

WHAT TO WEAR

SUGGESTIONS FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN:

- The interview suit should be classic. If your outfit is “the latest style” or trendy, it is probably not ideal for the interview. Aim for attire that is in style now, would have been in style two years ago, and will still be in style two years from now. You want to look professional.
- Suits and blouses/shirts should fit you well, not too tight or too loose.
- Be sure the outfit looks good and is comfortable when you are standing, walking, and sitting.
- You should not need to “fuss with” or adjust any part of your attire after you enter the interview room.
- Shoes should be of good quality, in good repair (no run over heels or worn out soles), and shined.
- Avoid any perfume, aftershave, or other scents (many people are allergic to these).
- No piercings other than ears (men generally remove earrings as well); if possible, no visible tattoos.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR MEN:

- Conservative, traditional suit, preferably gray, black or blue; single, not double-breasted.
- Black shoes, wingtips or plain toed leather; not loafers; not rubber soles. Black socks.
- Traditional shirt, white or light blue, button down or plain spread collar; no contrasting or unusual collar; no monochrome dark shirt and tie.
- Conservative, traditional ties (e.g., red, navy blue, or maroon with very small pattern; red and navy diagonal stripes, etc. – nothing shiny); tie should end near your belt buckle.
- Simple, clean, short haircut.
- Safer to avoid beards or mustaches if possible – if not, then make sure they are well groomed.
- Do not wear visible jewelry other than a plain watch and/or ring.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR WOMEN:

- Conservative traditional suit, preferably black, light gray, charcoal, or navy blue. Not pastel.
- Suit should be single breasted and should not have ruffles, rhinestone buttons or other trim which can be found on dressier type suits.
- Jacket should have full-length sleeves, no matter how warm the weather.
- Skirt suits or tailored pant suits are acceptable. Skirts can be straight, pleated, or A-line; length no more than an inch or two inch above the knee, preferably at or slightly above the knee. Avoid high slits. **CHECK APPEARANCE OF THE SKIRT WHEN SEATED.**
- Classic blouse – collared shirt or round high neckline, preferably in white or light color. Do not wear a camisole. **Avoid wearing anything even slightly low cut.**
- Conservative shoes, preferably black or navy blue classic pumps, with medium to low heels – make sure you are able to walk in them; no open toed shoes and avoid sling backs.

- Jewelry (if any) should be simple and minimal; no large dangling earrings. Choose simple shapes in gold, silver, or pearl; no rhinestones or sparkles. Avoid most bracelets. If in doubt, wear less.
- No “big hair” or complex styles; have a simple hairstyle; very long hair should be pulled back.
- Make-up should be conservative – avoid shimmery and bright colors.
- **Attractive does not equate to sexy in the legal world.** You want to be treated like a professional, not a date; you must look professional and not like you are going out for a night on the town. (This is true even if you are going to a law firm cocktail party.)

BUSINESS CASUAL FOR MEN AND WOMEN:

Even if a firm’s regular everyday dress is business casual, you should not wear that to an interview at the firm. Dress in business attire as above. But the following applies if you are specifically told to wear business casual attire to a function or during a summer clerkship.

For Men:

- Wear gray slacks or nice khaki slacks.
- Wear a dress shirt without a tie and with the top button unbuttoned. Wear a long sleeved shirt, but roll the sleeves up a notch or two.
- A navy blue blazer is a possibility, especially if you are unsure whether you should be dressed more formally. E.g., If you are invited to “stop in” and talk to a lawyer you know and he/she mentions that their office is “business casual.” (If that is not mentioned, don’t ask – and wear business attire as above, even though it is “not an interview.”)
- Wear loafers or dress shoes; no athletic shoes or clogs.
- Business casual on the job may be as casual as a collared golf shirt, but not less than that.

For Women:

- Wear nice slacks or skirt (not short).
- Wear a nice blouse or sweater set. A blazer or jacket is fine; still stay away from anything that is shiny or trendy.
- Wear shoes with closed toes and heels – flats or relatively low heels.

For Everyone – Remember that the operative word is still “business” rather than “casual.”

No denim for either men or women. No flip-flops or sandals.

If you are hired, err on the side of formality at first; then watch what others wear. Do not follow the lead of the most fashionable people in the office. Do not decide that because one lawyer “gets away with” wearing certain things, you should do the same. Dress in keeping with what most of the lawyers wear. For women, remember to dress like the female lawyers, not the paralegals, secretaries, or runners. If all the other lawyers are men, dress in a way that fits in with their style (more or less formal, more or less conservative, depending on the office).