

ZETLIN & DE CHIARA^{LLP}

Zetlin & De Chiara's Anazette Ray and Roy Schwartz Help Launch NYC Career Discovery Week, Teaching Local High Schoolers About Careers in Law



“Get a mentor.” That may be the most valuable piece of advice imparted on February 11 by **Anazette Ray** and **Roy Schwartz**, attorneys at **Zetlin & De Chiara LLP**, when they spoke to the future leaders of New York City at the High School for Civil Rights in Brooklyn as part of [Career Discovery Week](#).

The New York City Department of Education and the Partnership for New York City teamed up with local companies for this first-of-its-kind event, aiming to expose students in under-resourced areas to a variety of career paths and introduce them to the professional world. More than 6,000 high school sophomores from approximately 140 schools had the opportunity to learn about the diverse and exciting future job opportunities available to them in the city's corporate, financial and cultural sectors.

To begin the morning, Ray and Schwartz joined attorneys from Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and Shearman & Sterling LLP for a panel discussion on what a career in law entails. They explained to the crowd of 50 students that being an attorney does not always look like it does on TV and that there are many opportunities outside of litigation and criminal law to pursue.

Many students were immediately curious about the roadmap to becoming a lawyer or judge and the availability of positions in the field. Panelists encouraged the students to look for organizations that could help support them on their path toward a legal career, suggesting Legal Outreach and the Thurgood Marshall



Ray and Schwartz moved on to a breakout session with a smaller group of students, where they discussed prospects for the students' futures and provided practical advice. They demonstrated litigation strategy using the example of comedian Tracey Morgan's car crash lawsuit and discussed the transformative power of the law and how lawyers change the world. They introduced or recontextualized some of the major cases throughout US history, including Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education, and Terry v. Ohio.

Ray said, "Lawyers shape the world we live in. They can be

advocates and judges who can advance civil and human rights."

They also noted that there many important roles in the legal field that don't require a law degree – such as being paralegals, recruiters, IT workers, or human resources professionals – that play a vital role in keeping the gears of law turning.

Schwartz encouraged the students to try an array of experiences to see what strikes them, reassuring them that many professionals change their career paths. “What job you like may not be what you do at first,” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the firm, Senior Partner **Michael S. Zetlin** said, “The prospect of entering the workforce can be a daunting task for any teenager, and it is a privilege to lend our expertise to preparing the next generation of legal trailblazers. Zetlin & De Chiara was thrilled to be a part of the first ever Career Discovery Week. We look forward to seeing the tremendous legal feats these students one day accomplish.”

