

# ELW Interview Attire: Polishing Your Look

---

Career Development Office  
University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

# Why Should I Read This?

Because . . .

- You want to look **polished and professional** for EIW.
- If you haven't reviewed the Shopping Basics Guide, please do so before continuing.

**NOTE:** Law is still a conservative industry so the advice tends to be conservative.

# Be Prepared: Clothing

At least a week before EIW:

**Select** the interview suit (or two) you will be wearing for EIW.

**Try on** your full interview outfit including shoes and accessories.

**Dry clean and tailor** your suit(s), if needed. Make sure you have them back before EIW begins.

**Have a spare.**

- Have at least two shirts/tops to wear during EIW in case you spill something.
- Have a spare set of pantyhose in case you get a run. (optional)

# Be Prepared: Accessories

Select what accessories you will be wearing or using during EIW so you don't need to worry about making the decision the morning of your interviews.

- Review the Shopping Basics Guide for information on **ties, belts, socks, shoes, watches and jewelry**.
- If you plan to use a **padfolio or folder** for interviews, make sure application materials fit and can come out easily.
- Practice taking application materials as well as other items (e.g. a pen) in and out of your **tote or briefcase**, if you plan to use one, so you're not struggling with it during an interview.
- **Phones should be OFF -- not silent -- and out of sight during interviews.**

# Grooming: Hair

Hair should be **clean** and **neat**.

Schedule a haircut now if you need one. Avoid getting a completely new haircut or style right before EIW.

If hair will be in your face, pull it back with an elastic tie that matches your hair color, if possible.

Avoid scrunchies, butterfly clips and high ponytails.

Religious and culturally based head coverings and hairstyles are appropriate.

# Grooming: Scent

Interviewers will be spending their day in a small room and even subtle scents can quickly become overwhelming.

- Avoid colognes and perfumes.
- Avoid scented aftershave and lotions.
- If you are a smoker, consider how you can avoid or minimize smelling like cigarette smoke.

# Grooming: Facial Hair

If you normally shave your face, plan to shave daily during EIW.

If you have a mustache, goatee or beard, make sure they are **neatly groomed**.

# Grooming: Makeup

Makeup is **not** required.

- If you use it, go for a **natural daytime look** rather than a dramatic evening look.
- If you have **visible tattoos** that you don't want to have seen during an interview, consider full coverage tattoo cover up makeup.



# Grooming: Nails

Nails should be **clean**.

- **Trim and/or file nails** if they are overly long or jagged.
- If you want to wear nail polish,
  - Select a **clear or neutral color**.
  - Avoid bold or very dark colored polish.
  - Avoid long acrylics and nail designs.
  - Old or chipped polish should be removed.

# Grooming: Hygiene

**Know yourself.**

**Shower.**

- Use deodorant or antiperspirant, if needed.

Avoid foods or drinks that may leave you with **bad breath**. You may want to avoid tobacco for the same reason.

- Use breath mints as needed.

## Need Help?

If you have any questions, please **reach out to a Private Sector attorney-counselor**. We'd be happy to help you!