

AHLA Early Career Guide

Making the Most of Your Membership and Connections

Conferences offer unmatched opportunities to expand your professional network, deepen your understanding of health law, and accelerate your career development. This guide provides practical strategies to maximize your conference experience and build meaningful connections within AHLA's community.

Networking Tips: Before, During, and After Meeting a New Connection

BEFORE THE EVENT OR MEETING

- Research attendees and speakers to identify professionals whose work aligns with your interests
- Set 2–3 personal networking goals (e.g., connect with someone in your target practice area)
- Prepare a concise personal introduction that highlights your background and interests

DURING THE EVENT OR MEETING

- Introduce yourself to at least 2–3 new people at each networking opportunity
- Ask thoughtful questions about their work and listen actively to their responses
- Exchange contact information or connect on LinkedIn

AFTER THE EVENT OR MEETING

- Follow up with new contacts within 48 hours while the conversation remains fresh
- Stay in touch periodically by sharing relevant articles or commenting on their posts
- Track your connections to maintain intentional follow-up

Making the Most of AHLA Conferences

BEFORE YOU GO

- Review the agenda carefully and plan your schedule to attend priority sessions
- Reach out to mentors and peers attending to coordinate meeting times
- Update your LinkedIn profile and ensure you have business cards (physical or digital)

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

- Attend networking events and receptions to meet professionals in relaxed settings
- Engage fully in sessions by taking notes and asking thoughtful questions
- Collect contact information from moderators and presenters whose sessions resonate with you

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- Post a reflection or professional update on LinkedIn summarizing key takeaways
- Apply what you learned immediately in your work, studies, or research
- Follow up with all new contacts to maintain momentum from your in-person conversations

(More Tips and Checklist on Page 2)

Maximizing Your AHLA Membership

Your AHLA membership provides extensive resources designed to support your professional development. Take full advantage of these offerings to advance your health law knowledge and career:

- Explore **AHLA's online resources, publications, and Health Law Network** communities
- Sign up for **AHLA's Mentoring Program** to connect with experienced practitioners
- Join **Practice Groups** that align with your specific interests and career goals
- Attend **Early Career Professionals Council** networking events (in-person and virtual)
- Join the **Early Career Professionals and Students** online community in the Health Law Network
- Visit AHLA's **online Career Center** for job postings and career development resources
- **Stay engaged by volunteering** as an author, speaker, ambassador, or committee member

✓ AHLA Engagement Checklist for Students & Early Career Professionals

- ☐ Sign up for AHLA Membership (Free for Students!)
- ☐ Join at least one Practice Group relevant to your interests
- ☐ Enroll in the AHLA Mentoring Program (as a mentee, mentor, or both, if eligible)
- ☐ Attend an AHLA Conference or Virtual Event
- ☐ Participate in Early Career Professional Council (ECPC) events
- ☐ Write or contribute to an AHLA publication or post in the Health Law Network
- ☐ Connect with at least five new professionals this year
- ☐ Follow up with all new contacts within 48 hours
- ☐ Post at least one professional update on LinkedIn related to AHLA
- ☐ Explore AHLA's Career Center and educational resources
- ☐ Volunteer for an AHLA or ECPC opportunity