

What have you been doing during the pandemic? Think of it as our own “Humans of the WCBA”.



*A Dialogue between
Law Student Jennifer Fineman (left) and
Attorney Marianne Hoffman (right)
on September 23, 2020*

Fineman: How did you get started with your legal career?

Hoffman: I worked with Cambodian refugees in Oakland, California after college. I then attended law school at the University of Pennsylvania. After law school, I clerked for the Connecticut Appellate Court and then worked for FEMA in the general counsel’s office. I then entered private practice as a litigator doing civil litigation, in particular securities and anti-trust. I had always wanted to work with families and had done extensive pro bono work in that area. In 2002 I began practicing exclusively family law. I believe having a civil litigation background and having been exposed to many areas of law has been a great benefit.

Fineman: Do you recommend big or small firms for a law student like myself interested in working in matrimonial law?

Hoffman: If you have the opportunity to work in a large firm that has a family law practice, it can be a good experience. Especially if the firm has multiple areas of practice and you have the opportunity to work in a few areas. Matrimonial law can encompass many areas (Trust & Estates, Tax, Corporate, Administrative) and it is beneficial to have knowledge in those areas to better understand a case. The benefits of working with a small firm, or a solo, is that you may be able to be much more involved in every aspect of a case.

Fineman: What is your biggest piece of advice you would give to a law student?

Hoffman: Network and gain experience. The more people you network with the better. During Covid-19, that could be joining a mentor mentee program and talking with attorneys in the field over Zoom or the phone. You never know who might be able to help you in the long run when it comes to securing jobs and helping you build job connections. It is important to get practical experience in the field, through clinics and pro bono programs, so you can learn how to become the best possible attorney you can be. I also recommend checking out the different bar associations (local, state and national) and finding out about any programs they have for law students or for new graduates.

Pace University’s Elisabeth Haub School of Law Now Offers a Part-Time Flex Program



Pace University’s Elisabeth Haub School of Law offers a part-time flex program, making the Law School more accessible to working professionals and others.

The new scheduling option allows part-time law students to take all of their required classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, as well as on Saturday mornings. “By now offering required courses on evenings and weekends, we are expanding ac-

cess to legal education and providing rigorous academics and training to those who are working professionals or have other daytime responsibilities,” said Dean Horace Anderson. Students can learn more about the part-time program at: <https://www.law.pace.edu/admissions-aid/flex-jd-scheduling-option>.

