

# Texas Tech University School of Law: Networking is Key



On Monday, September 26, 2011, the International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas completed its first law student outreach presentation of the year to an audience of more than 35 law students at Texas Tech University School of Law. Chair George Humphrey of Andrews Kurth ran the program on behalf of the Section in Lubbock, as presenters participated by videoconference from Vinson & Elkins' office in Houston and Haynes and Boone's offices in Dallas. Webb Spradley of Haynes and Boone, whose own career has had him working across many different industries from international stage lighting to setting up hospitals in Latin America, told the students to be prepared to have many different jobs over the course of their careers. A key to navigating such change, he said, was to develop a strong network that could help you find the next opportunity.

Robin Palmer, GC of Daniel Industries, then talked about her career first at Weatherford and then at Daniel Industries. She said she benefitted from a mentor who helped her develop strong legal skills and a keen sense of ethics. Today, she said, innovation is crucial for a company's success, which means lawyers should understand about intellectual property, since this is how businesses capitalize on their innovation. Mark Brasher of Vinson & Elkins talked about his move from Australia, where he obtained his law degree, to Texas, where he obtained an LLM from the University of Texas and was hired by Vinson & Elkins. His practice, he said, has evolved from international arbitration to energy transactions, and he also seconded the importance of networking to create a platform to help find job opportunities. Lucy Greenwood, an English lawyer and Foreign Legal Consultant with Fulbright & Jaworski, advised students that it wasn't as important to start in international law right out of law school, as it was to get quality, broad training in the law and specialize later once your skills have been developed. She also suggested that U.S. law students might explore obtaining a three-month internship with an English law firm. Lastly, Yulija Marcer, counsel at Nabors Industries, said that, when hiring, companies like hers look for candidates with good grades in their law school coursework and who generally have had several or more years experience at well regarded law firms.

Jonathan Sarager of Texas Tech's International Law Society and International Law Professor Jorge Ramirez were instrumental in sponsoring and helping set up this event.