

## **PUBLIC SECTOR INTERVIEWING WITH CONFIDENCE:**

*Even if you have little to no public sector work experience!*

**The Big Secret?** Public interest employers want to feel that you have a deep understanding of our office, how hard our job can be, and still want to work for us. Remember this with every answer you give – even the hypothetical questions you may get.

**TIP #1:** **Review our website and focus on our mission and the language we use to explain our goals.** Know how the office is broken down into groups/units/zones/bureaus. Look for any information about our interview process, what we say about our work day, etc.

**TIP #2:** **If you work**

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**TIP #4: How to handle a hypothetical question**

r, **BUT** there are answers that are more in line with how we want our attorneys to process unexpected issues - show that you already think that way. **How do you do this?** Remember our mission, what makes our organization unique, and answer accordingly. Are we a progressive government office or a more hard lined office? For criminal defense/legal services offices, figuring out how to protect the client is key. **What if the interviewer pushes back on your answer?** Listen to see if they are trying to be helpful softball or if they are trying to check your ability to stand your ground.

**TIP #5: How to handle an impromptu opening/cross/closing**

**Know through research that the question is coming** and, if you have no experience, talk learn the format. **Practice in advance:** ideally with a friend who does mock trial or took trial advocacy. **Outline:** Make an outline of the most important things to address, organize them in the order you want, and check them off as you answer. **Hide your nerves:** We all have them, but try not to show them.

**TIP #6: How to handle a behavioral interview question**

**Go through your job history in advance of the interview and come up with examples of**

**Anticipate the topics:** Questions often involve time management, working well with others, and dealing with difficult people.

**When answering:** Think back through the examples you thought of in advance to find the one that is most applicable and puts you in a good light.

**General format of Answer:** Answer by explaining (1) the problem, (2) your goal, (3) your actions, and (4) the positive result.

**Additional Suggestions/Resources**

**Volunteer:** Even if you have not spent a summer or semester in a particular office, look into whether you can

in the courtroom. These experiences will add to your ability to persuade us that you want to work in our field.

**Online Resources:** From Harvard Law School - Information about the kinds of questions you may get, including general questions, hypothetical questions, and behavioral interview questions -

<https://hls.harvard.edu/dept/opia/job-search-toolkit/interviewing-and-following-up/questions-you-should-be-prepared-to-answer/#hlsnav-overview>

Hypothetical and Other Unique

Vikan and Jory Fisher - <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Crim-Hypos.pdf>

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