

# 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.



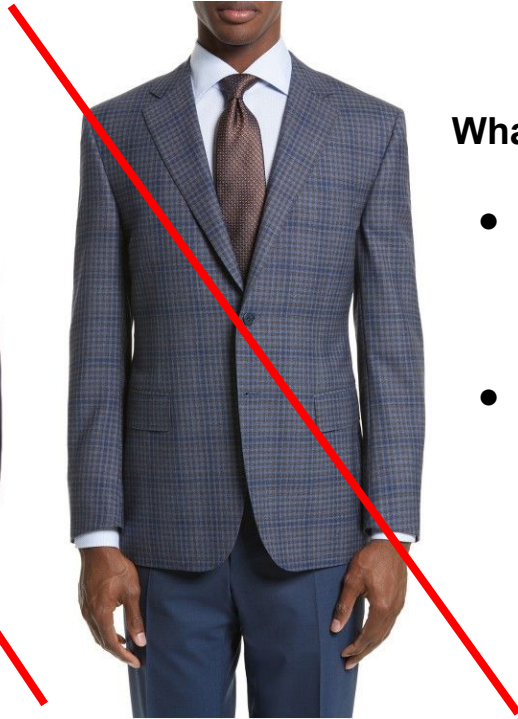


**What's the problem?**

- Distracting suit pattern.







### What's the problem?

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

