

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIPS

As attorneys, our first priority is to advocate for our clients, but being an advocate doesn't mean you have to sacrifice civility. As professionals we should be respectful to each other even though the nature of our profession requires us to be adversarial. Ironically, your most zealous adversaries may turn out to be your best friends. I've even learned that courteous and respectful electronic communications, i.e., listserves can often introduce you to new friends simply because you share a common legal interest or goal.

A little more than a year ago, I left a great firm and became a solo-practitioner. The transition, although ever challenging, was much smoother than I ever could have imagined. I was overwhelmed by all the support and guidance I received (and still do) from colleagues and friends I have met along the way. I didn't realize the true value of the friendships and professional relationships I had established until I was out on my own. One colleague always reminds me, whenever I call him in a pinch panicked with questions, "Carrie, that's what friends are for." So true!

Macomb County is a special place to practice law because of the comradery us attorneys share with one another as well as with members of our bench. All attorneys should take advantage of some of the social events the MCBA has to offer. Practical advice from a fellow attorney is sometimes more beneficial than the best legal software available.

In addition to being there for each other professionally, the best sounding board after a bad day is a fellow lawyer. Let's face it, sometimes it is difficult to talk to your family because not only do we speak another language, we are in a sense, in a world of our own.

Please look for the upcoming events hosted by the various sections of the MCBA. Your attendance is welcomed and encouraged. And remember, when speaking to an attorney or judge, not only will you learn more about that person, you will inevitably learn more about the practice of law.