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Avery Blank leverages her skills as a lawyer to help professionals advocate and strategically position themselves for opportunity. Bloomberg Law, Stanford Law, and the National Association of Women Lawyers have recognized her work in strategy, women’s leadership, and policy. Blank is a senior contributor with FORBES and contributor with The World Economic Forum’s Agenda, and has commented on NPR and SIRIUSXM Radio. She is a board member with the American Bar Association’s Career Center and an advisor to The Wilson Center’s Women in Public Service Project. Blank was previously a Senior Law & Policy Analyst with the Center for Health & Homeland Security.

Cheryl Rich Heisler is a career consultant assisting lawyers in making career transitions inside, outside and around the law. A self-proclaimed “serial career changer,” Heisler practiced corporate transactional law with a large law firm, pivoted into brand management for Kraft foods, and leveraged both of those experiences into founding Lawternatives where she helps lawyers at all levels identify, explore and land new career opportunities. A recognized expert on the subject of legal career change, she speaks regularly at law schools and related groups and has been quoted in a variety of legal and popular publications. Heisler also sits on the Board of the American Bar Association’s Legal Career Center.

Moderators
Howard A. Davis is a CPA and corporate attorney who owns and operates his own law firm and a number of businesses in the Chicago area. He advises all types of small to medium sized businesses and entrepreneurs on various litigation and business law issues.

Since 1980, Howard has practiced corporate litigation and transactional law at various firms, including Schiff Hardin & Waite (1980-1987) and Shefsky & Froelich nka Taft Stettinius & Hollister (1987-2010). In 2010, Howard opened The Law Offices of Howard A. Davis. Since 1991, Howard has owned and overseen many Chicago restaurant businesses. He has also lectured on various legal topics affecting food industry operators.

In addition to his legal practice and business interests, Howard has been involved in various philanthropic activities. He is on the Advisory Board of Perspectives Charter High Schools and annually provides internships for students interested in law or restaurants. Howard was the Co-Chair of the Chicago Wine & Food Festival (a predecessor to the Chicago Gourmet event), and since 2007, he has been an active student and supporter of the Chicago Kabbalah Center.

Elaine Weiss is an attorney with experience in health care policy, advocacy, and association management which led to her current role as Executive Director of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. She was previously Executive Director of the American Academy of Dermatology, CEO of the Illinois CPA Society, and an Associate Executive Director of the American Bar Association.

She has experience in health care reform from both the clinical and administrative perspectives. In 1993, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Midwest Regional Director for the United States Department of Health & Human Services where she represented the Administration on all health care policy matters and liaised with Midwest governors, mayors, congressional delegations, special interest groups, and the public.

Elaine holds a bachelor of science degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and a juris doctorate from the National Law Center at George Washington University.

Program Agenda

- Lawyers and identity issues
- What do I do next? - words of wisdom
- How do I make the pivot?
- When do I make the move?
Did you know these people are lawyers?

Or these?

Legal identity

• What does it mean to you?

• What defines you?

• Why is it important to you?
Will I lose my legal identity?

- Once a lawyer, always a lawyer; you’ve “earned” the title.
- You’ll always rely on your legal thinking skills.
- Day-to-day legal applications are everywhere.
- You will (eventually) lose the need to tell everyone!

Howard Davis

“Push yourself to take a step forward in your heart’s desired career because even a step in the wrong direction brings you closer to where you want to be.”

Elaine Weiss

“Having a law degree serves you well, even without a traditional practice background. A JD on your resume offers credibility as well as a demonstrated understanding of legal problems and an ability to think through complex issues.”
When do I start to pivot?

• Assess yourself.
  Do you know the Who/What/When/Where/Why of you? What’s technical? What’s transferable?

• Assess your markets.
  Which areas/industries will value the person you really are? Passions DO make a difference.

• Research/Network
  Do your homework! On-line, in trade publications, face-to-face, seminars, webinars…

• Reveal the newly focused you!
  Resumes and applications are the last part of the equation.

When do I make the move?

• Career satisfaction

• Economics and finances

Key Takeaways

• Once a lawyer, always a lawyer.

• Identify your sweet spot.

• Evaluate practicalities.

• Just do it.
Questions?

Upcoming Program

A Trusted Advisor Starts with Business Intelligence
Friday, September 13, 2019 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

http://ambar.org/careers
http://ambar.org/jobs
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