Want a Job?
You’re gonna need a plan.
OVERVIEW (think RRAAN)

- Reflect.
- Research.
- Apply.
- Add Value.
- Network.
REFLECT (and be practical)

- What do I want for my career?
  - Next Year? Five years from now?

- Where do I want to work?
  - City? Region?

- What kind of practice area? Employer?
Research

- Private sector?
  - Law firm? Big, medium, small/boutique?

- Timing?

- Accounting, consulting, or other professional firm?

- In house? Corporate or banking?
Research

- Federal government
  - Agencies and departments: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Securities and Exchange Commission; Commodity Futures Trade Commission; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and others!
  - Industry specific: Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Communications Commission; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and others!
  - Judicial: clerkships.
  - Hill: senators; committees; staff.
Research

- State and local government
  - Agencies and departments: state departments (e.g., Department of Transportation; Secretary of State).

- Attorney General's Office: antitrust; blue sky regulation; consumer protection.

- Legislature: state senate; state house; and committees.

- Judicial: clerkships.

- Municipal.
Research

- What grades do I need?

- Is any specific experience required?

- Are any specific courses required or encouraged?
The hiring cycle

- When are applications due?

- What are screening interviews? Call back interviews?

- What is the timing for hiring decisions?

- On Campus Interviews (OCI).

- Office of Career and Professional Development.
Add Value: pay attention to the details

- Follow the hiring cycle (off-cycle hiring is harder).

- Make your resume perfect. Get it reviewed by OCPD, professors, and mentors.

- Write a solid cover letter.

- Polish your writing sample and polish it more.
Add Value: coursework

- Coursework to get the skills employers value: writing, drafting, doing discovery, taking depositions, etc...

- Coursework to get the knowledge employers need: specialized courses like secured transactions, securities regulation, corporate finance, and tax.

- Coursework to show your interests: what are you willing to spend a few semesters specializing in?
Add Value: get experience

- Experiential learning
  - Clinical programs.
- Externship programs.
- Practicums.
Add Value: extracurricular activities

- Extra-curricular activities
  - Journal: writing; editing; teamwork; excellent work product.
Networking

- Faculty; other students (especially 2Ls/3Ls).

- Alumni (OCPD has lists of mentors – get one! Get more than one!!).

- Join organizations and get involved (e.g., ABA Business Law Section; Hispanic Bar Association).

- Volunteer to do work for committees.

- Build a reputation.
Networking: keep your ear to the ground and make use of contacts

- How do I make myself more marketable?
- What are the hot legal fields right now?
- Where are the jobs?
- Who is hiring?
...Keep at it.

- Getting a job is always hard, unless you're really lucky.
- There are no guarantees in life, but nothing pays off like hard work and discipline.