



Mentoring Program IS NEWEST CLE OPTION

A message from the John Marshall Law School

In these hectic times, everyone needs to be extra efficient with their resources, and very few resources are more important than your time. If you're a lawyer who values your time, you might be interested in a new program at The John Marshall Law School that will let you elevate the legal profession at the same time that you earn Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits.

The Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program, approved by the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, is under way at John Marshall. Lawyers are eligible to participate as mentors if they have practiced in Illinois for at least six years, are listed as active and in good standing by the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, and have never been suspended, disbarred, or have pending complaints in any jurisdiction. Retired judges are also eligible to serve as mentors.

"This program is a great way for attorneys to strengthen the legal community by helping new attorneys shape their careers," said Justice Margaret Frossard, a former Illinois Appellate Court justice who now is director of Professionalism and Engagement at John Marshall. She is serving as the mentoring program administrator. "At the same time, mentors help themselves by earning six hours of professional responsibility CLE credit. It's definitely a win-win situation."

Frossard encourages attorneys who wish to be mentors to contact her for an application at mfrossar@jmls.edu. She is also planning orientation sessions for this fall. After those sessions, the mentor and mentee will develop a plan for an individualized professional relationship that fosters learning. Regular interaction is required, including at least eight in-person meetings during the course of the mentoring year.

New lawyers who wish to be mentored by their more experienced colleagues also should get in touch with Frossard for an application. New lawyers are eligible to participate no later than two years after being admitted to the Illinois bar, and if they are registered as active by the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, and practice law in Illinois or intend to do so.

Currently pending before the Illinois Supreme Court is a change to court rules that would allow a new attorney to use six hours of professional responsibility CLE acquired through the mentoring program to fulfill six hours of Basic Skills CLE requirements.

John Marshall Law School also offers a CLE Basic Skills Course that will be presented this year on two Saturdays in the fall--October 29 and November 5.

Assistant Professor Cliff Scott-Rudnick, director of Continuing Legal Education and Professionalism at John Marshall, said the training program has been designed to employ the talents of experienced teachers as well as experienced lawyers.

"Those in need of credits for this required program should find this basic skills experience bringing out needed skills for practicing law that are not often developed through the law school experience," Scott-Rudnick said. "Most everyone taking these programs should find a feeling of more confidence when starting to practice and reassurance that there are practitioners and professors who will help them through this process."

For more information, Frossard can be contacted at mfrossar@jmls.edu and Scott-Rudnick can be reached at 9scott@jmls.edu.