



PATENT PATHWAYS

MENTORING EXPECTATIONS

The purpose of this document is to provide those considering mentoring with the Patent Pathways program an outline of mentor expectations.

Introduction:

The goal of the Patent Pathways program (the program) is to increase the number of underrepresented engineers and scientists who are registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The program provides participants with a thorough introduction to the field of Patent Law, specifically patent preparation and prosecution, and provides access to patent bar training materials.

The program is designed to help participants not only successfully enter the patent field (as a registered member of the patent bar), but also receive the tools, mentor network, and knowledge necessary to be successful in the patent field. Overall, the mentors should expect to be a resource that is available to the participants throughout the program, whether through scheduled check-ins or ad hoc meetings/phone calls (if available). Duties and availability of mentors will vary depending on needs of each participant throughout the program.

Mentorship structure:

Mentors of the program will work in teams to provide resources to the participants. For example, each participant will be assigned two co-mentors (ideally one mentor from a partner law firm to provide outside counsel insight/perspective and one mentor from a partner company to provide in-house counsel insight/perspective). Furthermore, this arrangement will allow for some mentor flexibility to fulfill other obligations while leaving the other mentor available to assist the participant. Each participant should have one meeting per week with one of the co-mentors.

Prior to program launch:

Mentors will receive an introduction to a program participant and a co-mentor, and will receive an invitation to a one-hour virtual training session (either live or pre-recorded). Mentors are expected to complete the training prior to their first session with the participant.

During the program:

Mentors will be provided with the program schedule and access to the program's virtual classroom so they are aware of where the participants are in the program's progress. Mentors may be asked to review assignments, and should provide constructive feedback that is framed positively to help the participant learn and develop.

Mentor replacement/substitution: Circumstances may arise that prevent a mentor from fulfilling expectations for an extended period of time. In such circumstances, the mentor is expected to notify the Mentoring Committee leadership team or email info@patentpathways.org so a replacement can be identified to ensure that the participant has continued access to a mentor.

Contact Information:

Email Address: info@patentpathways.org

Website: <https://www.patentpathways.org/>