



**Federal Court Mentor Program  
For Civil Litigation Attorneys**

The first time handling a matter in Federal Court can be an unnecessarily stressful and intimidating experience. Lawyers sometimes perceive the rules, expectations and style of practice to be significantly different than state court practice.

The judges of the Eastern District of Michigan and the Federal Bar Association want to eliminate these perceptions and facilitate members of the Bar who desire to acclimate themselves to the rewarding experience of a federal court practice. To that end, the FBA Mentoring Program provides attorneys seeking a mentor to help orient them to the unique aspects of civil litigation in the Federal Courts. A similar program is run for criminal law practitioners.

Attorneys desiring a mentor and who are handling their first (or first substantial) matter in the federal court will be provided a mentor. The mentee may shadow the mentor on a limited number of court appearances in order to gain access to and understanding of federal court practice. Additionally, during the mentee's initial case in federal court, the mentor will be available to assist with procedural and orientation issues that might arise (the mentor will not provide substantive legal assistance).

*If you are interested in becoming either a civil side mentee or mentor, please contact Daniel Quick ([dquick@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:dquick@dickinsonwright.com), 248-433-7242).*

*For the criminal law mentor program, please click on [http://fbamich.org/Documents/Online\\_Application\\_-\\_Criminal\\_Practice.docx](http://fbamich.org/Documents/Online_Application_-_Criminal_Practice.docx)*

**Federal Bar Association  
E.D. Michigan  
Civil Mentor Program**

Name:

Employer:

Business address:

Phone:

Email:

Number of years in practice:

Primary area(s) of practice:

I would be interested in the following:

Shadowing an experienced federal court litigator to become oriented to federal practice

Being assigned a mentor for my first (or first significant) federal court case

- Please identify the case, case number, judge assigned, parties involved and all counsel of record:
  
- Please *briefly* describe the type and status of the case:

How did you hear about this program?

*email form to Daniel Quick ([dquick@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:dquick@dickinsonwright.com)) or fax at 248-433-7274*

**Federal Bar Association  
E.D. Michigan  
Civil Mentor Program**

**Guidelines for Mentors and Mentees**

The FBA's federal court mentor program is designed to provide interested mentees with a means by which to become familiar with practice in the federal courts. The mentor's role is not to provide substantive legal services to the mentee and his or her client(s). Rather, the mentor will strive to orient the mentee to the unique characteristics of federal practice, sensitize the mentee to best practices in the federal court and serve as a helping hand as the mentee handles his or her first (or first substantial) matter in federal court.

Mentoring opportunities through this program provide mentees with two sorts of opportunities.

First, mentees may elect to 'shadow' their mentor to a limited number of federal court appearances. In this manner, the mentor and mentee may get to know one another, discuss as appropriate federal practice issues, and the mentee may become more comfortable with the federal courthouse, its procedures and practices. Shadowing should be limited to two opportunities at the discretion of the mentor.

Second, mentees may work with a mentor on the mentee's first (or first significant) federal case. Mentors are not expected and should not be asked to act as "co-counsel." Rather, the mentor should serve as a sounding board to assist the mentee with successful practice in the federal court and provide guidance on best practices.

Mentees and mentors are asked to observe the following:

- Utmost professionalism and respect for the mentee, the mentor and the court are expected and required.
- While mentors and mentees may elect to carry their relationship beyond the bounds of this mentor program, it is anticipated that no formal mentor/mentee relationship shall last longer than 6 months.
- Neither the mentor nor the mentee shall, under any circumstances, disclose attorney-client information, client proprietary information, or any other client confidence to the other nor can there be any attorney-client or attorney-referral relationship between mentor and mentee/mentee's client(s). Mentee/mentor communications are confidential.
- This is a voluntary program. If at any time the program is not working for either of you, or there are any concerns or questions, please advise the FBA.
- Upon completion, please complete the survey located on the reverse of this form.

Agreed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentee

\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor

