

Subject: My Advise to Young Lawyers

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To: "Eugene Meehan Q.C." <emeehan@supremeadvocacy.ca>

I'll bet you have quite a collection in response to your 'last word' question.

A - 40 years.

Advice

1. Charm is a manipulative technique used by clever people who want to evade the heavy lifting.
2. Running a litigation practice is a dirty business. If you don't take a bath every once in a while, you can't stay clean.
3. If you do great job on a difficult case someone else will claim the credit. Suck it up.
4. If you find that your most important contribution to a file is spelling, grammar and pagination, leave the office early, find an abandoned dumpster and slit your wrists with a #7 box cutter. But make sure your will is up-to-date and properly witnessed.
5. If most of your friends are lawyers, get a therapist. If all of your friends are lawyers, find the dumpster.
6. Charter litigation was invented to keep idealistic lawyers off the barricades.
7. If there aren't at least some people who think you are an unreasonable s.o.b., you are not doing your job.
8. Some guy said that it's easier for a rich man to pass through the eye of a needle than to get into heaven. If you are making serious money as a lawyer, you will roast in hell.
9. Dumping a worthy client because they can't pay is contemptible. If you find yourself forced to it, your organizational skills are seriously deficient.
10. If you find yourself telling people with a straight face that the legal system is a just system for the poor, go looking for that dumpster. Be prepared – it might be full.

Regards

Charles Campbell