



## First-Gen Attorneys at Winston Share Their Advice for Navigating a Legal Career

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Two associates, one partner, and the firm's chairman recently shared their personal experiences being the first lawyer in their families and offered their advice for thriving as a first-generation member of the legal profession. They also discussed how other members of the firm can actively support their first-gen colleagues. The panel was sponsored by the firm's First-Gen Professional Network.



*Left to right: New York Associate Precious Nwankwo, Winston & Strawn Chairman Steve D'Amore, Houston Associate Juan Yaquian, and Chicago Partner Alessandra Swanson.*

First-generation attorneys frequently face daunting economic, educational, and cultural hurdles as they begin their careers in the legal field. Winston's "Thriving as a First-Generation Lawyer" panel discussion helped to bridge the gap in generational knowledge.

The panelists spoke about being unfamiliar with a corporate environment and often feeling unsure about how to navigate their new surroundings. Among other things, their advice was to leverage the power of observation and have the courage to ask questions. One panel participant noted they would ask more senior associates for advice on navigating the personalities and work styles of different partners—which is great advice for any new associate.

The first-gen panelists also extolled the importance of mentors and building relationships. They recommended finding a mentor and using them as a bridge from where you are to where you want to go. And then, of course, you need to serve as a mentor for others.

Finally, the panelists offered this advice for colleagues wishing to support first-gen attorneys: be open-minded about new associates and reserve judgment; maybe a new associate is intimidated and not disinterested.

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Precious Nwankwo



Steve D'Amore



Juan C. Yaquian



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