



## STUDENTS:

Do one of these situations sound familiar?

- You are registering for next semester's classes and you cannot decide between two elective classes. Would it be nice to talk to an experienced paralegal to see which class they feel would most benefit your upcoming paralegal career?
- You have just started your first paralegal job and you really want to impress your new employer. However, your supervising attorney has just asked you to perform a specific task and you have no idea how to begin. Would you appreciate an experienced paralegal's guidance in completing this task with ease?

**YOU NEED A MENTOR!**



Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association  
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## SMOKY MOUNTAIN PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION



## SMPA Student Mentor Program

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SMPA is a NALA Affiliated Association



## SMPA MENTOR PROGRAM

The Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association Mentor Program was created to foster the interaction between SMPA students and SMPA experienced, working paralegal members. Students network with working paralegals to explore career interests and engage in mutually beneficial, professionally-oriented relationships. A mentor can offer the student academic or career guidance, networking opportunities, and insights into the working world.

### What is a Mentor?

Webster's dictionary states a mentor is "a trusted counselor or guide."

### Definition of a Mentee:

Someone seeking help with career and job issues, who asks that another person listen and offer information, contacts, and support.

**Mentoring** is widely-recognized as a planned pairing of a more-experienced individual with a lesser-experienced individual for the purpose of achieving mutually agreed-upon benefits.

### Who Needs a Mentor?

#### Anyone who could use:

- a role-model to demonstrate professional conduct and behavior
- a professional to evaluate performance
- an advisor to share goals
- a guide in a new field
- help during a transition
- assistance and support
- vision to see potential and possibilities

#### What to Expect:

- a mentor will be assigned to a student at the time the student joins SMPA
- the mentor will make contact with the student to make an introduction, given contact information, and offer assistance when needed
- the mentor will have at least three years experience in the legal field as a paralegal
- the mentor will assist the student with questions regarding the paralegal profession
- the mentor shall be a source for answers to questions from new paralegals when they enter the workforce and provide encouragement