

ORAL PRESENTATION TOPIC IDEAS

Solo and Small Firm Externship Seminar

Student law firms may choose their own topic for an oral presentation, or may elect to present on one of the topics listed below. In considering topics, also think about expanding on a syllabus subject you think demands more attention. The first firm to claim a topic gets priority.

1. Starting your own firm—how to build a business plan
2. Law firm website design and disclaimers—avoiding ethical issues while enhancing the brand
3. Demonstration of law firm management or operational software
4. Location, location, location—options for office space, including leasing, owning, sharing, working from home
5. Changing fee structures in SSF practice
6. Free and low-cost online legal research resources
7. Lexis, Westlaw, and Bloomberg: how much do they really cost and how to price-shop
8. Smartphone apps every lawyer should have
9. Virtual tour of the local courthouse
10. The best CLE providers for SSF practitioners
11. Law blogs every SSF practitioner should follow
12. Legal documents and forms: resources for the SSF
13. Social media and law practice
14. What makes a successful law firm associate and what are the criteria for making partner?
15. Ethical issues facing law firm associates
16. Changes in the bar exam or bar admissions
17. The Character and Fitness process for bar applicants in New York State
18. Ethics complaint process in New York State
19. Professionalism and emotion in serving individual clients
20. The Life of a . . . (e.g., family lawyer, employment lawyer, personal injury lawyer, estate-planning lawyer)
21. The small firm lawyer in popular culture—combatting the stereotypes and misinformation
22. Outlets and opportunities for pro bono service as a SSF practitioner
23. eLawyering—developments in the delivery of legal services on-line
24. Multi-disciplinary practice—partnering with accountants, social workers, other professions
25. The Washington State experiment: limited license legal technicians