

EVENTS

Bridge to Success Mentor Program



1
Dean John F. O'Brien '77,
Jennifer Sunderland '08

2
Bernard Menendez '98,
Hon. Edward G. Boyle '79,
James P. Long '79

3
Vladi Nechev '13,
Jeremy C. Jeffrey '13

4
Meg Curley '00,
Kristyn Dery Kaupas '07

5
Jacqueline M. Yunits '09,
Matt Fitzsimmons '09

6
Joshua Boeh-Ocansey '13,
Paul K. Mutch '96

Turnout was good for the two Bridge to Success Mentor Program receptions, one in October 2011 and a second one in January 2012, held at M.J. O'Connor's Pub in the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston.

The informal social gatherings allowed students and their mentors to meet as well as to mingle and network with other participants. Both students and mentors are committed partners in the nine-month program.

Local mentors were able to participate in the pub events, but alumni from other parts of the country have also signed on to participate in the program. Ninety alumni mentors work in Massachusetts, and nearly 60 are located in others states and Canada. Mentors provide help with choices of courses and planning for classes, internship selection, and career advice within a practice area or an employer type.

"Matching is based on commonalities and is one of the most important elements of the program's success," says Mandie LeBeau, director of career services, whose staff worked with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations last summer to determine the student-alumni pairings. Students' stated practice-area interests and their geographic-location preferences are factors in making the matches.

At the program's orientation for students in September 2011, students were informed that they were expected to initiate the connection and to let their mentors know how best to be of help. Both students and mentors apply for the program and are encouraged to be in contact monthly and to meet twice a semester if the mentor is local.

Interested? Your experience, insights, and guidance can help a New England Law student get aligned with a desired career path. Contact the Office of Development and Alumni at 617-368-1416 or e-mail alumni@nesl.edu.



Hon. Francis X. Flaherty, associate justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court; Rhode Island attorneys Eva M. Mancuso and Sean P. Feeney, Cassandra's aunt and uncle; Cassandra Feeney '11, mentee; and Christopher S. Gontarz '84, mentor for the Bridge to Success Mentor Program

"Thank you again for the Bridge to Success Mentor Program! Chris Gontarz has played such an important role in the early stages of my career. I was honored to invite him to my personal swearing-in ceremony."

—Cassandra L. Feeney '11

"I would like to share with you the stunning success story of my mentee, Cassandra L. Feeney '11. We agreed to meet at the Rhode Island Superior Court in Providence, where she was working as a paid intern. We met next at the mentee-mentor reception in Boston, and we continued to stay in touch throughout the school year, either by phone or e-mail.

"We had lunch one wintery day in Boston, and we spoke about Cassandra's future after graduation, and she expressed an interest in becoming a clerk for the Rhode Island Superior Court. Having practiced law in Rhode Island since 1984, and being a member of the House of Delegates of the Rhode Island Bar Association, as well as a member of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Ethics Advisory panel, I was more than pleased to write a letter of recommendation to Chief Justice Paul Suttell on Cassandra's behalf. Cassandra got the position.

"This past spring, Cassandra contacted me and expressed an interest in applying for a position as a clerk to Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Francis X. Flaherty. Again, I gladly wrote a letter on her behalf as well as spoke to Justice Flaherty about Cassandra. She was chosen at her initial interview to be his clerk for the 2012–2013 term."

—Christopher S. Gontarz '84