



*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