

PIPLA Student Mentorship Program

Objectives

The Program is designed to match a Mentee with a Mentor for an initial period of one year for professional development. The initial period is extendable at the will of both the Mentor and Mentee.

The objectives of the Program are to provide opportunities for mentees to:

- Explore intellectual property (IP) careers through interaction with IP professionals in the greater Pittsburgh area.
- Gain an experienced IP professional's perspective on applying IP law to real-life situations.
- Familiarize themselves with management of an IP practice and/or corporate IP protocol.
- Realize the value of networking.
- Develop a meaningful professional relationship with the Pittsburgh IP community.

Additionally, the IP professionals can benefit from this program by:

- Contributing to the professional development of the future IP professionals.
- Identify potential interns/hires for their practice.

Requirements for a Mentee

- Must be an active law student.
- Must have a desire to pursue a career in IP.
- Must be willing to attend at least three (3) meetings of PIPLA.
- Must be willing to meet (in person or teleconference) with Mentor at least once a month during the school year in addition to the meetings of PIPLA.

Requirements for a Mentor

- Must be a current IP professional.
- Must be an active member of PIPLA.
- Must be willing to attend at least three (3) meetings of PIPLA with their Mentee.
- Must be willing to meet (*in person or teleconference*) with their Mentee at least once a month during the school year, which could include the monthly meetings of PIPLA.

Guidelines for the Mentor/Mentee Relationship

- The Mentor must make initial contact with Mentee within two weeks of an assignment of a Mentee.
- The Mentor must communicate with Mentee at least once every month during the school year.
- The Mentor will arrange for the Mentee to attend at least three (3) PIPLA meetings with them.
- The Mentor must introduce the Mentee to other IP professionals at the PIPLA meetings.
- Mentees should participate in a local IP law student group (if active).
- Mentors and Mentees must attend a year end event for the Program.

Organization of the Program

- The Director of the Program will publicize the Program to PIPLA members by email, announcements at monthly meetings, letters to members, and personal contacts.
- The Director will provide an enrollment form that IP professionals can complete to identify the IP professionals' areas of expertise.
- The Director will publicize the Program to active law students. Additionally, the Director will provide application forms to interested students to determine their areas of interest.
- The Director should conduct interviews with potential Mentees and Mentors to clarify areas of interest and commitment level of Mentors and Mentees.
- The Director will match Mentors and Mentees based on mutual areas of professional interest, schedules, and/or geographic proximity.
- The Director will maintain open communication with all Mentors and Mentees to actively solicit feedback to improve the Program.
- The Director will organize a year end event for all participants of the Program to discuss the experiences from all participants.

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