

Purpose

The primary objective of the LCLD Success in Law School Mentoring Program is to ensure that talented and diverse first-year law students receive the mentoring and preparation that they need to maximize their potential in law school and beyond.

How LCLD Member Organizations Can Participate

The LCLD Success in Law School Mentoring Program includes two programs: the Individual Mentoring Program (IMP) and the Group Mentoring Program (GMP). LCLD Member organizations can enroll their attorneys as Mentors in the IMP, and have them participate in the GMP. Read further for more details about each mentoring option.

Individual Mentoring Program (IMP)

The IMP is a comprehensive initiative for first-year law students from diverse backgrounds based on the principles of legal excellence and personal involvement. Attorney Mentors are matched 1:1 with talented law student Mentees to ensure that Mentees receive the mentoring they need to navigate their first year of law school and maximize their long-term potential. LCLD provides a comprehensive Mentoring Toolkit and a “Building a Strong Mentor-Mentee Relationship” E-module to assist both Mentor and Mentee in developing a successful relationship.

IMP Mentor Expectations

- Watch the “Building a Strong Mentor-Mentee Relationship” E-module.
- Initiate contact with the Mentee. Use the planning template from the LCLD Mentoring Toolkit during the first meeting to help both the Mentor and Mentee set expectations for working together.
- Meet approximately three times per semester, via email, phone, video conference, in person, etc.
- Commit to one year as a Mentor to the assigned student. It is our hope that the relationship will last all three years of the student’s law school career, but Mentors are committed to only one year.
- Complete periodic surveys distributed by LCLD. These are typically distributed in May.

Group Mentoring Program (GMP)

The GMP allows diverse 1L, 2L, or 3L law students to receive advice and support from successful attorneys from LCLD Member organizations. Three GMP events are scheduled during the school year in each region in which LCLD hosts the Success in Law School Mentoring Program. GMP events are designed to provide guidance from experienced attorneys in an informal, interactive, and collegial setting. Many GMP events include attorney Mentors in a networking session and a panel presentation. Panel presentations cover a variety of topics including networking and relationship building, interviewing skills, professionalism, practice area choice, and attorney evaluation, to name a few.



LCLD Mentoring Resources

LCLD Mentoring Toolkit: Includes mentoring principles, a planning template, tips for Mentors and Mentees, and monthly discussion topics for Mentors and 1L and 2L students.

LCLD Learning E-Module: Includes topics on the following to build a strong mentoring relationship:

- Why Have a Mentoring Program?
- The Mentoring Lifecycle
- Building the Relationships
- Making It Work

Access to LCLD City Leads: City Leads are attorneys at LCLD Member organizations who serve as local liaisons between LCLD and Mentors, local law school students, and law school administration. Mentors are encouraged to contact their local City Lead(s) for advice or guidance as needed.

For additional information about the LCLD Success in Law School Mentoring Program, please visit www.lclldnet.org/programs/law-school-mentoring/.

For questions, please contact Nancy Richardson, LCLD Program Manager, at nrichardson@lclldnet.com or 804.787.8009.

Selection Process for Mentors and Mentees

- Attorneys at LCLD Member organizations may enroll as IMP Mentors by filling out a brief application form on the LCLD website June through August.
- Law students may register to be Mentees on the LCLD website September through November.
- LCLD will match Mentors and Mentees based on geographic proximity.

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LCLD is relaxing its requirements for in-person meetings during the Mentoring Program. Should social-distancing measures still be necessary during the 2021-2022 academic year, Mentors and Mentees are advised to hold all meetings over video conference or by phone.