

AUWCL transactional Law Dinner Final Report

Summary of Event:

Our Transactional Law Dinner was focused on first-year law students interested in careers in that field. Many students and practitioners have expressed concern that law school, being very litigation heavy, does not adequately prepare students to answer questions during interviews regarding interest in transactional fields, or even what those fields actually consist of for practice areas.

The dinner was designed as a combination of passed hors d'oeuvres and buffet style food, combined with an assortment of high top tables and seated locations for semi-informal conversation. We selected practitioners from firms, companies, and government agencies to provide as broad spectrum as possible for the opportunities available during, and upon completion of, law school. Additionally, the majority of practitioners were alums, so students were able to not just discuss interviews and work, but also which opportunities in law school proved most beneficial during the job hunt, and upon starting a new position.

We had over 100 students register, but only 65 were able to attend the evening of the event. Additionally, we had 28 practitioners (26 alumni) register, with 22 in attendance that evening. Our RSVPs were turned off after only four days due to the tremendous outpouring of interest. Next year we hope to increase our budget so that we can procure a larger venue, more food, and therefore accommodate even more practitioners and students.

Our final cost was: \$3,676.31; and we received \$1,000 from the first-year integrated curriculum program and our alumni office. Also, we received \$1,000 from Shearman & Sterling, and \$500 from

PricewaterhouseCoopers. Finally, we received \$250 from the ABA grant program, which allowed us to come in \$73.69 under-budget for this event.

We received a fair amount of feedback from students of all class years, as well as the practitioners, and hope to continue to improve upon the event. We would like to either expand the event to include more second and third year students, or divide into two separate events, to ensure first-years get adequate opportunity to discuss areas of practice, without risking conversation dominance by upper-class students with different needs and focuses. Also, we'd like to expand the venue, so we can invite even more alum, and non-alum, practitioners, to ensure we keep our ration at about 3:1 practitioner to students. We believe that this year's fantastic turnout will allow us to receive monetary sponsorship from additional firms and companies, so that we can expand it even further.

We're grateful for the ABA's sponsorship that allowed this event to succeed, while it was not an exorbitant amount of money, the grant got the ball rolling and ensure we did not have to trim our numbers down at further than 65 students.



First Annual Transactional Law Dinner

Sponsored by Transactional Law Society, Integrated Curriculum Program & Business Law Program

WHERE

American University
Washington College of Law
Capital Hall Atrium
4300 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

DATE & TIME

February 27, 2018
7:00 PM

Business Professional

Limited RSVPs Available
Student RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/y9l9ow7h>
Alumni RSVP to J. Chris White at chris.white@student.american.edu