

Mentor—Mentee Breakfast

Guest Panelists:

Alison F. Smith Partner, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.

Meisha K. Smith Senior Director & Legal Counsel, Spirit Airlines, Inc.

Ross Baer Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County

Friday, September 23, 2016

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

NSU Shepard Broad College of Law

Panza Maurer Law Library 3rd Floor

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The NSU Law Mentoring Program (“Program”) includes the following:

- A group mentoring model and not the traditional 1:1 pairing of Mentor to Mentee.
- In-person meetings at NSU during the academic year bring all Mentors and Mentees together.
- A list of suggested activities organized by group to help Mentors discover opportunities to help Mentees achieve the learning outcomes for the Program.

The Mentoring Program Learning Outcomes By the end of the academic year, the Mentees should:

1. Plan for the transition from law student to lawyer, including time management skills and goal-setting;
2. Create and maintain a mentoring relationship with a colleague;
3. Understand strategies to manage: clients, cases, projects, and employees;
4. Practice preparation techniques in professional settings, such as meetings, hearings, depositions, trials, business transactions;
5. Prepare strategies to address novel situations as they arise in the business and practice of law.

Mentor/Mentee Practice Groups

On the Information & Group Registration Form, Mentors will select one Practice Group to join that is the most relevant group to their area of practice. Likewise, Mentees will select one Practice Group to join that best aligns with their area of interest.

At the scheduled in-person meetings at NSU, Mentors and Mentees will meet in their respective groups for the program event. This will enable group members to get to know one another better and plan for additional meetings.

The Program Director will maintain a spreadsheet by group listing the Mentors and Mentees names and contact information. Messages may be sent occasionally to Mentors and Mentees, keeping them informed about Program events and opportunities of interest to one or more Groups. Explanations of each Group are included on the Registration form.

The Groups are as follows:

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| 1) Civil Litigation Practice Group | 6) Family Law Practice Group |
| 2) Transactional Practice Group | 7) International Law Group |
| 3) Criminal Practice Group | 8) Real Property, Probate, Trust, Estates, and Tax Practice Group |
| 4) Health Law Practice Group | 9) Undecided |
| 5) Intellectual Property Law Group | |

Breakfast Meeting Dates for 2016-2017 Academic Year Please save these dates on your calendar:

Friday, September 23, 2016:

Location: Shepard Broad College of Law
Check-in & breakfast networking: 7:15 to 8:00 am
Program: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Friday, January 27, 2017:

Location: Shepard Broad College of Law
Check-in & breakfast networking: 7:15 to 8:00 am
Program: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Friday, November 4, 2016:

Location: Shepard Broad College of Law
Check-in & breakfast networking: 7:15 to 8:00 am
Location: Shepard Broad College of Law

Friday, February 24, 2017: (Special Program for Mentors and current 1Ls)

Location: Shepard Broad College of Law
Check-in & breakfast networking: 7:15 to 8:00 am
Program: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

NSU Law Mentoring Program Agenda

September 23, 2016

7:15 – 7:55 a.m.: Check-in and Breakfast Networking

7:55 – 8:00 a.m.: Welcome and Introductions

8:00 a.m.: **Program: “Your Personal Business Plan”**

Panelists:

Alison F. Smith, *Partner*, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.

Meisha K. Smith, *Senior Director and Legal Counsel*, Spirit Airlines, Inc.

Ross Baer, *Supervising Attorney*, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County

8:30 a.m.: Networking and Wrap-Up

9:00 a.m.: Adjourn

Alison F. Smith is a partner at the law firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman P.L. and currently serves as the deputy City Attorney for the City of Miramar. Her primary area of practice is labor and employment law. Ms. Smith graduated magna cum laude from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law in 2003 and was the valedictorian.

In 2015, Ms. Smith was given the Most Powerful & Influential Woman Award by the Florida Diversity Council, and was named one of the top 40 outstanding attorneys under 40 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In 2016, she was named one of the most powerful and influential women in South Florida by Legacy Magazine, was given the professionalism award by the Broward County Bar Association, which is given to a person who “exemplifies the highest ideals of professionalism in the practice of law and in life.” She was also recently featured Caribbean National Weekly as one of the top 20 Distinguished Jamaican Youth Under 40 in South Florida.

She has been interviewed on legal topics by both CBS and WSVN Channel 7, and has participated in radio talk shows where she has discussed cutting edge labor and employment topics.

Ms. Smith is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Legal Aid Service of Broward County and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc., a member of the board of directors of the Broward County Bar Association, as well as a member of the 17th Judicial Circuit's Professionalism Panel.



Meisha K. Smith is a Sr. Director & Legal Counsel at Spirit Airlines, Inc. where she has been employed since 2007. As In House Counsel for Spirit, she manages litigation matters, practices in a variety of areas with her primary focus on employment and labor law and she oversees Spirit's Security Department. Ms. Smith graduated cum laude from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 2002.

Prior to her In House Counsel position at Spirit, Ms. Smith served on active duty as an attorney with the United States Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps from 2003 – 2006 where she was stationed in Germany and practiced in the areas of legal assistance law, claims law and administrative law. Other than her native English, Ms. Smith also speaks German and Spanish.



Ross Baer has been a licensed attorney in Florida since 1989. He is the supervising family law attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, where he has been employed since 1991. Ross Baer is an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University School of Law and Nova Southeastern University Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health, & Justice. Primary areas of instruction include: Family Law, Juvenile Law, Children's Rights and Special Education Law. Professor Baer is well versed in appellate practice and procedure, where he has practiced primarily in the 4th District Court of Appeals. Professor Baer has substantial experience in all matters pertaining to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction. He has litigated numerous cases involving the international abduction of children, and has assisted in having abducted children returned to their parents. In April, 2009, Professor Baer was honored as Adjunct Professor of the Year by Nova Southeastern University School of Law.

