



2026 Palm Beach County Bar Association Bench Bar Conference
March 6, 2026

Young Lawyers Session

Building Your Playbook: Pro Moves for New Lawyers and Legal Entrepreneurs
Time: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

This 60-minute session will focus on transitioning into the practice of law, developing your skills and reputation, and positioning yourself for long-term success

Panelists: Monica Ishak, Esq., Paul Aloise, Esq., Hon. Lourdes Casanova, Hon. Scott Kerner

Session Moderators: Dora Haque and Halley Lewis

1. Welcome and Introduction of Panelists
2. Welcome To the Show: Transitioning into the Practice of Law
 - a. Transition from Law School to Lawyer
 - i. How to Identify Your Strengths and Passions
 - ii. How to Gain Exposure to Different Fields Early On
 - b. Mental Health
 - i. Achieving Work-Life Balance as a New Attorney
 - ii. Making Time for Yourself: Hobbies, Travel, and Social Life
 - iii. Wellness Matters: Supporting Your Physical and Mental Health
 - c. Overcoming the Fear of Failure
 - i. How to Help Young Attorneys Not Be Afraid to Make Decisions
3. Training For Greatness: Building Your Reputation and Skills
 - a. How to Get Comfortable in the Courtroom (without going to the SAO/PD)
 - i. Watching Trials, Public Speaking Engagements, etc.
 - b. Seeking Mentorship from Seasoned Attorneys
 - i. How to Receive and Ask for Feedback
 - c. Building Professional Relationships
 - i. Alternatives Following the Loss of In-Person Court Days
 - ii. Networking Without Feeling Fake
 - iii. Communicating with OC: Emails v. Calls
4. Building Your Franchise: Branding, Clients, and Long-Game Strategy
 - a. Overcoming the Fear of Change
 - i. Steps to Take Before Branching Out / Identifying the Market
 - b. How to Know When the Time is Right
 - i. Balancing the Desire for Change vs. Financial/Life/Family Situation
 - c. Exiting on Good Terms
 - i. Tips for Maintaining Good Relationships with Former Employers
 - ii. Importance of Civility
 - d. Generating Business Without a \$10,000,000 Marketing Budget
 - i. Podcasts, Social Media, and Other Alternatives to Traditional Marketing
 - ii. Using Modern Technology to Help Build a Business Plan
5. Q&A