



LEADERSHIP  
COUNCIL  
ON LEGAL  
DIVERSITY

## INDIVIDUAL MENTORING MONTHLY TOPICS WITH DISCUSSION STARTERS (for 1Ls and 2Ls)

The following monthly topics are based on input from mentees, mentors, and law schools as to what issues need to be covered in mentoring relationships in order to ensure optimal success for law students. These topics are general guidelines that are recommended for Individual Mentors, and they serve to guide the mentoring relationships forward in a consistent and effective way. Although the LCLD mentoring programs thrive on the uniqueness of each individual mentoring relationship, these guidelines ensure that there are some foundational topics that are explored in every relationship.

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Academic Success**

- What does academic success mean to you? How do you feel that your academic success in law school is connected with your long-term professional goals?
- What have you found to be the keys to previous academic success? How can you leverage these past academic successes to ensure present and future academic success?
- What are you currently finding to be your biggest academic challenges? What strategies can you put in place to cope with these challenges?

### OCTOBER

#### **Stress Management**

- What are your top three stressors right now? What strategies have you explored to minimize those stressors?
- What stress management tools have worked for you in the past? How can you tweak those tools to make them effective for your current stressors?

### NOVEMBER

#### **Time Management**

- Do you feel that you are managing your time well enough to achieve all of your goals? What seem to be your greatest time drainers, and what strategies can you put in place to neutralize those drainers?

- What time management tools can you commit to on a consistent basis so that you develop the time management skills that are necessary for success in the legal profession?

#### DECEMBER

##### **Support System**

- Who are the people that collectively make up your personal and professional support system? Do you need to strengthen/increase your support system?
- What kinds of information can you share with people in your support system in order to enhance their ability to help you more effectively?

#### JANUARY

##### **Career Planning**

- What aspect of the legal profession are you most interested in pursuing and why?
- Do you feel that you have had the access you need to explore your areas of interest, and what strategies can you pursue to get a closer look at the areas in which you want to work?

#### FEBRUARY

##### **Strengths & Skills Analysis**

- What are the key strengths and skills that you have that you feel will fuel your success in the legal profession? What are assessments that you can take and strategies that you can implement to better explore your strengths and skills?
- Do you feel you are using your full range of strengths and skills in law school? If not, are there other things you could be doing to ensure that your skills stay sharp and your strengths stay strong?

#### MARCH

##### **Writing & Analytical Skills**

- How are your writing and analytical skills progressing, and how can you continue to improve these skills?
- What are additional resources you can access to ensure that you are developing your writing and analytical skills to the best of your ability?

#### APRIL

##### **Networking & Relationship Building Skills**

- How are you developing relationships with your classmates, and what else can you be doing to strengthen your network of contacts within your law school?

- Given your areas of interest, where do you want to start growing your professional network of peers and mentors?

#### MAY

##### **Review of School Year**

- What have you learned about yourself during the course of the year?
- What are your plans to maximize your plans for the summer?

#### JUNE AND JULY

##### **Professional Skills & Networking**

- What are you doing to ensure that you are not only learning from your summer internship but that you are also building relationships that will carry over into your future career?

#### AUGUST

##### **Planning for Next School Year**

- What are your top three priorities for the next school year?
- What are you doing to prepare yourself to maximize success in the coming school year?

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