

HCBA Mentoring Program Mentee Application

The Hartford County Bar Association invites you to participate in our Mentoring Program for new lawyers. The program will focus on new lawyers or recent admittees to the bar who reside or have an office in the Greater Hartford area.

This mentoring program is the combined product of several years work by a special Committee of the Hartford County Bar Association, a task force on this subject appointed by the CBA President in 2005; the CBA's Standing Committee on Professionalism; and, most recently, a pilot program initiative between the CBA and the New Haven County Bar Association. The HCBA is heartened by the work already done by the CBA and the NHCBA, and welcomes the challenge of initiating a mentoring program in Hartford County

The program is born of the notion that, while a new admittee comes to the bar equipped with a reasonably comprehensive knowledge of the substantive law, he or she has not had an opportunity to learn the "unwritten rules" of practice, including all the customs and usages of the bar, knowledge of which is so essential to success. This mentoring support may be especially important to those new lawyers who are considering opening their own practices, without the benefit of affiliation with a senior lawyer to whom they can turn to answer the difficult questions of everyday practice that all experienced lawyers have encountered. Under this program, a mentor will be available not only to help provide guidance as to those questions, but to take affirmative steps to help the mentee in his or her entry into the profession, including introduction to the legal community and bar associations, guidance in the fundamentals of law office management, and the basics of interaction with clients, judges and other lawyers. (We note, however, that an outside mentor will not be expected to direct, supervise or consult with the mentee regarding any legal matters he or she is handling).

We hope and expect to see a very real enhancement of professionalism among young lawyers, because their mentors will have helped them learn how to avoid the pitfalls of overly zealous representation, incivility, and obstreperousness, which inexperienced lawyers all too often perceive as necessary essentials of success. We are confident that the participating new lawyers will also learn from their mentors the importance of continuing legal education, pro bono work and ethical conduct. In short, we believe that during this one-year mentoring period participating new lawyers will learn the great privileges and import obligations of the honorable profession they have just entered.

We very much hope you will find value in participating in this mentoring program. If so, you may indicate your desire by executing the next page of this letter and returning it to the HCBA offices at 100 Pearl Street, Hartford, Connecticut (Attn. Mentoring Program), so that we can match you up with a mentor and promptly begin your personal program.

We look forward to working with you in this program.

THE HARTFORD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MENTORING PROGRAM.

Please Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Please indicate below your current contact information:

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please return to the HCBA office at 100 Pearl Street, Hartford, CT, Attn: Mentor Program)