

# FIRST GEN LAW STUDENTS

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# DEFINITIONS

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First Gen Student:

neither parent with a  
4-year college degree

Continuing Gen  
Student:

at least one parent with  
a college or advanced  
degree

First Gen Professional:

neither parent with a  
white-collar job

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## HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE FIRST GEN?

29% of law students nationwide are First Gen

Chapman = 30%

Loyola = 33%

Southwestern = 46%

## MORE LIKELY TO BE

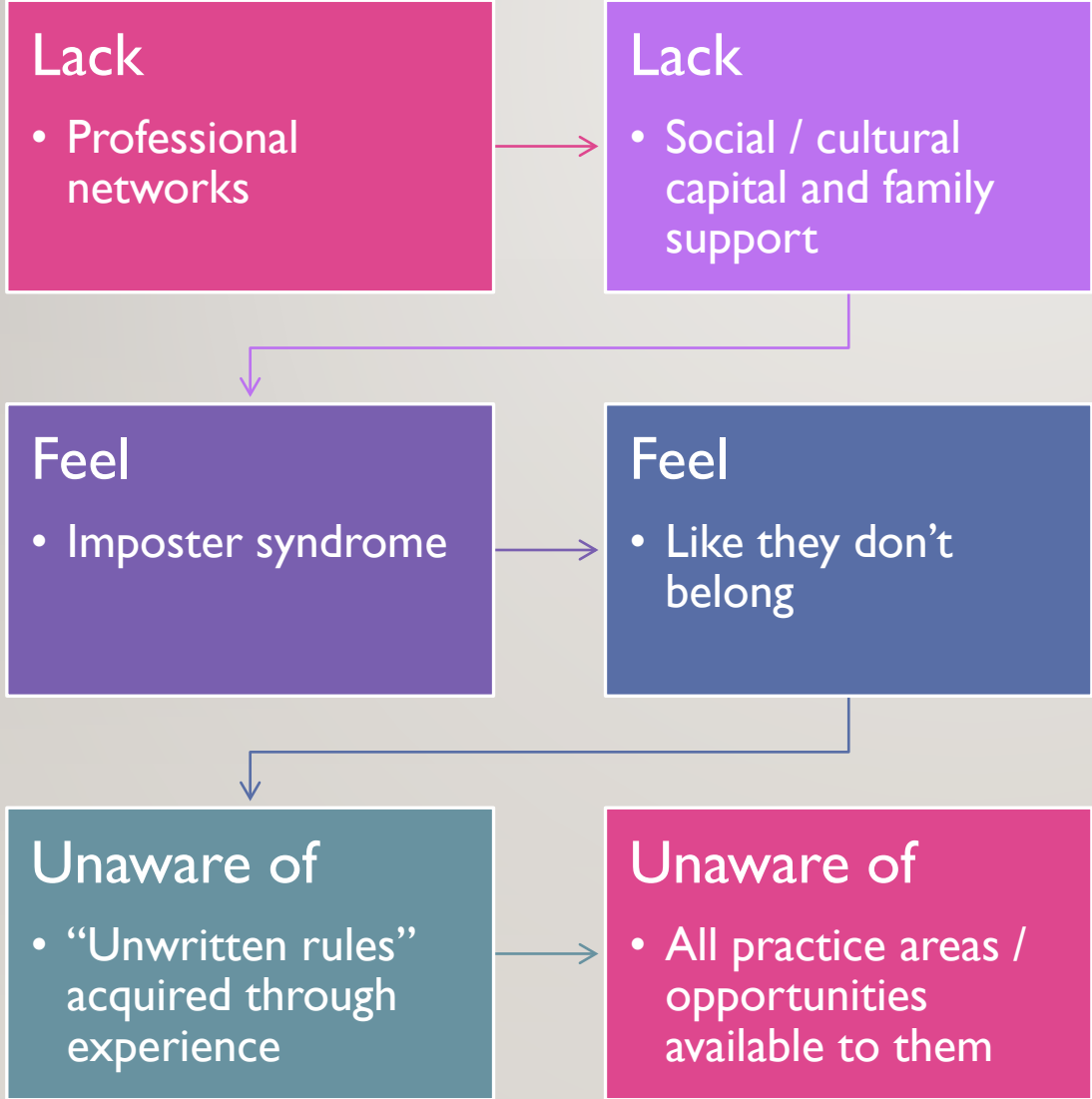
- Older
- Caring for family
- Low-income
- Part-time
- Non-white
- Lower grades / fewer co-curriculars

# WHY EXTERNSHIPS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO FIRST GEN STUDENTS

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- Only 73% get post-grad JD jobs, compared to 84% Continuing Gen



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# CHALLENGES

# STRENGTHS

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Resilience and  
grit

Independence  
and proactivity

Work ethic

Resourcefulness

Flexibility

Positivity and  
hopefulness

Compassion and  
gratitude



# HOW TO SUPPORT FIRST GEN STUDENTS

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**Mentoring**



**Orientation/  
Training/  
Reading**



**Events/  
Networking**



**Promote  
sense of  
belonging**



# THANK YOU!

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- Additional Materials for all three presentations:  
[www.swlaw.edu/SoCalExEvents](http://www.swlaw.edu/SoCalExEvents)
- MCLE Credit: look for an email soon.
- Questions? Contact any of the presenters or any law school externship faculty.