

Pro Tips for Mentors

Thank you for joining us as a Law Practice Mentor at our 9th annual Gambrell Award winning Campus to Career professional development conference. This year's conference theme is **Spotlight on Practice** and will expand on our Law Practice Mentors session with a full day of programming spotlighting practice areas and connecting mentors and mentees. Our students are thrilled to be able to ask you questions about how you lawyer, along with many other questions—some of these are easy to answer, and some may be more challenging for you. We hope you will put yourself in the students' shoes, and give them information, ideas for preparation, some confidence, and maybe some additional ideas and contacts.

Here are some tips from our own experience:

1. Use their name.
2. Welcome them to the profession.
3. Relate, relate, relate. You went to law school; they are in law school. It's difficult, sometimes painful, and ultimately rewarding in ways they haven't experienced yet.
4. Understand the question, and don't hesitate to ask students for clarity. Language may have changed since you were in law school, and our first gen students may not have the right language at hand. Be kind if you correct terms of art.
5. Take every question seriously, no matter what.
6. Put the student at ease and ask them questions.
7. Share an experience or a story that reflects your understanding of their curiosity and interest.
8. Give them a business card if you have one. Please bring plenty of business cards.
9. Give them honest and nutritious answers, inviting a next question.
10. Make eye contact with them, even if they are having difficulty making eye contact.