

Patricia A. Comeford, J.D. President, You're Never Stuck, Inc.

As the former CEO of THE ESQUIRE GROUP™, now Special Counsel® and former practicing attorney, Patricia A. Comeford exemplifies success. After spending two years of being unhappy practicing law, and contrary to many nay-sayers, Ms. Comeford founded her own legal staffing and consulting firm. Seventeen years later, in January 2007, she sold her firm for multiple millions. Armed with her positive energy, a can-do attitude and compassion, Ms. Comeford brings her creativity to ensure that success, whether business or personal, is achievable for everyone.



Her company, THE ESQUIRE GROUP™, captured the attention of the nation's largest legal staffing company, MPS Group, who selected ESQUIRE for acquisition out of hundreds of staffing firms across the country not only because she had built it into a highly profitable brand and turn-key entity, but because of Ms. Comeford's reputation as an exceptional business executive and entrepreneur.

Ms. Comeford shared her business, career and life secrets in her debut, self-help book, *Lessons from a Headhunter...with Heart* in 2006. In 2007, *Lessons from a Headhunter* won the Midwest Book Award for "Best Business Book of the Year." The award-winning book presents her compassionate, refreshingly efficient and personalized way of approaching business, career and life success. Recognized by the business community as a "40 under 40" business leader, her boundless entrepreneurial spirit, marketing savvy, compassion, and dedication to others enable her to be a business and success coach to those she trains.



Ms. Comeford frequently appears on local NBC TV and National Public Radio, and speaks regularly. A selected list of Ms. Comeford's media appearances and acknowledgements, publications and presentations appears below.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- **"KARE About Your Career"**, 5-part series focused on tips from *Lessons from a Headhunter*, NBC , KARE-11 Mornings,
 - June 15, 2006
 - June 22, 2006
 - July 9, 2006
 - July 6, 2006
 - July 13, 2006
- NBC, KARE-11 Mornings, April 28, 2006.
- Fox-9 Morning news, April 12, 2006.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- "Signs Your Law Firm is Failing: How to Avoid Rider Bennett's Fate," *Law & Politics*, Feb/March 2008.
- "National headhunter firm captures Esquire Group," *Star Tribune*, January 23, 2007
- "Headhunters Advice: Look Within", *Chanhassen Villager*, May 25, 2006.
- "Book offers hope, help for workers who haven't found job fulfillment", *Star Tribune*, May 4, 2006.
- "A Brazen New Breed of Deceptive Job Hunters", *Star Tribune*, October 27, 2005.
- "Workplace Sees More Group Scoots", *Star Tribune*, April 21, 2005.
- Neil St. Anthony/On Business: Nobody Loves Lawyers – Til They Need One", *Star Tribune*, February 11, 2005.
- Neil St. Anthony/On Business: "Merchant & Gould uses smarts to grow law firm", *Star Tribune*, April 8, 2003.
- Neil St. Anthony/On Business: "Scales tip toward a smaller, focused Oppenheimer law firm", *Star Tribune*, March 1, 2003.
- "Recruiting: The Real Story", *Twin Cities Business Monthly*, March 2003.
- "Recruiting the Recruiter", *Twin Cities Business Monthly*, March 2003.
- "Associate Job Market Still Tight", *ABA Journal eReport*, October 4, 2002.
- "Spotlight on Patricia A. Comeford", *Minnesota Women Lawyers*, January 2001.
- "Finding, Hiring and Retaining the Right People", *Minnesota Lawyer*, October 30, 2000.
- "First wages for lawyers hit \$100,000," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, August 2, 2000.
- "Women in the Law," *Minnesota Lawyer*, May 29, 2000.
- "Employers feel job market squeeze," *City Business*, July 2, 1999.
- "Legal staffing firm will open Denver office," *City Business*, June 18, 1999.
- Forty Under Forty Recipient, *City Business*, May 1999.
- "Gov. Entrepreneur?" *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, April 7, 1999.
- "Specialty Lawyers Get Red-Carpet Treatment," *The Dallas Morning News*, August 18, 1998.
- "What Attorney Glut?" *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, August 2, 1998.
- "Striving To Provide More For Less," *Minnesota Lawyer*, May 1, 1998.
- "A Field Guide To Headhunters," *The Associate*, Spring, 1998.
- "Lawyers Opt for Part-Time Hours," *City Business*, June 7, 1996.
- "Creative Contracting," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, May 1996.
- "Attorneys Take Corporate Path: As Business World Beckons, More Leave Legal Life Behind," Beth Mattson, contributing writer, *CityBusiness*, January 19, 1996.
- "Courting Clients," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, August 6, 1995.
- "Grim Reality has Lawyers Looking for New Career," *The Arizona Republic*, July 15, 1994.

- "Running From the Law," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, May 29, 1994.
- "Rainmaker Success Profile," *ABA Leadership & Management Directions*, Spring 1994.
- "Lawyers Feel Pressure Of '90s Economy," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, October 7, 1993.
- "The Law–Workaholic Lawyers: You Load 16 Tons And What Do You Get?" Merrily Helgeson, *Minnesota Journal of Law & Politics*, June 1993.
- "Accommodating Lawlessness," *Corporate Report Minnesota*, February 1991.
- "William Mitchell People: Patricia Comeford: Matchmaker," by Amy Lindgren, *William Mitchell Alumni Magazine*, 1990.
- "Burned-Out Lawyers Seek Other Fields For Their Talent," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, December 10, 1990.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- "Making Sense of Your Search: How Your Legal Training Can Help You Bring Order to the Chaos of Career Transition," *With Equal Right* (The Official Journal of Minnesota Women Lawyers), Winter 2006 edition.
- "So You've Been Let Go: Now What?" *Bench & Bar*, July 1999
- "When Should You make Your First Lateral Move?" *Woman Attorney*, April/May, 1999.
- "Make A Lateral Move That Enhances Your Career: The Esquire Group's Dos and Don'ts," *The American Lawyer*, January/February, 1999.
- "Reverse The Interview Process To Make It Work For You," *Minnesota Lawyer*, March 27, 1998.
- "Diversity: An Often Overlooked Opportunity in the Presentation Process," LME, *National Law Firm Marketing Association*, September 1994, reprinted in *The Verdict*, April 1995.
- "Chutes & Ladders," *Corporate Legal Times*, June 1994.
- "Job Burnout: How To Recognize It and Prevent It," *Corporate Legal Times*, May 1994.
- "How Important is Loyalty," *ABA Leadership & Management Directions*, Vol.4, No.3, 1994.
- "Presenting Yourself as a Marketing Oriented Candidate," *ABA Leadership & Management*, Vol.4, No.3, 1994.
- "Burnout: How To Recognize And Avoid It," *Corporate Counsel News*, September 1993.
- "THE ESQUIRE GROUP Personal Discovery, An Assessment Tool For Lawyers In Career/Job Transition," *Professional Career Alternatives*, 1990.

PRESENTATIONS

- "The Support Staff Revolution," Association of Legal Administrators Corporate/Government Fall Forum, New Orleans, October 2006.
- "You're Never Stuck!" (motivational program on career transition based on *Lessons from a Headhunter...with Heart!*, book co-authored with Patricia Comeford), various job seeker support groups and Toastmaster

groups, May 2006 – present, and St. Thomas University Masters Connections, Minneapolis, October 2006.

- "Findings of the 2006 Minnesota Corporate Counsel Survey," American Corporate Counsel Association – Minnesota Chapter, Minneapolis, September 2006.
- "Debunking the Myth of Life Balance," *Taking Charge of Your Career* seminar sponsored by Minnesota Women Lawyers, Minneapolis, MN, April 2006.
- "Best Practices," an ABA/Minnesota Women Lawyers Focus Group, October 1998.
- "ABA Report on Women in the Legal Profession," Minnesota Women Lawyers, April 1996.
- "Marketing your Practice to In-House Lawyers," Hennepin County Bar Association New Lawyers Section, April 17, 1996.
- "Lawyers Today: Career Challenges, Choices and Changes," A Minnesota State Bar Association symposium, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 9, 1996.
- "Business Development: How to be the Top Banana in the Bunch," ABA Mid-Year Meeting, Lawyering in the 90's: A Professional Development Conference for Young Lawyers, Baltimore, Maryland, February 1, 1996.
- "Law Firm Culture," Hennepin County Bar Association, Fall Diversity CLE, October 24, 1995.
- "How To Develop Clients Without Chasing Ambulances," William Mitchell College of Law Homecoming, October 1995.
- "From the Minneapolis Home Office: Top Ten Career Moves for 1995," William Mitchell College of Law, March 1995.
- "Networking for Lawyers," Hennepin County Young Lawyer's Association, February 1995.
- "Women Who Make Rain," Minnesota Women Lawyers, Panel Discussion, May 16, 1994.
- "Utilizing Staff Support to Build and Service Your Practice," Hennepin County Bar Association, May 1994.
- "Update on the Hennepin County Bar Association Glass Ceiling Task Force and Diversity Committee," Continuing Legal Education Seminar, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, Saint Paul, Minnesota, January 12, 1993.
- "Alternative Careers For Attorneys," National Association of Law Placement, Washington, D. C., January 16, 1993.
- "How To Tap Into The Non-Traditional Job Market," Hamline Law School, March 3, 1992.
- "Unhappiness On The Job: Cope, Quit Or Take Control," Minnesota Women Lawyers, February 26, 1992.
- "Stress In The Workplace," Lawyers Concerned For Lawyers, February 12, 1992.
- "Networking: Tapping The Hidden Job Market," University of Minnesota Law School, February 6, 1992.
- "Networking Strategies," Minnesota Women Lawyer's Job Support Group, 1992.
- "How To Find A Job & Keep It," Minnesota CLE, Bridge The Gap,

January 7, 1991.

- "Job Search Strategies for the 90's," William Mitchell College of Law, 1990.
- "Creative Ways to Use Your Law Degree," St. Paul Open School, May 1990.