

Career Planning Worksheet

Fuzzy Idea	Experiments to Try	New Connections to Make	Reasons It Makes Sense
What am I interested in exploring? Alternative career? Area of legal practice? Working in a private firm? Starting my own practice? New way to volunteer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer • Take a class • Serve on a committee • Read a book/magazine • Do pro bono work • Take contract/temp job • Find a part-time job • Try consulting/freelance work • Attend conferences • Just start doing it somehow! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network • Do informational interviews • Talk to recruiters • Job shadowing • Talk to professors • Hang out with people already working in the field • Find a mentor or role model • Join associations, groups, and clubs where role models are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds something that was missing • Next step of progression • Chance to learn and grow • Something I've always been curious about but haven't tried yet • Ends the current drain of "X" • Will give me a chance to express my core values
Example: Working in environmental law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Internet sites about environmental law and identify firms in Minnesota with this focus. Pick my top 5-10 list for clerking. • See if there are magazines, newsletters, journals or professional groups I can join to learn more about environmental law. • Do a research paper for a class in this area to gain a greater understanding of issues. • Take an elective class in the area of environmental law. • Apply for a summer job or internship with the Dept. of Natural Resources, EPA or MN Environmental Advocates. • Check the job books and online job links in the Career Development Office to apply for clerkships. • Take CLEs related to environmental law. • Send resumes to targeted organizations to ask about clerkships. Follow up with a phone call. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do informational interview with five attorneys in different firms, businesses, or with government agencies that deal with environmental law issues. Get referrals from them. • Ask if I can job shadow an attorney in a firm for a day. • Volunteer to be on a committee with a professional association with environmental law issues as a central focus. • Talk to parents, friends, professors and classmates to see if they have any connections with firms or individuals or have suggestions. • Sign up for an alumni mentor who practices in this area. • Read articles from journals on the area and contact the writer of an article to learn more and get other referrals/contacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It allows me to focus on an area of law that I feel passionate about. • Clerking with any firm or organization will give me practical experience needed to be an effective lawyer. • This is an opportunity to explore whether environmental law is the area for me. • A chance to also explore the type of setting I want to work in.

Fuzzy Idea What would I like to explore further?	Experiments to Try How can I actually try it out?	New Connections to Make Who can I talk to that is already doing it? Where can I hang out with them?	Reasons It Makes Sense How would I explain why this makes sense in light of what I used to do?
Idea #1			
Idea #2			

(Modified from worksheet by Kathie Kosharek and Amy Olmscheid) Based on concepts from Herminia Ibarra's book, Working Identity-Unconventional Strategies for Reinventing Your Career, 2003

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