

Michael G. Massey Professional Mentoring Program

Expectations & Tips for Students

3 Expectations:

1. Try to meet with your mentor each month.
2. Convey appreciation to your mentor.
3. Communicate with your mentor and the Program if your schedule makes it difficult to keep up with monthly meetings or you can no longer participate.

6 Tips:

- Put in the effort. Commit to your mentor! A mentoring relationship, like all relationships, takes effort. Be curious, ask questions and, most importantly, listen. Your mentor is volunteering their time to help you grow. Let them!
- Be relaxed Each meeting with your mentor is not a job interview. The relationship is intended to be professional, but casual. Relax, enjoy your conversation, be open, and don't be afraid to ask those "dumb" questions.
- But not too relaxed. Your mentor could turn into a strong advocate for you during your search for internships, clerkships, and employment after law school. If you're professional, return e-mails and phone calls promptly, and attend meetings dressed (at least) as professional as your mentor does for work, they may naturally be more inclined to advocate for you as you look for professional experience.
- Try to develop a genuine relationship. The foundation of all relationships is trust. Be honest, modest, and vulnerable. Allow your mentor to know the "real" you so that your relationship can evolve naturally, and your mentor can understand your goals, preferences, strengths, and weaknesses (we all have them!).
- Appreciate your mentor for who they are. There is no perfect mentor. Mentors, like all of us, are imperfect. No mentor will embody everything you intend to become as a professional or as a person. Developing your unique professional identity entails adopting and cultivating the select characteristics you admire in others. Spend time to reflect upon who your mentor is and what attributes they possess that you admire. Remember: *you can learn from anyone.*
- Use the Discussions Topics. The Discussion Topics can take your conversations in new and interesting directions, helping you and your mentor develop a relationship while expanding your perspective.

3 questions you can always ask your mentor to spur conversation (and learn!):

1. What are you working on this week/today?
2. What big cases/projects are you working on?
3. Any difficult clients/co-workers/opposing counsel?