

**WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
**Mentor Program Guidelines**  
*Student-Attorney Mentor Program*

**Purpose of the Mentor Program:** The Western State University Alumni Association Mentor Program is an ongoing mentoring program intended to assist First Year Western State University students as they make the transition into law school and afford students the opportunity to become exposed to the practice of law.

**Expectations of Mentors:** Mentors should be willing to share their experience with their student. Mentors may suggest activities, as suggested below, in which they would like to engage with their student. Regular communication and monthly meetings are encouraged. The program is specifically designed to assist Western State students in their first year. Mentors will be assigned an entering student and at the end of the year, the mentors, if willing, will be assigned to a new incoming student. Mentoring relationships may continue past the first year, outside of this program, if both parties are interested. All mentors are expected to be in good standing with the California State Bar.

**Expectations of Students:** It is the student's responsibility to initiate and maintain contact with their Attorney Mentor. Mentors are a valuable resource for information, and are not expected to provide or assist students to find employment. Students should thoughtfully consider how their mentor can assist them to make the transition into practice. Students should initiate the types of activities for participation, and may use the list below for guidance. Students may not list their mentor as an employer or business reference without express permission of the mentor.

**Communicating With Each Other:** Students and mentors should plan on meeting once per month, with a time commitment of approximately one to two hours per month, but many mentors may spend far more time than that with their mentees. While personal meetings are always welcome, Mentors may choose to communicate with their students by telephone or e-mail. Additionally, students and mentors should determine in which activities they would like to engage. For some students and mentors this may simply mean meeting for lunch on a regular basis, attending a bar association function together or shadowing the mentor in court or on other appropriate occasions.

**Suggested Activities:** The Mentor Program is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of students and mentors in a time-efficient manner. Some activities in which students and mentors may choose to engage include:

- Meeting monthly to discuss the student's law school career, answering questions the student may have about practice or any other pertinent issues.
- Shadowing the mentor at court or on other appropriate occasions.
- Introducing the student to courthouse personnel.
- Describing the mentor's practice to the student.
- Attending bar association activities together.
- Conducting a mock interview.
- Reviewing the student's resume.

These activities are merely ideas to get the student-mentor relationship initiated. Neither students nor mentors should feel constrained by this list.

**Contact Information:** If you have any questions regarding the mentor program or encounter any difficulties, please contact Tina Starr, Acting Chair of the Western State University Alumni Association Mentoring Program via email at [wsuaamentor@yahoo.com](mailto:wsuaamentor@yahoo.com) or by telephone at (714) 394-5941.

