Overview of the 2016-17 Women’s Mentoring Program

Below please find some answers to frequently asked questions about the program.

What is the Women’s Mentoring Program?
The Women’s Mentoring Program facilitates mentoring relationships by pairing first year law students who identify as female with alumnae mentors in the Chicago area. The program was founded in the Fall of 1991 by three 1L women to connect first-year women with practicing attorneys and encourage the development of professional relationships. Today, our mentors come from many career paths, including law firms, public interest organizations, government, and business endeavors, providing 1Ls with exposure to a wide array of viewpoints. The program encourages discussion of issues relevant to women both during law school and as they begin their careers. The WMP enables participants to develop meaningful mentoring relationships, hear different perspectives on the Law School and practice of law, and learn about the many available career options.

How can I get involved?
We are currently recruiting alumnae mentor volunteers for the 2016-17 school year.

What is expected of me as a mentor?
The mentoring program spans the length of the academic year. Therefore, we ask that mentors commit to being involved in the program from November 2016 until August 2017.

Your level of involvement with your mentee is entirely up to you and your mentee. We are aware that your schedule is busy, and your time is valuable. We hope that at a minimum you will:

- Meet in person with your mentee once each quarter;
- Participate in group events if available;
- Communicate with your mentee via email or phone periodically as agreed upon by you and your mentee; and
- Provide feedback, guidance, and encouragement to your mentee.

The Women’s Mentoring Program Student Board will provide mentees with direction throughout the program on how to maximize the value of the mentoring relationship.

Important Dates:
September 26 – First day of classes
October 28 – Deadline to sign up as a mentor
Late November – OEA will connect mentees and mentors via email, so mentees can reach out to mentors
January – Winter Kick-off Event

What are the program-sponsored events?
The program will include a Kick-Off reception in January 2017, where mentees and mentors are able to meet. Other events will be scheduled throughout the academic year, as determined by the WMP Student Board. We will also schedule small-group cohort events during the winter quarter. These events will allow mentors and mentees to meet in smaller groups to facilitate connections on all levels. In addition to sponsored events, mentors and mentees will correspond throughout the year. To help guide the mentoring relationship, the Office of External Affairs and APALSA student board will reach out periodically.

How do I sign up?
Please visit the WMP Mentor Sign-up page at http://www.law.uchicago.edu/WMPMentor by Friday, October 28th at 5:00 p.m. to sign up.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?
Please contact the Women’s Mentoring Program Student Board at wmp@law.uchicago.edu or Maggie Elmarakby, Assistant Director of Young Alumni Relations, at melmarakby@uchicago.edu.