Law students study extremely hard. And with their heads buried in textbooks, it can be easy to lose sight of what they’re working toward. That’s why Nick Weil, JD ’05, says the Dean’s Roundtables, at which School of Law alumni and friends share career advice with students over lunch, have been so beneficial.

“The roundtables have had a huge impact on my work ethic,” says Weil, who attended all the roundtables his third year. “The presenters not only underscore that hard work pays off 10 years down the road, but also give advice as to the immediate steps students can take toward their career goals.”

Lipson gives this advice to students: “If there is an area of law, say environmental law, or a particular industry that you’re interested in, consume all the information that you can on that area or industry. You need to differentiate yourself, know what you want, and be aggressive in pursuing your dreams.”

This past academic year Lipson’s presentation and the rest of the Dean’s Roundtables were organized by the Career Services Office under the direction of Mark Smith, then the associate dean for student services and now associate dean for student affairs.

Alumnus Steven Miller fields questions from students about his career path.

Dean’s Roundtables

by Brendan Watson

University Professor, continues the tradition of “alumni sharing valuable career insights.”

This past year six alumni and two friends of the School of Law participated in six Dean’s Roundtables.

“The practice of law in the real world is often very different from how it is presented in the classroom setting. I wanted students to get a realistic impression of what it is like to be a lawyer,” says Kevin Lipson, JD ’80, a partner in Hogan & Hartson LLP in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in energy practice.

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“The roundtables are an opportunity for alums to give students very practical advice about careers, the practice of law, balancing family and work, and many other issues,” Smith says. “Students learn that there is not just one way to do things or just one way to shape a career. There are many opportunities available to our graduates.”

Approximately 25 students attend each roundtable. ◆

2003–04 Roundtable Presenters

September 12, 2003

Richard Rothman, JD ’77, Member, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, New York

Melissa Salten Rothman, Executive Director, New York City Cultural Affairs Commission

February 16, 2004

Andrea Grant, AB ’71, JD ’74, Partner, Piper Rudnick LLP, Washington, D.C.

Kevin Lipson, JD ’80, Partner, Hogan & Hartson LLP, Washington, D.C.

March 1, 2004

Steven Miller, AB ’75, JD ’79, Partner, Sachnoff & Weaver Ltd., Chicago

March 25, 2004

Ann Covington, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Missouri; Partner, Bryan Cave, St. Louis

March 26, 2004

Monica Thompson, JD ’81, Partner, Piper Rudnick LLP, Chicago

April 16, 2004

Virginia Morsey Wheeler Talley, AB ’42, JD ’42, Retired attorney who formerly worked for the Rural Electrification Administration, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and World Bank

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