Mentoring Program Overview
Beginning with the 2012 Fall Semester, BYU Law School and its Alumni Association have launched a new mentoring program designed to assist BYU law students in finding attractive employment, preparing for success in the workplace, and more fully appreciating the BYU Law School experience.

The new program features an initial training session for mentors and law students, and four mentoring sessions with an established curriculum. Note that one expectation of Mentors is that they will set up three employment interviews for their Student. Following the four sessions, we will ask participants to evaluate the program in order to refine and improve it.

Mentoring Curriculum. It is expected that each mentoring session will take approximately 20 – 30 minutes of preparation and 30 – 45 minutes of direct interaction.

The four mentoring sessions will cover the following subjects:

(1) Introduction, Exploring Employment Options, and the Law School Experience
(2) Resume Review, Interviewing Skills and Employment Targets
(3) Networking, Ethics and Professionalism, and Employment Follow Up
(4) Success in the Workplace; Life Balance; and Employment Follow Up

Mentor Selection. Law students will have the opportunity to select mentors from an online database. Because mentoring sessions can be by telephone, a face-to-face online chat program such as Skype, or in person, mentors do not need to be located in Utah. As a result, law students can select mentors from a broad and diverse group of BYU Law School Alumni located throughout the world. Law students can select mentors for any reason they choose, including practice area, geography, or personal background.

Training. Mentors and law students will be asked to participate in a one hour training session. This training will take place at the law school. Mentors can either attend in person or participate by webcast.

Tracking Progress. The law student and mentor will report on completion of the mentoring sessions as the semester progresses. At the end of the semester, the mentor and law student will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about their experience and the performance of their counterpart.

Written Materials. There will be 2-3 articles on the subject matter to be discussed in each session, a statement of session objectives and a list of the discussion topics. Note that if the law student already has accepted an employment offer for the subsequent summer (or a permanent offer), modified objectives and areas of discussion for each session will be identified.
**Mentoring Sessions – Objectives, Topics/Questions, and Information**

**Session 1: Introduction, Exploring Employment Options, and the Law School Experience**

**Objectives**

At the end of this session, the law student will understand the mentor’s background and legal practice. The mentor and law student will have had an initial discussion about the law student’s employment goals, qualifications, and reasonable employment objectives. The mentor and the law student will have shared insights into what it means to be a student/graduate of the J. Reuben Clark Law School.

**Pre-Session Work**

Read articles for Session 1:

- Marion G. Romney, "Why the J. Reuben Clark Law School"
- Kevin Worthen, "Religiously Affiliated Law Schools: An Added Dimension"
- BYU Law School's "Guide to Professional Development" (Sections 1-7)
- BYU Law School's "Guide to Alternative Careers" (Optional)

Located online at: [http://www.law2.byu.edu/careers/mentoring/curriculum.php](http://www.law2.byu.edu/careers/mentoring/curriculum.php)

Student should review the mentor’s bio/resume (provided by mentor).

**Discussion Topics/Questions**

**Introduction.** What does the Mentor do? What does the Mentor like or not like about the Mentor’s current position? What career path has the Mentor followed to get to the Mentor’s current position? What help can the Mentor offer the Student in achieving his/her employment objectives?

**Exploring Employment Options.** What are the Student’s career objectives (and why)? What are the Student’s qualifications and background to achieve those objectives? What types of jobs are available to law school graduates generally and to this Student specifically? What types of employment opportunities are optimal and realistic given the Student’s qualifications? Does the Student have geographic preferences? What are the best geographic areas for employment in the areas desired by the Student? Does the Student have specific practice area preferences? What are some preferable practice areas given the Student’s career objectives? What ideas for employment did you get from reading the “Guide to Professional Development?”

**The BYU Law School Experience.** Why does BYU Law School exist? What does it mean to graduate from our Law School? Do the answers to the previous two questions affect employment objectives and if so, how? What is “the BYU Law School Experience”? How has attending BYU Law School impacted the Student’s and the Mentor’s lives? What did you learn from President Romney’s and Dean Worthen’s articles about the BYU Law School? Did these articles change the way you view the law school and if so, how?
Session 2: Resume Review, Interviewing Skills, and Employment Targets

Objectives
Following this session, the law student will have a resume that is accurate, attractive, and persuasive to targeted potential employers. The mentor will have sufficient information about law student’s qualifications, desires, and employment objectives to set up three employment interviews for the law student. The mentor and law student will have discussed how to prepare for an employment interview generally, and how to prepare for the three specific interviews to be set up by the mentor specifically. The law student is prepared for interviews with potential employers. In addition to the three interviews to be set up by the mentor, the law student and the mentor will identify additional employment targets that are attractive and realistic for the law student.

Pre-Work
Read articles for session 2:
- Joel A. Holt, "Cover Letters: 7 Steps to Creating a Great True First Impression"
- Lisa Abrams, "Ten Ways Law Students Can Be More Persuasive in Interviews"
- Amanda DiPolvere and Gwen Tolbert, "Behavioral Interviews — Preparing Students to Tell Their Stories"

Located online at: http://www.law2.byu.edu/careers/mentoring/curriculum.php

Student should prepare resume and send it to the Mentor.

Discussion Topics
Resume Review. What makes a good resume? What are the strengths and weaknesses of Student’s resume? How can the Student’s resume be improved? How should the resume be changed, if at all, for the three interviews to be set up by the Mentor? How should the resume be changed, if at all, for other potential employers? What did you learn from Joel Holt’s article about cover letters? How can you apply what you learned in improving the written materials you use to seek employment?

Interviewing Skills. Based on the article by Lisa Abrams, what can the Student do to be more persuasive in interviews? What makes a good employment interview? What did the Student learn from the article by Amanda DiPolvere and Gwen Tolbert about how to tell their story in an interview? What does the Student need to do to be prepared for employment interviews?

Employment Targets. Beyond the three interviews to be set up by the Mentor, what are other potential employment options for the Student? Once those targets have been identified, what is a strategy to get a job offer from those targets?
Session 3: Networking, Ethics and Professionalism, Employment Follow Up

Objectives
Following this session, the law student understands both what networking is and how to do it, particularly with respect to the potential employers targeted during session two. The law student understands the practical and moral importance of behaving ethically and professionally as a lawyer. The law student understands the particular ethical and moral obligations of a J. Reuben Clark Law School graduate. The Mentor and law student continue to work together on securing satisfactory employment for the law student.

Pre-Work
Read articles for session 3:
- Stephanie Mitchell, “Using Informational Interviews to Build Your Network”
- Lori L. Lorenzo, “Out of the Box Networking Tips”

Located online at: http://www.law2.byu.edu/careers/mentoring/curriculum.php

Discussion Topics

Networking. What is the importance of networking in obtaining employment? What networking resources are available to the Student right now to obtain targeted employment? What networking resources are available to BYU Students that may be unique? How can the Student use those resources to obtain targeted employment? How is networking important even after obtaining employment? What did you learn about networking from Stephanie Mitchell’s article? Did that article give you any new ideas on how you can network? Who are the Student’s networking targets? What networking tips recommended in the Lori Lorenzo article could most help the Student in networking to find employment?

Ethics and Professionalism. What are the written and unwritten rules that govern lawyers’ behavior? What is the difference between acting ethically and acting professionally? What is the difference between ethical rules and morals? What are moral reasons to behave ethically as a lawyer? What are practical reasons to behave ethically as a lawyer? What are moral reasons to behave professionally as a lawyer? What are the practical reasons to behave professionally as a lawyer? How has the Mentor handled a difficult ethical dilemma? What is the best way to handle an ethical dilemma? Based on Elder Faust’s article, what special obligations do BYU Law School graduates have to behave ethically and professionally? What else did you learn from that article. Is it a privilege or a right to be a lawyer? What is pro bono work and why is it important?

Employment Follow Up. How did the three interviews go that were set up by the Mentor? Has the Student secured an employment position (and, if not, what can be done to obtain employment)?
Session 4: Success in the Workplace, Life Balance, Employment Follow Up

Objectives

Following this session, the law student understands the practical aspects of being part of a law firm or other office (business generation, practice management skills, and being a good partner/colleague). The law student understands the important differences between the law school experience and legal practice. The law student understands the role and importance of the state bar and other professional associations. The law student understands the importance of life’s priorities and the options and tools available to balance career, family, and church and/or civic responsibilities. The law student is prepared to turn a summer employment opportunity into a permanent offer (or to succeed in already accepted permanent employment). The law student has secured satisfactory employment.

Pre-Work

Read articles for session 4:

- Robert L. Backman, “Balance”
- Hon. Deanell Reece Tacha, “Packing Your Briefcase”
- Marina S. Feehan, “E-Guides for Professionalism: Minding Your Manners and Maintaining Your Reputation”

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Discussion Topics

**Success in the Workplace.** What are the differences in the lives of a Student and a practicing lawyer? What are the Mentor’s priorities as a member of a firm (or other office)? What are the Mentor’s obligations as a member of a firm (or other office)? What are some “Do’s and Don’ts” of maintaining good client relations (returning telephone calls, keeping clients informed etc.)? What lessons did you learn from Marina Feehan’s article on “Minding Your Manners?” When should you not take a case? What role do professional associations have in developing a successful career? What professional associations has the Mentor joined and why? What are potential professional associations for the Student to target during law school and upon graduation? What is the best way to avoid making enemies in the legal community? What are some ways to build relationships with others in the legal community?

**Life Balance.** What are the Mentor’s priorities in life? Other than income, what is the most satisfying part of the Mentor’s career? What are the Student’s priorities in life? What is life balance? Why is it important? How does the Mentor balance the demands of career, family, and church and/or civic responsibilities? What types of sacrifices has the Mentor made for the Mentor’s career? How can the Student be prepared to achieve balance in life? What are the Student’s goals in areas other than the practice of law? How do those goals impact the Student’s career path? Discuss what you learned from the articles on life balance by Elder Backman and Judge Tacha.

**Employment Follow Up.** Has the Student secured satisfactory employment, and, if not, what can be done to obtain employment?