

# Sign up Now for the MBA Mentor Program

By Kim Griffith, Cosgrave Vergeer Kester and YLS President-Elect.

Take advantage of one of the finest services the MBA offers its newer members - a six-month mentorship with a seasoned attorney. Go to [www.mbar.org](http://www.mbar.org) by December 1 and answer a few questions about the type of mentoring you could use right now in your career. With our patented, peer-reviewed, Professionalism Committee technology, we will match you with a mentor in January 2010. After the MBA Mentor Program kick-off party, you and your mentor design your relationship to suit your needs and availability. In June, we thank you for participating with another party. That's all there is to it. Contact Kimberly Griffith at [kgriffith@cvk-law.com](mailto:kgriffith@cvk-law.com) if you have questions. If you participated in the past, you are welcome to do so again. A few words from satisfied customers:

"[O]n more than one occasion, I met with my mentor after a particularly frustrating day and time and time again she offered great advice to help me evaluate how to handle situations in a positive way. One of the most helpful aspects for me was Ruth's candidness about her professional life. Ruth was willing to discuss difficult situations she encountered in her legal career, past and present. She was open to answering questions about how she felt during these trying times and how she problem-solved in a way that addressed both her professional goals and personal needs. This balance between family, friends, community obligations and career was a frequent topic at our meetings. Ruth illustrated to me that a reasonable balance, while maintaining one's sanity, is possible." *Sheri Osher, 2009 Mentee of Ruth Pekelder*

"The MBA Professionalism Committee devotes hours of thoughtful analysis to pair prospective mentees with the mentors who volunteer for the program. I am convinced that for some unknown reason they always give me the best of the crop. My mentees have been newly minted attorneys with interesting histories, thoughtful questions, and an enthusiasm



Todd Cleek, 2008-09 Professionalism Committee chair with Ruth Pekelder and Sheri Osher



Todd Cleek with Dick Ginsburg and Olivia Horgan

for learning. They share their fears, their triumphs, their doubts and their frustrations. They are considerate of my time, appreciative of the directions I suggest, and they laugh at my jokes. I have discovered that you do not need to be particularly old or wise or professorial; that simply by virtue of having been around these blocks a couple of times, we have insights and a perspective that can be of use to those joining this path. The new attorneys I have had the delight to know have taught me about myself, about the practice of law, and about substantive issues in ways that no one else could. I initially volunteered to be a mentor because I thought maybe I could be of some use. I continue to participate because I come away from each relationship enriched and encouraged." *Ruth Pekelder, 2009 MBA Mentor of the Year Award Recipient, as Mentor to Sheri Osher*

"Serving as a mentor in the immigration law field gives me great satisfaction. I remember being overwhelmed as a new

lawyer and sometimes not knowing where to begin to find an answer ... and, indeed, sometimes not knowing what needed to be answered. Immigration clients have much at stake. It was a relief when I was able to call another lawyer - when someone was available. As a mentor I try to always be available. After years of practicing immigration law, I know there are few easy answers. "We are in the never-never land of the Immigration and Nationality Act where plain words do not mean what they say," *Yuen Sang Low v. Attorney General*, 470 F.2d 820, 821 (9th Cir. 1973). As a mentor I can walk a new lawyer through the facts and the law to arrive at a logical analysis of the case. And because no two cases are alike, it will be a learning experience for me. We need more lawyers in the immigration field. It is a challenging field with many rewards. As a mentor I can share the enjoyment of this field of law." *Dick Ginsburg, 2009 MBA Mentor of the Year Award Recipient, as Mentor to Olivia Horgan*



## YLS and Equality Committee Organize Legal Professions Day

By Josh Ross, Stoll Berne and YLS Futures Committee member.

This summer, members of the YLS Futures Committee and the MBA Equality Committee joined forces to plan a visit for participants of the Portland Multnomah Youth Corps. Youth Corps, coordinated through the mayor's office, offers a series of interventions - career-focused courses and site visits in various industries - for targeted high school students during the summer months. As part of its goal to promote a more diverse bar, our committee worked with the mayor's office, a number of local law firms, and volunteers from the bench and bar to organize a "legal professions" day designed to allow students to explore and learn more about law-oriented professions.

On July 15, about 20 ninth-graders from Reynolds High School visited Davis Wright Tremaine (DWT), where students met with volunteer lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants, legal recruiting and IT staff, and law librarians. The students had the opportunity to ask candid questions in small groups of each of the volunteers. During the discussions, the volunteers discussed what they most enjoy (and do not enjoy) about their work, their career paths, and the "ins and outs" of their professional lives. The students also took a tour of DWT's facilities and saw the operations of a law firm first-hand. Later, the students visited Judge Adrienne

Nelson's courtroom, where they heard about life in court from Judge Nelson and attorney Michael Rees from Metro Public Defender. Over lunch, Judge Nelson shared inspiring stories with the students and reminded them that hard work pays off.

Members of the planning committee hope to see the MBA continue working with Youth Corps in years to come. Collin McKean, co-chair of the YLS Futures Committee and a member of the planning committee said, "We hope that after actually seeing what the practice of law looks like, the students will seriously consider a career in the legal field and start working toward that goal." Lainie Decker, the former YLS board liaison to the Equality Committee, added that the program provided "our committees the opportunity to work together toward the common goal of reaching out to young people from diverse backgrounds which will hopefully, in the long term, help further diversify the bar."

The YLS Futures Committee and the Equality Committee thank all of the volunteers, DWT for hosting the event and Stoll Berne and Gevurtz Menashe for sponsoring the group lunch. If you are interested in volunteering with Youth Corps, please contact Josh Ross at [jross@stollberne.com](mailto:jross@stollberne.com).

### YLS Drop-in Social – October 8

The YLS and Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt are sponsoring a drop-in social on October 8, from 5:15-7:15 p.m. We'll be gathering in the upstairs area of Clyde Common, located at 1014 SW Stark St. in downtown Portland (in the Ace Hotel Building). Come enjoy happy hour after work with friends, colleagues and other young lawyers.



Attorneys Derek Green and Collin McKean and paralegal Kristin Dunn visit with students