



### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The NSU Law Mentoring 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:

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

#### Upcoming Mentoring Programs

##### November 2019

**NSU Law Office of Career Services and Professional Development**  
law-careerdevelopment@nova.edu | Phone: (954) 262-6124 | Fax: (954) 262-3844

**NSU Law Alumni Relations**  
lawalumni@nova.edu | Phone: (954) 262-6303 | Fax: (954) 262-3834



## Journey to the Bench: A Panel Discussion with Alumni Judges

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

NSU Law Faculty Study

#### PANELISTS

Honorable Melanie May, (J.D. 1981), Fourth District Court of Appeal  
Honorable Betsy Benson, (J.D. 1984), 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida  
Honorable Mariya Weekes, (J.D. 2008), 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida

Shepard Broad College of Law  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



# NSU Law Mentoring Program Agenda

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

NSU Law Faculty Study

7:30 – 7:50 a.m.:

Check-in and Breakfast Networking

7:50 – 8:00 a.m.:

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

**Janice Shaw**, Assistant Dean, NSU Law Office of Career Services and Professional Development

## Program:

**“Journey to the Bench: A Panel Discussion with Alumni Judges”**

8:00 a.m.:

## Panelists

- **Honorable Melanie May**, (J.D. 1981), Fourth District Court of Appeal
- **Honorable Betsy Benson**, (J.D. 1984), 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida
- **Honorable Mariya Weekes**, (J.D. 2008), 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida

## Moderator

**Janice Shaw**, Assistant Dean, NSU Law Office of Career Services and Professional Development

8:45 a.m.:

## Networking

Our distinguished panelists will discuss the communication, professional development and relationship management skills that are necessary for young attorneys to possess to successfully launch their legal careers. Following the panel, attendees will have the opportunity to network with panelists and alumni to gain deeper insights for leading a fulfilling and successful career.

## Panelists



**Judge Melanie G. May** received her Juris Doctor degree in 1981 from Shepard Broad College of Law and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2009.

Judge May was in private practice before she was appointed to serve as a circuit court judge on the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit by Governor Lawton Chiles. Judge May served in the juvenile delinquency and felony drug court divisions from 1991, until her appointment to the Fourth District Court of Appeal by Governor Jeb Bush in 2002. She served as Chief Judge of the Fourth District Court of Appeal from 2011 to 2013.

Judge May is currently the Vice-President of the Council of Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal. She also serves as chair of the Shepard Broad College of Law's Board of Governors, and is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees of Nova Southeastern University as well as being **very** active in the South Florida legal community.

Judge May has received many awards, including the 1998 Distinguished Alumni Award from Nova Southeastern University and the 2009-2010 “Distinguished Service Award” (Judicial) from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency. She was inducted into the Stanley M. Goldstein Hall of Fame in 2003.



**Judge Betsy Benson**, prior to taking the bench in January of 2017, Judge Benson practiced law for over 32 years. She tried almost 100 cases before a jury, handling a wide range of matters from eviction to capital cases. Judge Benson worked at Legal Aid of Broward, helping senior citizens with social security issues. She also served as an attorney at the Office of the Public Defender helping the indigent in criminal cases. Judge Benson served as an Adjunct Professor and taught Intensive Trial Advocacy at Nova University School of Law. She taught trial skills to attorneys at the National Institute of Trial Attorneys. She helps foster young lawyers through her membership in numerous bar associations and her work in various moot court programs. Judge Benson is a presenter for the Florida Bar Speaker's Bureau and serves on the Florida Supreme Court's Justice Teaching Initiative. Judge Benson's father, William 'Bill' Benson, was an attorney in Broward for 53 years.



**Judge Mariya Weekes** is a Circuit Court Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Broward County, Florida. She is currently assigned to the Circuit Felony Division where she handles cases that range from 3rd degree felonies to Death Penalty cases. Judge Weekes received her Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in 2008. She was elected to the circuit bench on November 8, 2018, to replace retiring Judge Peter Weinstein.

Prior to being elected to the Circuit bench, Judge Weekes worked as an Assistant State Attorney in Broward County where she handled cases ranging from Misdemeanor offenses to Second Degree Murder. Before accepting a position as an Assistant State Attorney, Judge Weekes worked as a civil litigator and appellate attorney at several firms in Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton, Florida.