CAREER TIP: GREAT THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU ARE JOB-SEARCHING

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The fact is, it is very difficult if not impossible to actively job-search all day every day while you are waiting for your career boat to arrive. Searching job listings online, customizing and sending in resumes, and going to networking events are necessary but potentially exhausting activities. Here are a few ideas for other activities which break up the job search grind and can help your job search.

1. **Strategic Volunteering.** Donate your time and expertise (legal and non-legal) to a good cause. Try to locate or create projects that help give you good experience and build your resume. The State Bar’s Volunteer Legal Services Program connects lawyers with volunteer opportunities and there are other many volunteer-matching organizations and opportunities you can create for yourself.

2. **Temporary and Contract Work.** Contract work keeps you busy, brings in some income and may even allow you to expand your legal expertise. Special Counsel, Robert Half Legal and ___ are among the best-known sources for temporary legal work, and there are many other companies which provide like services. Some alternative or “virtual” law firms employ experienced lawyers on a contract or project basis.

3. **Build Your Skills and Knowledge.** Take classes, write articles, or blog – these are all ways to sharpen your writing and other skills, deepen your knowledge of areas of law (or outside of law), have social contact and intellectual stimulation, and network.

4. **Self-assessment.** Reality dictates that most people can not stop working or looking for work while they figure out what they want to do when they grow up. Meanwhile however you can address a gap in most of our legal education – take some time to figure out what you ultimately want to be doing. There are numerous career assessment tools available in books or on websites, and there can be a lot of value in just spending some time constructively brainstorming with other lawyers and professionals. It may sound cheesy or unconventional, but developing a personal mission statement/career objective and a long-term plan can be a huge help in finding or creating that dream job. Having a vision for your career also can help with accepting the less glamorous work you may have to do while locating or creating that position.

**Related articles and resources:**

- Lawyer for Hire: Freelance Contractors Change the Marketplace, by Hannah Hayes
- List of Legal Temporary Agencies