: work full-time during the summer.

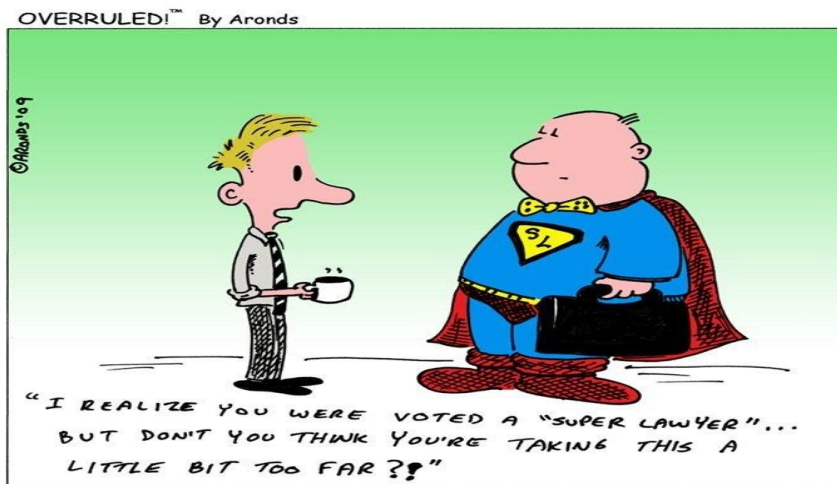
What type of “evening/part-time” student are you?

- Work full-time
- Work part-time
- Work full-time but flexible schedule
- Work full-time and employer does not know I am in law school
- Work full-time or part-time & supportive employer
- Etc...



Advantages of working while attending law school

- More mature.
- Realistic view of employment and realistic expectations of employment.
- Ability to do well in law school while working.
- More adaptive to a professional environment.
- Big company – in-house opportunities.
- Already employed – takes the pressure off, have fall back.
- Legal employers value your transferable skills.



In-House Legal Department

- Approach in-house legal
- 3 month summer assignment
- 50-50 (half time in each office)
- Ask in-house to send some of their work over to you



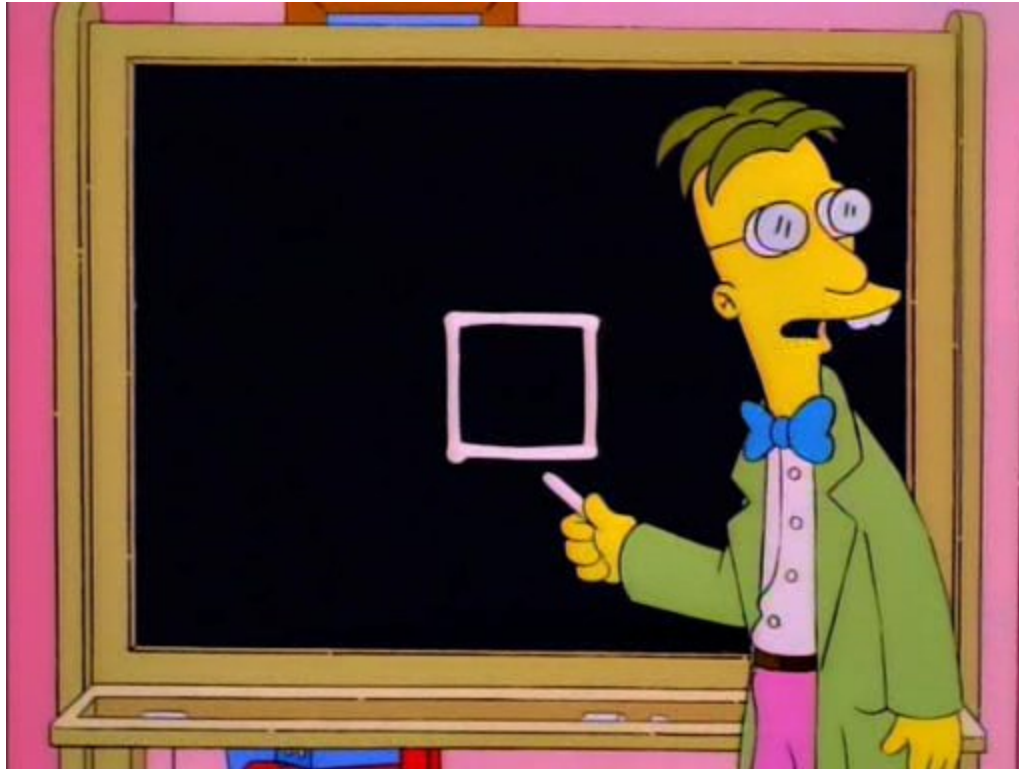
"It's a memo from the legal department reminding us to (heh-heh), 'keep our noses clean'."

Pro Bono & Public Interest Programs

- Some programs have more flexible schedules (including evenings and weekends)
 - Pro Bono Research Project – flexible scheduling
 - Street Law – flexible scheduling (including evenings and weekends)
 - Financial Literacy – flexible scheduling (including evenings and weekends)
 - Immigration – Thursday evenings, but not flexible
 - Bankruptcy – sessions held in the early evenings
 - VITA – sessions held in the early evenings and on weekends in the three months leading up to April 15
- Pro Bono Office tapes many of the trainings



Assistant to Law Professor



Many professors hire research assistants to help them with legal research for conferences, legal publications or books that they are writing.

Per Diem/Project based work

- Busy small and mid-sized law firms often hire law students to conduct research and writing assignment on a per diem or project to project basis.
- Rutgers Per Diem Law Clerk Program.

Full-time Law Clerk or Paralegal

- Consider Switching to a Full-time legal job before your final year of law school
- Some law firms (usually large law firms) hire law students to work as full-time paralegals or law clerks.

Volunteer for a judge one or two days a week

- State trial judges are most likely judges to be willing to hire an intern for one or two days.
- Apply by sending a resume and cover letter.
- Mention your availability in your cover letter.
- Contact info: Symplicity under Documents: Document Library "NJ State Trial, App. Div & Supreme Court Judges (updated 7/18/11)".



Write an article for publication in a “journal”

All legal employers value strong writing skills.



Take as many practical skills courses as possible

- **Clinical Programs.** Excellent way to obtain legal experience. Civil Practice Clinic - probably the best fit for part-time students
- **Moot Court & Trial Advocacy.**
<https://camlaw.rutgers.edu/moot-court-competitions>
- **Externship**

Summer Legal Positions



Traditional legal recruiting/structure: get legal experience during the summer; some employers only hire students for summer positions (e.g., large law firms).

Become a member of the “legal community”

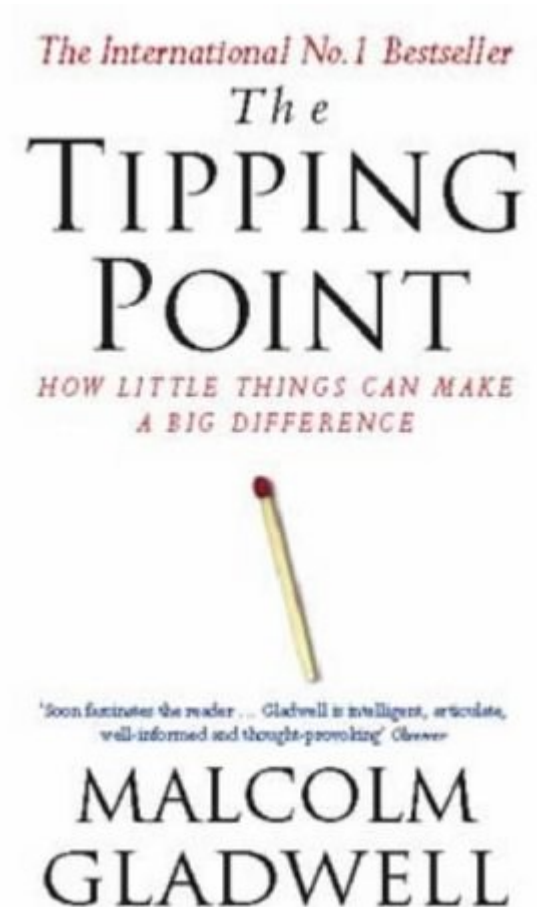
- Bar Associations
- Law School Events
- CLEs and Law School Panels

Learn about the practice of law in your desired practice area. This will help you network more effectively, plus you will have something to talk about at events and on interviews!



Go on Informational Interviews

- Purpose: gather info and advice and get leads; Rule of 150 (m. gladwell)
- How to initiate contact
 - Identify the target
 - Send an introductory e-mail.
 - Follow up to set up a time to chat.
 - Do your due diligence/prepare.



Informational Interviews: Introductory email

“I am a student at Rutgers School of Law-Camden and am particularly interested in learning more about working in X for an organization/firm like yours.

In a recent conversation with _____, s/he suggested I contact you about your practice because of your extensive experience and outstanding reputation in your field. I am not approaching you to obtain a position with your organization; I would simply appreciate any general advice or information you could offer me as I explore opportunities in X.

I would be very grateful for the opportunity to meet with you for 10 to 15 minutes. Alternatively, if you are unable to meet with me in person, I hoped you would be willing to correspond with me by phone or email in the near future. Thank you for your time. I look forward to meeting you!”

Informational Interviewing

- The conversation: information and advice
- When the allotted time is up, say so: "You have been so helpful, but I don't want to take up any more of your time today."
- Thank them for their time.
- Follow up with an e-mail thank you. Ask them to let you know if you can ever be assistance to them.



Final Thoughts

- Career Planning Office offers individual counseling and general resource information about legal career planning - take advantage of both.
- We are available to speak with you in person or on the phone; Email Neil Wise at neilwise@camden.rutgers.edu or me at verona@camden.rutgers.edu for an evening in-person appointment or day-time phone appointment.
- As you gain this legal experience, put it on your resume under "Experience" or "Legal Experience."
- Have your resume reviewed by Career Planning to make sure you are using this information to your best advantage.

Questions?