

LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL  
SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRST YEAR MENTORS

*Be the initiator. As soon as you get information regarding your law student, you should contact them with an introductory email. Let them know a little bit about you, where you work, where you went to school (not just law school) and how long you've been out. Let them know immediately whether you can attend the kick-off reception and then make sure you attend. If you cannot attend, let your mentee know immediately and schedule plans to meet with them for lunch. –Kristin Sterling Hopkins '00*

Frequency of Meetings. If possible, try to meet your student at the kick-off reception in September. If you are unable to attend, please contact the student and arrange another time for your initial meeting. Thereafter, try to meet your student at least twice during the academic year. Occasional telephone or e-mail contact is also a great option.

Location of Meetings. Meetings might take place at your office, over breakfast or lunch, or at some other predetermined setting to observe/participate in an activity (see below).

*Introduce your mentee to your lifestyle as a lawyer. Let your mentee know that there is life after law school--extend an invite to your backyard BBQ, introduce your mentee to your colleagues and friends, go out for happy hour drinks at your favorite pub. --Jenny Morf '98*

Possible Activities.

Mentors/Students tour/attend:

Attorney's office	The Courts	Judges Chambers
OWL meetings	CLEs	Administrative Hearings
Bar meetings/luncheons	The jail	Depositions
Committee meetings	Holiday parties	Programs at Lewis & Clark
Summary Judgment Motions	Arbitrations	

Discuss:

Law School: First-year jitters, preparing for final exams, legal writing assignments, doing pro bono work, perspective on importance of grades, law review, and other activities.

Life Outside Law School: How to balance law school and personal/family time, maintaining pre-law school friendships, etc.

Substantive areas of the law: While this program is not designed to be career-related, you can try to find out what areas your student is interested in and if you don't do it, introduce them to someone who does.

Clerking: Share information about your clerking experiences and what clerking in your office is like. Many first-year students want/plan to clerk during the summer after their first year, but are very apprehensive about what to expect. They are concerned that employers will expect them to do more than their skills and knowledge will enable them to do.

*Engage your employer in the project. Tell them in advance that you plan on participating in the project. Let them know the time commitment you expect to make. Ask if it would be acceptable to have your mentee visit the office, participate in a project, and/or attend a trial, hearing, or meeting. –Sean O'Day '00*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Students are informed that, initially, you will contact them, but that they may also contact you. Many law students are somewhat intimidated about contacting lawyers and often fear they are "bothering" their Mentor.
- Attorneys frequently report that they "told [their] student to call when they wanted to get together." We have learned this does not necessarily work. Attorneys must show some initiative in contacting their students.
- It is absolutely crucial early on for the Attorney Partners to show willingness to meet/talk with their students. Please try not to cancel/change the first few meetings. Once the first 2-3 contacts are made, it is easier for students to feel comfortable in calling, and they will be more understanding of last minute shifts.
- Think of interesting things that are coming up in your work schedule. Make student aware of them even if you are not able to attend, then follow up by phone to see how it went.
- Make sure your office staff recognize your student's name. If you are rarely available by phone, provide possible meeting times to your secretary and ask s/he to arrange a mutually convenient time.
- Please try to respond to their phone calls. After one or two unreturned phone calls or scheduling problems, students interpret this as lack of interest on your part and stop trying to reach you. (This is actually the biggest problem students report.) If there is a problem, drop them a note in the mail.
- Remember that most students do not have a full picture of what legal practice entails. They may not know what to ask you or what types of knowledge you possess. Think of how little you knew when you were in law school; try to figure out what would be helpful to expose them to. Take the lead in suggesting topics or activities of interest. The dose of reality is very helpful.
- Students appreciate the support and encouragement that a successful relationship provides. It helps calm fears about law school and career choices.
- The bottom line is that the program takes a time commitment and both parties must work at maintaining contact. If you have any difficulty contacting your student, call or email Libby Davis at Lewis & Clark Law School, (503) 768-6610 or eadavis@lclark.edu.

*Be sure to stay in contact with your mentee on a regular basis. Email is great for this. Don't just meet your mentee at law school functions--invite them to your office, take them on a tour of the courthouse, take them to lunch, take them out for drinks with your friends (especially if your friends are lawyers too). --Kristin Sterling Hopkins '00*