**THE GUIDE TO LEDLET MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Introduction**

1. LEDLET offers 4 types of opportunity for individual mentoring.
   1. Mentoring for students on the Summer Scheme
   2. Mentoring for students not on the Summer Scheme
   3. Other mentoring opportunities for students unrelated to the Summer Scheme
   4. Limited opportunities for LEDLET Summer Scheme Alumni to meet with judges
2. LEDLET also provides a virtual mentoring event which students not on the Summer Scheme can attend.
3. This guide explains briefly each of these opportunities.

Mentoring for students on the Summer Scheme

1. Each year LEDLET provides a Summer Scheme when qualifying students attend various organised events eg attending trials. The scheme also allocates students to lawyers who have volunteered to mentor students during the week.
2. Students on the Summer Scheme will therefore have the opportunity to meet a lawyer (barrister or solicitor) who can help with questions about the law as a career as well as giving support as necessary during the week. The arrangement is one to one and confidential. Normally, the mentor and student will speak to each other at the end of each day, but it is entirely up to them.

Mentoring for students not on the Summer Scheme

1. LEDLET also offers mentoring to students who applied to the Summer Scheme and meet the minimum criteria for the Summer Scheme but who could not be offered a place on the Summer Scheme.
2. These students will therefore have the opportunity of a mentoring session with a lawyer (barrister or solicitor) and to speak about the law as a career. The arrangement is one to one and confidential. Upon request LEDLET will allocate a student to a lawyer and ask them to arrange a time to meet or Zoom. The session might take up to about one hour, but it is entirely up to the mentor and student.

Other mentoring opportunities unrelated to the Summer Scheme

1. Students who meet the minimum criteria for the Summer Scheme can apply to LEDLET for a mentoring opportunity even though they did not apply for the Summer Scheme. LEDLET is fortunate to have a list of lawyers (barristers and solicitors) who have volunteered to provide mentoring to students during other times of the year.
2. On a successful application, LEDLET will allocate a student to a lawyer and ask them to arrange a time to meet or Zoom. The arrangement is one to one and confidential. The session is likely to take no more than one hour.

Opportunities for LEDLET Summer Scheme Alumni to meet with judges

1. There are some limited opportunities for LEDLET Summer Scheme Alumni (ie past Summer Scheme students) to meet with judges, who can give a different perspective on a career in the law.
2. On a successful application, there will be an opportunity to meet (or Zoom) with a judge on a one to one confidential basis, and possibly even to spend a day or two in court with him or her. Wales has two High Court Judges called “Presiders” and one called “Family Division Liaison Judge” and they spend a considerable amount of their time in Wales and so successful applicants may not have to travel far. Applicants will have to be over 18yrs to sit in court with a High Court Judge.

The Virtual mentoring event

1. LEDLET holds a virtual mentoring event in the autumn of every year. Students who meet the minimum criteria for the Summer Scheme but who could not be offered a place on the Summer Scheme can attend this event.
2. These students will have the opportunity to ask lawyers (barristers and solicitors, possibly a judge) about their work and seek guidance about law as a career.

General guidance on mentoring through LEDLET

1. The above mentoring opportunities mainly provide short term arrangements between students and lawyers, but longer term arrangements are sometimes possible.
2. Students and mentors should first of all agree the arrangements, including the length of the meeting(s), the main aims of the student and the confidentiality of the discussions. Normally, the mentee will be expected to make contact with the allocated mentor.
3. should be clear about what they expect to gain from the mentoring session and think about what questions they would like to ask in advance of the meeting. At the meeting they should tell the mentor about themselves so that the mentor is well placed to give the help sought. Students must keep information shared by their mentor confidential (unless: the mentee has a regulatory obligation to report it; it is necessary to inform a third party to protect the mentor or a third party from harm; or the mentor consents).
4. Mentors should provide help that meets the student’s expectations and answer questions in a way that is kind and empathetic. It is not the role of the mentor to tell or advise students what they should do, but to help and support them in considering the issues they face and the decisions they need to make. Information given by the student will remain confidential (unless: the mentor has a regulatory obligation to report it; it is necessary to inform a third party to protect the mentee or a third party from harm; or the mentee consents).

Further information

1. If you would like further information about any of the above mentoring opportunities, as a mentor or a student, please contact the LEDLET secretary.

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