

LCLD Success in Law School Mentoring Program

Mentoring Tool Kit: Individual Mentoring Monthly Topics

With Discussion Starters (for 1L and 2L Students)

The following monthly topics are based on input from LCLD Mentees and Mentors, as well as 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 Program thrives on the uniqueness of each individual mentoring relationship, these guidelines ensure that there are some foundational topics that are explored in common across all relationships.

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?
- How do you view the differences between the approach to instruction and examination in undergraduate and law schools. How have you adapted your own strategies and tactics for study and class preparation to the law school environment?
- What are you currently finding to be your biggest academic challenges? What strategies can you put in place to cope with these challenges?

October

Career Planning

- What aspect of the legal profession are you most interested in pursuing and why? Is your initial inclination to move in the direction of litigation or transactional work?
- Do you feel that you have had the access you need to explore your areas of interest? What strategies can you pursue to get a closer look at the areas in which you want to work?
- Have you met with your career advisor at your school?

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 drains, and what strategies can you put in place to neutralize those drains?
- 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?
- Are you taking advantage of resources available at school to assist with time management and study strategies?

November

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?

Networking & Relationship-Building Skills

- How are you developing relationships with your classmates? What else can you be doing to strengthen your network of contacts within your law school?
- Given your areas of interest, what is your plan for growing your professional network of peers and mentors?
- Have you taken advantage of opportunities to build relationships with faculty and administration at school that facilitate your success from an academic and career perspective?
- 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?

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

Exams

- Did your performance on first semester exams meet your expectations? How are you refining your approach to class preparation/participation and study based on the outcome of exams?

Interviewing

- What is your preparation and strategy for interviewing?
- Do you know how to research your potential employers and interviewers?
- Are you prepared with questions that you want to ask your potential employer during the interview process?
- Have you anticipated questions that your potential employer may ask you during the interview process (including behavior/structured interview questions)?
- Have you checked with your school to see if a mock interview program is available?

February

Professionalism

- Is your appearance professional for your job interview?
- Are you speaking clearly and making good eye contact when you respond to interview questions?
- What is your body language conveying during the interview?
- Have you made it a habit to read the daily paper or watch the daily news so that you can engage in conversations at cocktail receptions and in waiting rooms?

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

Strength & Skills Analysis

- What are the key strengths and skills 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?
- What challenges have you encountered in the course of the academic year? How can you refine your approach to academics and career development to better serve your professional goals?
- 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?

May

Review of School Year

- What have you learned about yourself during the course of the year?
- What are your plans to maximize your time and exposure to networking this summer?

June & July

Check in/Good Will Email

- **For Mentors:**
 - Reach out with any questions and let your Mentee know that you're available over the summer.
- **For Mentees:**
 - Have you sent your Mentor an update on what you've been doing, the work you've been exposed to, and the networks you've developed? Don't forget to thank him/her for their help if applicable.
 - Have you reached out to your career office in preparation for fall recruiting?
 - If you plan to use a writing sample from your summer employment, have you received an "ok" from your employer?

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?
- Have you had your resume reviewed by your career office? Have you met with your career advisor about your 2L job search?