

Greetings.

As Chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Committee on the Profession I would like to congratulate you on your graduation from law school in the class of 2020 and provide you with specific information necessary for your admission into practice. We are certainly in unusual times and fortunately the Louisiana Supreme Court has set out what will be necessary for you to complete this overall process.

One of your requirements will be to complete a mentoring program known as the Transition Into Practice program, or TIP. This program was created in 2015 on a voluntary basis where new admittees could be paired on a one to one basis with a mentor in a very structured one year program. This program has been very successful and offers unique and practical advice as you enter into the practice of law, most of which is not taught in law school. The LSBA believes that you are very fortunate to have the opportunity to go through this program.

As this is now a mandatory requirement, you will soon be paired with a mentor and be given information as to the structure of the program. In general, it is divided into two parts, the first requires four meetings with your mentor and the second part requires ten specific functions such as attending various court hearings. You will be given a training session on this information and a very detailed and valuable handbook which you will be able to use throughout your practice.

You must complete the program on or before December 31, 2021. You will also be receiving information as to how the LSBA will monitor your progress and for you to report the activities which you have completed. If you do not successfully complete the program by December 31, 2021, pursuant to the Supreme Court Order you will be immediately ruled ineligible to continue to practice.

The next step for you to undertake is to be paired with a mentor. If you are going to work in a law firm you absolutely have the right to be paired with a qualified attorney there. The basic qualifications are ten years of practice, no ethics violations and standard errors and omissions coverage. Certainly, this pairing would make the TIP program easier for you as you would be working with an attorney in the same firm.

Alternatively, you have the right to select another mentor if you know someone who would meet these qualifications and who would be willing to work with you in this program. Finally, the Committee on the Profession will pair you with a mentor if you are not able to accomplish this on your own.

In order to enroll in the TIP Mentoring Program, please fill out the Mentee Registration form attached. To the extent you know someone who would be willing to serve as your mentor, particularly in the firm where you will be working, please have your mentor fill out the Mentor Registration form. Return both forms to the LSBA, to the attention of [TIP@lsba.org](mailto:TIP@lsba.org).

This mentoring program is an outstanding opportunity for you to learn at the hands of an experienced attorney and to greatly assist your transition into the practice of law. If ever there are any questions, feel free to contact me as the Chair of the Committee on the Profession or contact Brooke Theobald at the LSBA's office. I wish you the greatest of success in your legal careers and please remember that if ever there is anything the LSBA can do for you, simply let us know.

Best wishes,

Barry Grodsky.