

Developing legal skills checklist

File Diversification

- The first few years of practice involve exposure to as many different areas of the law as possible.
- Learn as much as you can, take on as much responsibility as you are comfortable with.
- Become a sponge and soak up as much knowledge and experience as possible.
- Work with as many partners as you can and in difference practice areas to gain the maximum diversity in file experience.

Narrow the Focus

- Years 3-4, start to think about what areas of law interest you.
- There are so many possibilities in law, pick one or a few.
- What kind of lawyer do you want to be? Litigator, Solicitor, “Solistigator”, Specialist, Generalist, etc.
- Start taking steps to learn as much about those areas as you possibly can. Learn the “jargon”, learn about the industry.
- Also connect with the practice group leader and let them know that you are interested in their area of law.
- You way want to approach other more senior lawyers who are doing the work you want to gain experience in as well.
- The more people who can offer you potential work the better.

Choosing your CLE's

- Talk to people - go to junior partners in your practice area at the firm and ask them what they found most valuable in CLE programming.
- There are certain “must-do” CLE courses – for litigators in Vancouver, there is a “Winning Advocacy Skills” 2 day workshop, sign up for these.
- Be proactive