

## Tips - Dressing for the Legal Profession

You will want to dress professionally for many activities or employment settings in the legal profession including job interviews, courtroom appearances, law firms and client meetings. Dressing professional does not mean that you have to hide your identity. Regardless of your gender identity or gender expression, gender-neutral clothing is appropriate for anyone to wear.

Most career counselors and legal recruiters say that dressing conservatively is the safest route. Some employers make a subconscious hiring decision within seconds of meeting a candidate and spend the rest of the interview validating their initial impression. If in doubt, research the norm for a company, organization, or firm – if you can, go there and see what they wear or ask someone. Dress the best you are ever going to look in the job you want in that company.

Below are some items of gender-neutral clothing that would qualify as **Professional Dress**:

- Suit (slacks or skirt).
- A Button Shirt, crew neck shirt or blouse.
- A suit with a shirt collar (for those who normally wear ties).
- A tie (for those who normally wear ties).
- Close-toed shoes.
- Suits should be in neutral colors such as grey, navy, blue, brown, black, taupe or beige.

Below are some items of gender-neutral clothing that would qualify as **Business Casual – for less formal events**:

- Pants and a long-sleeved dress shirt.
- Pants = khakis, cotton trousers, wool trousers, dress slacks. This is a non-exhaustive list.
- A suit with the shirt collar open, no tie (for those who normally wear ties).
- Pants and a dress shirt underneath a sweater.
- A sport coat/blazer and non-matching pant or skirt.
- A skirt (hemline should hit knees or longer) and a dress blouse.
- Skirt = A-line, circle, pencil. Also, a non-exhaustive list.
- A skirt (hemline should hit knees or longer) and a sweater set.
- Sweater set = knit shell and cardigan with matching pattern or color.
- A casual dress with sleeves [any length], and hem line knees or longer.
- Dress = wrap dress, shirt dress., sheath, or shift. Also, a non-exhaustive list.

Here are some things that generally fall outside of the business casual category:

- Tennis shoes
- Open-toed sandals
- T-shirts
- Crop tops
- Sleeveless shirts
- Jeans
- Leggings
- Baseball hats

Other general guidance:

- Clothes should not be too large, small, tight, or baggy.
- In addition to fitting properly, clothing should be clean and wrinkle-free.
- When in doubt, dress in neutral colors including taupe, beige, brown, blue, and gray.
- It is also appropriate to dress more colorfully, but it should be done in a tasteful way.
- Jewelry should be minimal and tasteful.
- Hair should be neat and professional.

If you have any questions, contact your career counselor, or contact the Career and Professional Development office at: [Careers@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:Careers@mitchellhamline.edu) (651) 290-6326