

Your Real Lawyering System Self-Assessment Worksheet

What factors in your history, education, training, or experience led you to be a lawyer? For example, did family experiences, educational experiences, teachers, role models, events, or other things motivate you to become a lawyer?

What personal values and goals affect the way you practice?

What tangible and intangible benefits do you get out of lawyering?

What kinds of cases do you handle most often?

Who are typical parties in your cases?

What are common patterns of conflict between parties? For example, do the parties have prior relationships, have they negotiated unsuccessfully, what are common barriers to agreement, or are there other common patterns in your cases?

What are common patterns of parties' interests and positions? For example, are your parties particularly interested in handling matters fairly and/or efficiently, maximizing compensation or minimizing liability, receiving acknowledgment or apologies, getting vindication, gaining power, closure, or other interests?

What external factors affect your cases? For example, do market considerations, practice culture, organizational policies, ethical rules, or other factors significantly affect your approach?

How do you prepare yourself for important processes in your cases? For example, if you litigate, how do you prepare to work with clients, conduct discovery, engage in motion practice, negotiate with counterparts, prepare for trial, and try cases?

How do you prepare your clients for key actions in your cases? For example, how do you prepare clients for depositions, negotiation, mediation, and trial?

What are your routine procedures?

What are common challenging problems in your cases?

What are your strategies for dealing with these problems?

How has your lawyering evolved since you started?

Do you regularly consider what you can learn from your cases?

How can you improve your system and performance in future cases?

Are you a member of a reflective practice group?

Did this self-assessment stimulate other insights about your system?