

Mentor Qualifications

The success of Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring depends in large part upon the leadership and dedication of ethical and professional mentors, who will provide guidance, listen to concerns, and set an example of how to honorably practice law. Before agreeing to serve as a mentor, a lawyer or judge should honestly evaluate whether he or she has the inclination and skills necessary to guide and teach a new lawyer in a one-on-one setting, can devote the time needed for mentoring, and exhibits professional habits in the practice of law.

Moreover, to be an eligible mentor you must:

- ✓ Be admitted to practice law in Ohio for not less than five years;
- ✓ Be registered active and in good standing;
- ✓ Have a reputation for competence and ethical and professional conduct;

- ✓ Never have been suspended or disbarred from the practice of law in any jurisdiction, nor have voluntarily surrendered your license to dispose a pending disciplinary proceeding;
- ✓ Not have been otherwise sanctioned in any jurisdiction during the ten years preceding your nomination as a mentor*;
- ✓ Not have a formal disciplinary complaint pending before the Supreme Court of Ohio**;

- ✓ Carry professional liability insurance with minimum limits of \$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 in the aggregate, or its equivalent. Government attorneys, in-house counsel for a corporation, lawyers employed by a non-profit agency, or lawyers mentoring in-house are exempt from this requirement; and
- ✓ Submit a [Mentor Application](#) and be approved by the Commission on Professionalism (Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.)

* For the purposes of the program, “sanctioned” means subjected to disciplinary action and includes public reprimands or private sanctions which occur in jurisdictions that impose them. Such sanctions also include administrative suspensions resulting from a deficiency in continuing legal education hours or a failure to renew attorney registration in a timely manner.

** If a formal disciplinary complaint is pending, a mentor nomination will be deferred until the final disposition of the formal complaint.