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Boston Bar Association

for lawyers for the public about the bba



Need good advice? The BBA is here to help. On July 14th, the BBA will host the 12th Annual Strategies for Success Luncheon. A discussion led by Boston-area lawyers will include choices and strategies that have enhanced their careers and job satisfaction. Guests will have the opportunity to talk with the speakers and other lawyers over lunch. All summer associates, interns, lawyers, law clerks, law students and professional staff are all welcome to attend. In the meantime, BBA members share the best advice they have received...

*If you would like to respond to a future **Voices of the Bar**, make sure you send a headshot, and contact Eric Fullerton at efullerton@bostonbar.org.*

"WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?"



Kiernan Joliat – Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General

"Go away!" That advice came from the speaker at a high school assembly, who was actually encouraging my class to take every chance we got to travel or study abroad. I took his advice so seriously that I left the country for the whole of my college education, and I've never regretted it."



Claire Newton – Robinson & Cole, LLP

"Before I went to college, a family friend told me to 'pick the professor, not the class.' The advice holds true today - surround yourself with passionate people, and you will be much more engaged and learn more."



David Rubin – Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

"It was: 'Get to the point!' It wasn't actually advice that someone offered, but something I learned in practice from appearing opposite an experienced union lawyer in many arbitration cases early in my

career. Although I knew (or should have known) the basis on which my case would be decided, I would argue every possible theory and fact, in fear that I would leave something out - or worse, that I could be second-guessed for leaving something out. This particular lawyer would then sort through my barrage of information and invariably put his finger on the one document or fact or issue on which the case really turned. Over time, I gained the confidence to get to the point on my own."



Lara Guercio – Goulston & Storrs LLP

"'Luck happens when opportunity meets good preparation' is advice that I received from a ski coach while racing during college, but which I have found applicable to my formal higher education, career to date, and life in general."



Thomas Kirchofer– Sherin & Lodgen LLP

"For a time, I was REALLY into outdoor sports - mostly hiking and camping, in all seasons and all kinds of weather. For a while, I thought that the old Boy Scout motto of 'Be Prepared' was the way to approach the outdoors, but I often found myself staggering through the woods with a huge, heavy backpack full of stuff I didn't really need. As I got further into the outdoors, some wiser outdoorsfolks told me to 'keep it simple.' If I didn't use something every day, I probably didn't need it, and I could still be prepared without carrying 50 pounds of junk. I soon lightened up on the amount of stuff I carried and found myself happily strolling along with only the things I needed - a much lighter load indeed. This advice has served me well in all suits of other pursuits, indoors and out."



Sarah De Oliveira – S. De Oliveira Law, LLC

"I've fortunately been given a lot of great advice. The best one came in several different variations by several smart, wonderful and successful people, but what made it finally stick in my head was a song by Girls Against Boys. That piece of advice was, 'If you want something in life, you gotta ask for it.' It's so simple but so easy to forget. The only way you will get what you want in life is if you make it known to other people. What's the worst that could happen? The person says no? Then you're in the same position you were prior to having asked..."



**Daniel Collins – Attorney at Law**

"My writing professor in law school taught me the value of the word 'because' and made sure that it made a regular appearance in the assigned memos and briefs. It seems simple enough, but that one word made me a better writer and lawyer because it forced me to support my arguments and to expect the same from others."

**Hether Cahill – Sally & Fitch LLP**

"From my grandfather, a poet and attorney who lived in Louisiana:

There are many ways to travel,
down the street or on the snow.
But how you get there doesn't count,
it's where you choose to go."

**Cynthia Auckly-Barbuto – New England Law - Boston, Class of 2010**

"I have been fortunate to receive so many invaluable pieces of advice throughout my life, not just from my wonderful family, but from the unique and amazing people who have been (and continue to be) so supportive of my endeavors. I will pick one statement that has been in my mind constantly as I prepare for the Bar Exam in a manner that is different from the majority of students: 'Never compare yourself to other people, and never pass judgment, just do your best and know that any success is a result of hard work and perseverance.'"