

EIW Interview Attire: Shopping Basics

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Why Should I Read This?

Because . . .

- You want to know what will be expected by employers at EIW and callbacks.
- You want to learn common attire-related vocabulary.
- You want some tips for suit buying.

NOTE: Law is still a conservative industry so the attire advice is also conservative.

Interview Attire

Standard attire for law firm interviews is **business formal**.

- This is the **most strict and conservative** work place attire.
- Your goals should be to look **polished and professional** -- not unique, cute, memorable or trendy.
- Your interviewer should remember you for your personality and answers to questions -- not your attire.

What to Wear [1]: Suits Sold In a “Men’s” Dept.

A **suit jacket** and **suit pants** that match in fabric and color.

A **button-up, straight-collared, long-sleeve shirt** in white.

A **tie** that extends to your belt. Avoid unconventional patterns, fabrics and colors.

A **belt** in black or brown.

Dark socks.

Loafers or **Oxfords** with **non-rubber soles** in black or brown.

Did you know?

A **button-up shirt** is a shirt that buttons all the way up the front of the shirt. This is also referred to as a button-front shirt.

A **button-down shirt** is a shirt with two buttons that connect the collar to the shirt. This is in contrast to a straight-collared shirt.

What to Wear [2]: Suits Sold In a “Women’s” Dept.

A **suit jacket** and a **knee-length suit skirt** that matches in fabric and color.

A **button-up, straight-collared shirt** in white, a **blouse** in a light color or simple pattern, OR a **shell** in a light color or simple pattern.

Closed-toe heels (low to moderate) or flats in a dark color.

Pantyhose in a solid nude or dark color. (optional)



What to Wear [3]: Suits Sold in a “Women’s” Dept.

A **suit jacket** and **suit pants** that match in fabric and color.

A **button-up, straight-collared shirt** in white, a **blouse** in a light color or simple pattern, OR a **shell** in a light color or simple pattern.

Closed-toe heels (low to moderate) or flats in a dark color.

Pantyhose in a solid nude or dark color (optional).

This is a
straight
collar.



What to Wear [4]: Suits Sold in a “Women’s” Dept.

A **suit jacket** plus a **knee-length sheath dress** that matches in fabric and color.

A sheath dress is essentially a tank dress in suiting fabric.

It consists of a simple cut that fits close to the body.

This is the only appropriate dress for an interview.

Closed-toe heels (low or moderate) or flats in a dark color.

Pantyhose in a solid nude or dark color. (optional)



More Information on Suits

A dark-colored suit in **black, charcoal gray, or navy blue** is standard.

A suit in a **solid color** is more versatile and cost-effective than a suit with a pattern.

Select a **single-breasted suit** (i.e. one vertical line of buttons down the front of the jacket) rather than double-breasted (i.e. two lines of buttons).

Buttons should be the same or a similar color as the rest of the suit. Avoid shiny, metallic or contrasting buttons.

Accessories

Ties should be **solid** or have a **small, simple pattern** (e.g stripes or geometric shapes) in a **classic color and fabric**. Reds and blues are the most traditional tie colors.

Belts, socks and shoes should **not be distracting** in color.

If you plan to wear a **watch** or **jewelry**, keep it **simple and classic**.

There is no need for a pocket square.

Shopping

You do NOT need to spend a lot of money to look professional. In other words, there is no need to buy an Armani suit or Tory Burch tote.

Shop early enough to **get your suit tailored**. It's rare that a suit will actually fit well right off the rack.

Buy for your widest body part (e.g. shoulders, hips). It is easier to bring clothes in than let seams out.

Stand and sit when trying on suits. Make sure pants fit comfortably. For skirts and sheath dresses, pick a longer length if the hem goes up too much when you sit down and/or cross your legs.

Need Help?

Many stores will have sales staff that can help you with buying a suit. However, you should tell them it's for an **interview in a formal, conservative industry** and **be clear about your budget**.

If you have any questions about your attire or accessories, or want us to review a picture of your EIW outfit, please **reach out to a Private Sector attorney-counselor**. We'd be happy to help you!

A Visual Guide to Check Your Understanding*

* We have attempted to be inclusive with the images used. However, the vast majority of media images of formal interview attire does not reflect the diversity of our student body.



What's the problem?

- Non-traditional collar.
- Non-traditional closure.
- Ruffles may appear immature.
- Skirt is very short.





What's the problem?

- Non-standard collar.
- Contrasting buttons.
- Suit color is too light.





What's the problem?

- Suit color is too light.





What's the problem?

- Your suit jacket should be the same color and fabric as your suit bottom.





What's the problem?

- Suit jacket should be the same color and fabric as dress.
- Suit color is too light.
- Pattern is not appropriate.
- Open-toed shoes.





What's the problem?

- Non-standard collar.
- Buttons have shiny rim.





What's the problem?

- No tie.
- Vest too formal.





What's the problem?

- Bow tie v. Neck Tie
- Shoes have rubber sole.



What's the problem?

- Suit color.





What's the problem?

- Blue is too bright.





What's the problem?

- Shirt pattern.
- No tie.

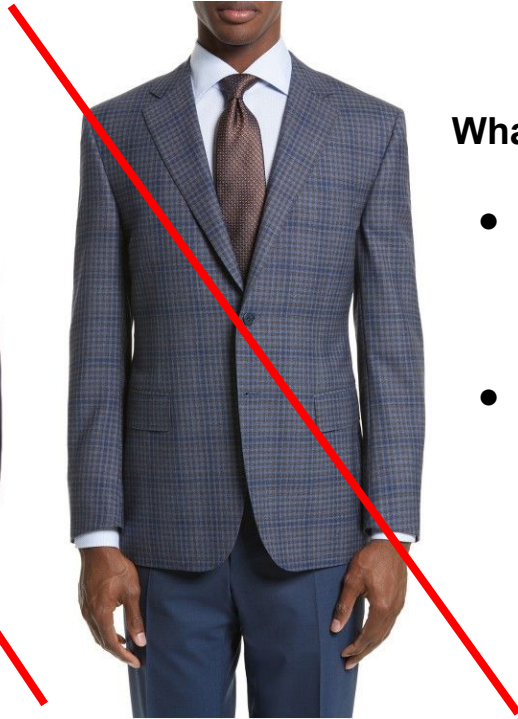




What's the problem?

- Distracting suit pattern.





What's the problem?

- Suit jacket should be the same color and fabric as pants.
- Avoid shiny collars.

