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Tips From a Recent Graduate:

1. Work for Free or for a Lower Rate:

- While this may not work for everyone, I recommend finding a law-related job where you can gain experience while you are applying for better paying jobs. This might mean volunteering, clerking for an attorney or firm in a field you are interested in, etc.
- DEFER/FOREBEAR your student loans! Learn about the Income Based Repayment Plan.
- Talk about your current experience in your cover letters or interviews.

2. Attend Networking Events

- Join an organization to get your name out there, like the Washtenaw County Bar Association, and in particular the New Lawyers Section of the Washtenaw County Bar.

3. COVER LETTERS!

- Practice writing really good cover letters. These should NOT be generic. Take time to research the place you are applying and point out reasons why you would be a good fit for the firm. But don't use generic statements like "I'm hardworking." You have to give an example to the employer of how you are hardworking.
- Ex: If you are applying to a litigation firm:
"I believe that my past experiences conducting bench trials and motions for the Prosecutor's Office would give me the confidence to become a great litigator. Additionally, I have gained immense writing skills through my experience as an Editor on the Law Review, which would benefit me in conducting legal writing for your firm."
- A good cover letter can MAKE OR BREAK YOU!

4. Look for Jobs both ONLINE and Through Legal Newspapers

- Check the Detroit Legal News, ABA magazines, etc.
- Utilize your law school's career services website.
- Research firms you might be interested in on www.martindale.com
- Utilize Monster.com and CareerBuilder – even though they are not specifically legal job sites.
- Google! Just search jobs by googling the type of legal job and the area you are interesting in working in. Ex. Detroit Litigation Firm Jobs.
- For government jobs: www.usajobs.gov

5. Be you in interviews! Don't Try to Fake it.

- Apply to jobs where you know at least a small amount about the area of law. It is easier if you have worked doing family law during law school and then are applying for family law jobs. Pick a few areas to focus on. (This helps in writing your cover letters, too because you won't have to customize every single one.
- Don't pretend you know what you are talking about in interviews when you don't!

6. Don't Give Up!

- Expect to write a TON of cover letters, go on tons of interviews, and apply for hundreds of jobs in this economy.
- Utilize people you know – if you are volunteering or clerking, other attorneys might clue you in when they hear of job openings.
- Don't give up hope!