

Amir's Corner

LawWithoutWhatNow?!

"How did you find your way into this orange bubble of zeitgeist-wrecking, disruptively innovative magic?"

Unsurprisingly, I was asked how I had found my way to Axiom many times during my first few days. It wasn't from paralegalling, a law firm, a consultancy or any other expected background. The answer for me? LawWithoutWalls (LWOW). Those fellow Axiomites who had spoken to me heard me mention this ubiquitous, mysterious institution on various occasions in those early days. As it's presence in the mainstream legal consciousness continues to swell, there's a increasing likelihood that people have heard about LWOW. Maybe you've read about LWOW in Time Magazine, The Times, or saw a couple of those articles in Forbes Magazine and the Financial Times? The 29.48 people who interviewed me during Axiom's rigorous vetting process may have some insight, but seriously, what IS LWOW?

Simply put, LWOW is as close as you can get to Axiom's educational equivalent. Much as Axiom changes the world of legal practice, LWOW innovates and strives to transform legal education, in order to provide students with a sharpened, future-focussed skill set; allowing them to successfully helm the growing, bustling intersection of law, business, technology and globalisation. Moreover, LWOW is a huge, growing network of like-minded game-changers; open-minded people committed to changing things for the better on both a macro and molecular level. Now, where does that sound like...?

LWOW is (also) changing the future of the law. An international collaboratory hailing from sunny Miami, it pairs students and academics from an elite group of universities, venture capitalists, legal innovators, business-makers-and-shakers and the like into teams to tackle the issues currently corrupting the heart of the ever-entwining worlds of business and law. Across 15 countries, 26 universities and time-zones spanning simultaneous sunsets and sunrises the world over, students collaborate virtually to develop implementable business solutions (essentially start-ups) to solve the array of issues that arise as BigLaw's stasis rears it's wrinkled, crumbling, soon-to-be-fossilised head. From LA to Sydney and the continents between, students learn essential business skills and are instilled with practical knowledge to help them succeed in (not just legal or business but quite honestly) whatever career they choose.

Quite honestly, Axiom wouldn't have even considered a pre-LWOW me. Professionally (and personally), the program helped me reinvigorate and reinvent myself – and yearly does the same for many of our students. I myself was lucky enough to be individually selected for an internship which further helped me develop my capabilities in marketing, recruiting and business development, thus guiding me into my role now. The synergy is undoubtable. I've bitten new marks into my tongue from how many times I've had to stop myself mentioning LWOW at Axiom and vice versa. For example, one of the topics being tackled by our students this year: "Dinosaurs in Sneakers: How Can BigLaw Innovate, Collaborate and Change to Avoid Extinction and Get Back in the Race?". Before Axiom even accepted me, I volunteered to help mentor this topic because of how stark the resemblance was to the context surrounding the inception of a certain new-model legal services firm I had 94 or so interviews for.

The parallel in values and missions is very, very real. Having been on both sides of the coin (and aiming to remain part of both organisations), I can assure you it is truly compelling to see such a shared hunger for vital, ethical, decisive, risky action (uncharacteristically so for lawyers) and to witness such commitment to innovate and innervate a breathless and tired industry.

If you'd like to learn more about LWOW and breaking loose of the rigid career paths so many law students feel locked into, please feel free to get in touch. Finally, to my fellow Axiomites — thank you for bringing me into the fold. I feel truly grateful to be here and continuing my journey with you all.



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