



Press Release
December 1, 2021

Introducing The Legal Mentor Network: The First, And Only, Nationwide Non-Profit Focused on Providing Young Lawyers and Law Students With Free Mentoring

The Legal Mentor Network is a new, free legal mentoring service that will connect thousands of law students and young lawyers with mentors every year. Over the last two years, the Network's founders have helped facilitate over 1,000 mentorship connections through their informal efforts. With the founding support of one of the largest law firms in the World, DLA Piper LLP, they are now able to formalize their efforts and grow their reach.

It all started in early 2020 when Brian Potts posted a picture of his nearly twenty-year old form rejection letter from Perkins Coie LLP, the firm where he is now a partner, on LinkedIn. Brian's post said, "Law students: if at first you don't succeed, try try again."

The post went viral with over 4 million views, and Brian was quickly inundated with requests from young lawyers and law students wanting to meet "to hear his story." Brian started meeting with people via Zoom, one at a time. But the requests kept coming. And coming. After a few weeks, Brian realized there was a need for one-on-one mentorship but that he couldn't do it alone.

That's when he reached out for help on LinkedIn. And, unbeknownst to him at the time, that's also when the Legal Mentor Network was born.

Experienced attorneys like Chrystal Mauro (a former Biglaw and in-house attorney), Matt Schwartz (a partner at DLA Piper LLP), and over 250 other practicing lawyers from around the country banded together to help. Lawyers from large and small law firms, corporations, government agencies, and non-profits all volunteered to meet junior lawyers and law students. At a time when traditional channels for informal networking were limited by a once-in-a-generation pandemic, these one-on-one meetings held over video conference allowed seasoned lawyers to meet with junior lawyers and law students safely without the need for geographic proximity or time-consuming conventions, cocktail parties, and coffees.

To date, the program has matched over 1,000 law students and newly admitted attorneys with mentors in their preferred localities and fields of legal practice. Mentors love it. Mentees need it. And it has led to hundreds of new relationships, not to mention the dozens of young professionals who have landed jobs they otherwise would not have obtained.

Operating informally since 2020, with the generous support and contribution of founding sponsor DLA Piper LLP, the informal network has been able to form a new non-profit organization, build a website, recruit an amazing executive board, and now the Network can begin implementing a larger, more formal (but still free!) nationwide mentoring program for years to come.

The Legal Mentor Network hopes to grow to one day provide mentorship to anyone who wants it.

Volunteers and interested mentees should visit <https://legalmentornetwork.com/get-involved> to get involved and contributions can be made via <https://legalmentornetwork.com/contribute>.

The Legal Mentor Network, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
www.legalmentornetwork.com
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