

Evaluation and Summary of the “Networking for Success” event at Octave in Covington, hosted by the Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law chapter of the American Constitution Society, Fall 2018.

Submitted to: American Bar Association, Law School Division
Submitted by: Megan Smiddie, Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Highland Heights, KY

The American Constitution Society of Chase College of Law (ACS) was awarded a \$450.00 grant from the American Bar Association’s Law School Division to help fund its “Networking for Success” event on August 30, 2018 at Octave, an event space in Covington, Kentucky. The event included food and drinks, as well as small giveaways such as red, white, and blue pens and mini American flags. After welcoming the attendees and giving them a chance to eat, we encouraged the group to network with each other beginning with a few law-themed ice-breaker questions. We also gave the attorneys who were present a chance to introduce themselves to the group and answer any questions our students had on the importance of networking before reconvening in our small groups.

The goals of the networking event included: giving students the chance to practice their networking skills in a practical setting with real attorneys; to help answer any questions students might have about networking; to take away the pressures of networking by the introduction and discussions with the attorneys; and to discuss proper etiquette when food and drinks are involved in networking. The attorneys were able to give practical advice, and with a few having graduated from NKU, advice specifically for our fellow Chase students and the resources they can tap into. It was more than a panel discussion – students had the attention of the practicing attorneys and had the ability to have more one on one discussions with them after the introductions.

We were pleased with the turnout of thirty-one students and professionals for our networking event. The ice-breakers were well received, everyone participated in different group discussions, and we invited a diverse group of professionals that allowed students to explore different angles of their future legal careers. I believe we instilled in our fellow students that networking does not have to be a burden, it’s not always a planned event, and it’s never too earlier to start thinking about what to do after graduation.

Event Cost:	\$480.00
Requested Reimbursement:	\$450.00
Revenue Received:	\$0.00

Participant Feedback:

The ACS event provided me the opportunity to interact with fellow students and practitioners in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The discussion questions regarding criminal justice reform led to particularly interesting conversations that introduced me to various solutions to the growing problems with the present system. The portion of the evening that had the largest impact was the portion about the Constitutional Litigation Clinic. The eloquent speech about its impact on the public have resulted in my consideration of joining the Constitutional Litigation Clinic in the following year. Overall, I found that the event was personally beneficial for both personal and legal reasons and I am looking forward to future events.

- law student

As a 1L, I haven't quite found my place in the law school yet, but the networking event helped shed some light on things I might be interested in. I felt more comfortable approaching an attorney once they introduced themselves to the entire group; it gave me some topics to then bring up to them individually and I wasn't as anxious as I thought I would be. I also felt more comfortable knowing fellow students would be there, and I wasn't going in blind.

- law student

I am currently interning at one of the firms that participated in this event. I was encouraged to attend with a few people from the office and it turned out to be better than expected. The food was great, and the atmosphere was comfortable. There were a couple of different rooms people could walk to and from, and after we settled in, the event coordinators introduced themselves, the participating attorney's, and got conversations started with a tough ice-breaker question. I'm never comfortable at networking events, but this felt more personable. It also gave me a chance to catch up with other attorney's in my office outside of work and I was able to discuss my interning experience with fellow students as well.

- law student

Networking events are always beneficial for me, because I love spreading the word about what our office does and talking about the impacts we make in the community. I was once a student at Chase and I want to be able to show them that I am in the position I am because of what I learned at Chase and who I met through professors, clinics, and internships. Knowing people in the community where you want to work is always beneficial, and meeting people doesn't have to be this huge ordeal. I was happy to see students taking the initiative so early in their law school careers. Those are the students I want interning for me, and I hope they gained something from this experience. I had a lot of fun and I would not hesitate to continue this relationship with ACS in the future.

- practicing attorney

NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS



Thursday, August 30th
6pm-8pm
@ Octave
611 Madison Ave
Convington, Ky 41011

