

Interview Outfit & Etiquette Guide

For Law Students & Young Lawyers in India

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In the legal profession, first impressions are formed before you say a word. How you dress, walk in, greet your interviewer, sit, and conduct yourself signals your understanding of professional culture. This guide covers everything from attire to pre-interview rituals to post-interview etiquette — so nothing is left to chance.

Part 1: What to Wear

FOR MEN

Formal Suit / Blazer Look

Suit: Charcoal grey, navy, or black. Single-breasted preferred. Well-fitted — not oversized.

Shirt: White or pale blue formal shirt. Pressed and clean. No loud patterns.

Tie: Solid or subtle pattern. Navy, maroon, or grey preferred. Avoid novelty ties.

Trousers: Match the suit. Properly hemmed. Pressed with a clean crease.

Shoes: Black Oxford or Derby shoes. Well-polished. No sneakers or loafers.

Socks: Match trousers. No white socks with dark trousers.

Belt: Black leather, matching shoes.

Watch: Simple, analogue if possible. Avoid smartwatches in very formal settings.

Grooming: Clean-shaven or neatly trimmed beard. Hair neatly combed. No strong cologne.

Avoid: Jeans, casual shoes, untucked shirts, shorts, visible tattoos where possible.

FOR WOMEN

Formal Suit / Business Professional Look

Suit / Blazer: Charcoal, navy, black, or muted tones. Trouser suit or skirt suit both work.

Blouse / Shirt: White, cream, or subtle colour. Conservative neckline. Well-pressed.

Skirt Length: At or below the knee. A-line or pencil skirt preferred.

Salwar Kameez: Fully acceptable in Indian settings — choose formal fabric (silk, georgette) in muted, elegant tones. Dupatta neatly draped.

Saree: Appropriate for courts and formal organisations — cotton or silk in formal colours.

Shoes: Closed-toe court heels (2–3 inches) or block heels. Comfortable enough to walk confidently.

Jewellery: Minimal and professional — studs, small hoops, thin chains. No chunky jewellery.

Makeup: Natural and professional. Avoid heavy contouring or bold lip colours.

Bag: Structured handbag or portfolio in black, brown, or navy.

Hair: Neat and tidy. Tied back or well-styled. Avoid messy buns or very casual styles.

Avoid: Overly casual outfits, very bright/loud prints, excessive accessories, strong perfume.

Virtual Interview Outfit Tips

- Dress from head to toe as if it were in-person — accidents happen (you may need to stand).
- Choose solid, muted colours — checks and patterns can distort on camera.
- Avoid white (causes overexposure) and very bright reds (bleeds on screen).
- Check your background: clean wall, bookshelf, or professional virtual background.
- Ensure good lighting (face the light source, don't sit with light behind you).
- Test your camera and outfit together before the interview day.

Part 2: Before the Interview

- Research the firm/organization extensively — recent cases, team, practice areas, news.
- Arrive 10–15 minutes early. Never be late. Know the exact venue and parking in advance.
- Bring printed copies of your CV, certificates, writing samples, and a notepad + pen.
- Switch your phone to silent before entering the building — not just the room.
- Smile at reception. Be polite to everyone — receptionists often give feedback.
- Use the waiting time to review your notes calmly, not to scroll social media.

Part 3: During the Interview

Entry	Knock before entering even if asked to come in. Enter calmly, close the door quietly.
Greeting	Extend your hand for a firm (not crushing) handshake. Make eye contact. Smile genuinely. 'Good morning/afternoon' — use the interviewer's name if you know it.
Sitting	Wait to be invited to sit. Sit up straight. Don't lean back. Keep hands on the table or lap — no fidgeting.
Listening	Let the interviewer finish fully before speaking. Don't interrupt. If you need a second to think, it's fine to pause briefly.
Eye Contact	Maintain natural, confident eye contact. If multiple interviewers, acknowledge each when answering.
Phone	Phone should be out of sight and on silent. Never check it.
Notes	It's appropriate to take brief notes. Ask permission politely if unsure.

Tone	Professional but warm. Avoid being robotic or overly stiff. Show personality within professional bounds.
Questions Asked to You	Answer the question asked — not a tangent. If you don't know, say so honestly and demonstrate how you'd approach finding the answer.
Negative Topics	Never speak negatively about a past employer, professor, or institution — even if asked.

Part 4: After the Interview

- Thank the interviewer(s) genuinely as you leave — a firm handshake and eye contact.
- Send a brief, professional thank-you email within 24 hours.
- Reference something specific from the conversation in your thank-you note to show attentiveness.
- Follow up once (politely) if you haven't heard back after the promised timeline.
- Reflect and note what went well and what to improve for next time.
- Don't discuss interview details publicly on social media — even if you feel it went well.

Interview Day Checklist

■ Outfit ironed and ready the night before	■ Phone charged and set to silent
■ Shoes polished	■ Researched the firm and interview panel
■ Printed copies of CV, certificates, samples	■ Practised answers to common questions
■ Notepad and pen	■ Questions ready to ask the interviewer
■ Address, timing, and transport confirmed	■ Arrived 10–15 minutes early

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