# Weaving Relationship Skills into the Tapestry of the Practice of Law

***Article by:*** *Yvonne Lapp Cryns*

Law is a new career for me, after being a homemaker-mother and then a traditional midwife. Both of those vocations were involved with helping those in need, looking out for the best interests of other people, and being loyal to them. I see my career in law as a continuation or extension of these qualities that are so central to meaningful interpersonal relationships – a balancing of life and practice.

My future legal commitment is to those who are poor or underserved. I hope to use my legal education, knowledge, and skills to provide the needy with access to adequate legal services. It is only through this kind of personal commitment that the barriers of social inequality are broken down and justice can be a reality for those who otherwise are priced out of equity. I believe this pursuit of legal equality to ensure justice for society's most vulnerable will be enormously challenging, yet personally satisfying.

In providing legal services to the destitute, an important component of that is looking out for the client's best interest. I will be asked to assess complex legal situations and then explain them to my clients. For many clients, their best interests are served when they are aware of all their options in language they understand. Breaking down legal terms and issues into understandable information will ensure that my clients understand the complexities of their case. By communicating their legal situation in terms they understand, my clients will truly be able to consider my advice, give informed consent and be empowered to make decisions in their own best interests.

Lastly, one of the most important relationship attributes of any professional is loyalty to one's clients. Family life and my work as a midwife taught me how vital loyalty is to developing and maintaining relationships. I intend to dignify the communications my clients share with me by remaining trustworthy. I will do this by keeping each client's interests insulated from competing interests. I know that confidentiality is a cornerstone of the practice of law and will keep my clients' secrets.

Soon I will begin my career in law, weaving the theories I've learned in law school with my prior relationship skills into a real life legal practice. I believe my life skills, law school preparation, and commitment will assist me to be a good advocate for the rights of the poor and needy.Yvonne Lapp Cryns is the co-founder of the Go-Law-School website. http://www.go-law-school.com/