Law: Alumni led events: careers within and outwith the legal profession

To provide Law students with an overview of the wide variety of career options available both within (Scottish Legal Jobs Uncovered) and outwith (Life Beyond Law) the legal profession, and to encourage them to research options and gain experience and skills sooner rather than later.

**School/Subject Area:** Law

**Target Audience:**LLB students from all years, with particular emphasis on penultimate year, plus Diploma students for ‘Scottish Legal Jobs Uncovered’

**Staff Involved:** Careers Adviser for School of Law, plus Law Society of Scotland representative for ‘Life Beyond Law’

**Dates/timings:** October (Life Beyond Law) and January (Scottish Legal Jobs Uncovered), annually

Events

* Short talks by 7-12 Edinburgh Law graduates about their traineeships in different areas of the legal profession, or careers outwith the legal profession, plus a programme containing job studies from all the speakers, later transferred to the Law School website.
* Drinks reception to enable informal questioning and networking between alumni and students.

Planning

* Liaising with Law School on the date and timing, then booking an appropriate venue.
* Meeting with Law Society to discuss the format of the evening and responsibilities, for Life beyond Law.
* Identifying suitable alumni to approach to take part in the event via the annual survey of graduates’ destinations (DLHE: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education), employers, personal and Careers Service contacts and LinkedIn etc.
* Promoting the event to students via the Careers Service and Law School media.
* Liaising with speakers about event administration and joining instructions.
* Obtaining feedback and reviewing the event.

Resources

Time – minimum of 15 hours to organise each session in order to identify speakers, make contact, secure agreement, progress chase, administer, market and promote the event, script the facilitator’s input, review, and place job study resources on the website. Plus event time itself – 2 hours, plus 2 hour pre/post event preparation and clear up.

Refreshments funded by the Law School for Scottish Legal Jobs Uncovered, and by the Law Society for Life Beyond Law. The Law Society promotes Life Beyond Law to young lawyers, and also provides the programme.

Evaluation

Very positive feedback from most students and speakers; indicative comments from students include:

* ‘Interesting to hear about practice areas I didn’t know about’;
* ‘opened my eyes to possibilities out there’;
* ‘showed me that I have to do research on different areas of law and find right firm for me’.

This event has evolved over the years into its current format, which seems to work well for the students who attend.

Advice

* Allow enough time to organise this event – it can be hard tracking down the speakers.
* Market in as many ways as you can – getting an audience can be tricky!
* Be persistent in following up speakers.

Key contact

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<http://www.ed.ac.uk/employability/staff-information/how-employability-addressed/good-practice/hss/alumni-led>