

**ELEGANCE IN ADVOCACY: EXAMINE THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN ELEGANCE,
STYLE, AND CONFIDENCE IN FOSTERING PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND
SUCCESS AMONG LAW STUDENTS**

BY

REGINA CHINASA OKEKE (2024394103)

Who is a law student without elegance in advocacy?

Elegance in advocacy encompasses style and confidence. Naturally, law students are respected because of the complexity and aura of the course, but for a law student to be successful and build his or her professional identity, he or she must be intentional about personal growth. This is where elegance in advocacy comes in. Elegance, style and confidence are the striking features that distinguish a law student from every other student. The way a law student will argue or present his advocacy skills will differ from the way a political science student will do the same. There is an air of elegance, style and confidence which a law student exudes while advocating that every other student lacks. These features which they possess are what help in fostering the professional identity and success among law students.

Advocacy in law is the practice of presenting a client's case to a court or tribunal. A good advocate should be able to establish trust with his clients, other professionals and the court, he should be able to exercise sound judgement, which is possible through the understanding of his brief, the facts of the case, and the relevant law. He should also be able to communicate his case clearly, precisely and persuasively. An advocate's communication skills should follow the five C's: clear, concise, coherent, complete and compelling. An advocate should also be able to present a logically structured submission. An advocate submission should be well - ordered, sign-posted and focused on the important matters in the case. Such will make a court to be persuaded in such advocate's favour. An advocate will not be able to achieve this without elegance, style and confidence.

WHAT THEN IS ELEGANCE IN ADVOCACY?

Now, elegance in advocacy does not solely dwell on beauty. Elegance in advocacy is the quality of presenting one's argument, ideas or opinions with panache, propriety, flair, poise, sophistication and style. Elegance in advocacy encompasses confidence, calmness and a sense of dignity.

Elegance in advocacy implies a unique and stylish approach in presenting arguments which commands respect and admiration. This elegance enables law students to effectively handle challenges, communicate effectively and build a strong relationship with people which in turn will lead to success in the legal profession.

A law student's professional identity and success does not end in elegance. Style is another important key factor to consider. Style ranges from the way a law student dresses to the way they present an argument in court, which includes the language they use, their tone and the manner in which they deliver such an argument. Every law student must have a unique style with which they use while advocating that will differentiate them from other students. On the aspect of dressing, a law student is expected to dress professionally in the right attire. A professionally dressed law student will command respect and attention from both his peers, prospective clients and even judges.

Being professionally dressed in a unique style will boost a law student's confidence, thereby giving him or her the privilege to deliver his or her argument flawlessly without the fear of judging eyes glaring at them. A popular saying goes thus: “dress the way you want to be addressed.”

A law student style of dressing and manner of presentation must be unique. One thing every law student should understand is that their dressing speaks volumes. One cannot claim to be a law student if one does not adhere to the unique and proper way law students and even lawyers ought to dress.

On the aspect of advocacy or oral presentation of argument or views, law students are expected to have good communication skills. As earlier submitted, law students' communication skills

should follow the five C's. A unique style in advocacy builds trust among law students, captivates audience, commands respect and helps in fostering professional identity and success among law students. The last crucial factor to consider in elegance in advocacy is confidence. Confidence is very important in the legal profession. Confidence means believing in oneself and one's capabilities, feeling secure and certain about one's actions and decisions and having a positive and realistic view of oneself. A confident law student is resilient and assertive. Confidence enhances performance and communication, it also builds healthy relationships, self-esteem, self-expression and emotional wellbeing.

As law students, we are meant to be confident because it is one of our greatest charm, talisman and requisite for success. Studying law goes beyond just sitting in the lecture theatre and writing exams. It entails engaging in other extracurricular activities and intentional personal development strategies like engaging in moot competitions within and outside the faculty, joining relevant chambers and participating in intra faculty politics, applying for internship programmes, building relationships with experienced lawyers and mentors for guidance and support, identifying and developing areas of strength and interest, seeking constructive feedback and reflecting on strengths and areas for improvement, adequate studying, learning how to analyze cases and applying them to other situations. In the words of Samuel Johnson, “self - confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings.”

How we see ourselves is an essential component of moulding how people see us. Confidence boosts law students' adaptability and prevents them from feeling out of place in a high end law environment. It also helps in securing employment at high and legal institutes. Confidence is one of the crucial factors needed in fostering professional identity and success among law students. This is because it makes us believe in our abilities, encourages us to leave our comfort zones to acquire more knowledge, make necessary mistakes and take calculated risks that will eventually lead to success. Therefore, confidence is an important tool a law student needs in order to be successful.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELEGANCE, STYLE AND CONFIDENCE IN FOSTERING PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND SUCCESS AMONG LAW STUDENTS AND HOW THEY SHAPE A LAW STUDENT'S PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND SUCCESS

Firstly, elegance in advocacy does not only entail beauty. It entails sophistication and standard in the way we law students present ourselves, both in our way of dressing and the manner in which we render our argument, thereby distinguishing us from every other student. The role elegance, style and confidence play in the professional identity and success of law students cannot be over emphasized. These three elements are the backbone to a successful legal career. In order to be successful and break even in the legal profession, law students must have a growth mindset. They must understand that success is not built overnight. It requires discipline and hardwork.

Building a professional identity and success in the competitive world can be overwhelming and seen as almost impossible by most law students, but when they are intentional and work with the appropriate strategies, they will definitely excel. Any law student who aims to succeed in life must inculcate elegance, style and confidence into their lifestyle. Professional identity and success in the legal profession does not come with mediocrity. A law student must be up and doing in order to succeed. In order to build a professional identity and be successful, law students should not merely dwell on the natural aura that comes with studying law. Instead, they should be intentional about creating a personal or unique aura that will distinguish them individually and not as a group of people studying law.

This unique aura does not just resurrect from nowhere; it resurrects from elegance, style and confidence. Elegance, style and confidence are interconnected. They work collectively to bring a law student to limelight. People are attracted to uniqueness, and this uniqueness spans from these three elements. A law student who is clumsy, harbours self- doubt and lacks flair have a high risk of not succeeding in the legal profession. A successful law student is one who knows how to strategically blend the right attitudes and techniques in order to achieve a desired goal. A practical example of a law student who has built professional identity and success for herself is Ndukwu Chibundom(LLB, HONS), who was the best graduating student, Faculty of Law,

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, 2024/2025 academic session. Judging from her achievement, we can ascertain that she had implored elegance, style and confidence into her legal career.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the legal profession needs law students who understand the concept of elegance in advocacy, because that is what builds trust, respect, meaningful connections, professional identity and success in the legal sphere. A law student will undoubtedly create a lasting professional identity and success if he intentionally builds elegance through developing a unique style and confidence.

Elegance portrays a unique style, a unique style significantly promotes confidence and confidence in turn pushes one out of one's comfort zone to take calculated risks and propels them to build a professional identity and attain success.