

PENN STATE LAW

MINORITY MENTOR PROGRAM

Matching for the Future

Information for Mentors

Why Mentor?

A mentor in Penn State Law's Minority Mentor Program will provide his/her mentee with the tools to attain academic success and maintain emotional well-being in law school and the legal profession. A mentor will help reduce the stress of the unknown that many students experience as they prepare to enter the legal profession.

What Does a Mentor Do?

- Provide advice and guidance.
- Help facilitate access to resources – 'informal networking'.
- Use his/her position to help the student gain an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge & skills.
- Clarify the values and goals, the "unwritten rules," of the legal profession.
- Coach and provide feedback on navigating law school and the legal profession.
- Serve as a role model, demonstrating appropriate job behaviors, attitudes and social skills.

Why should I participate as a mentor?

- Your responsibility to the legal profession - you can help enhance the spirit and intent of your mentee's code of conduct by promoting professionalism.
- Reflection and returning the favor - Mentoring encourages you to reflect on what you are doing as a lawyer and allows you to experience a fresh sense of accomplishment.

My mentee does not respond to my e-mails. What can I do to encourage responses?

One approach that a mentor could take is to reach out again. Asking different questions about classes, goals and school related activities may be a good way to strike up a dialogue with a mentee. If you do not get a response after reaching out to your mentee three times, please contact Raynell Brown at rub17@psu.edu.

How will the mentor/mentee relationship be structured?

This can be determined during your initial meeting with your mentee. Several factors, including the mentor's location and mentor/mentee schedule, will affect how often you and your mentee meet. Please remember that as a mentor, you are required to have three (3), in person or otherwise, meetings with your mentee. To ensure the mentor/mentee relationship is properly cultivated, these meetings should run at least twenty (20) minutes.

How long will the mentoring relationship last?

The Minority Mentor Program is designed to span the mentee's time at Penn State Law. After that, the relationship is entirely up to each mentor and mentee.

How do I contact my mentee?

You will receive your mentee's name and email address electronically. Your mentee will, in turn, be receiving your name and email address. You may want to send an introductory email to your mentee after being matched.

Below is an example of an introductory email.

Dear _____ (Mentee):

My name is _____. I am pleased that we have been matched as mentor and mentee to participate in Penn State Law's Minority Mentorship Program. It is my hope that this relationship will provide a positive professional, educational and personal support system for you.

As a brief introduction, I am a 20__ graduate of Penn State Law and a 20__ graduate of undergraduate university. I currently reside in _____, where I work at _____ as a _____.

During our time together, I hope to help you navigate the challenges of law school and answer any questions you have about the legal profession.

I would like to meet with you sometime this month. Here are some dates I have available: _____ . Depending on both of our schedules, face-to-face, phone, or skype meeting all work for me.

Please check your calendar and let me know a date that is convenient for you.

I look forward to getting to know you

Sincerely,

Mentor