

Lawyer Mentors Share Profession with Law Students

by Latoya Asia

The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image but giving them the opportunity to create themselves. — Steven Spielberg



Law student mentees, sponsored by the Diversity Conference, pose with their mentors during the 2018 VSB Annual Meeting.

The VSB Diversity Conference held its 4th Annual Law Student Mentor/Mentee Initiative at the 80th Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA. This initiative pairs law students (mentees) from Virginia's law schools with Virginia attorneys (mentors) and allows the law students to experience "life as a Virginia lawyer" during two full days of educational programs and networking events at the annual meeting. The mentees are identified by their law school's dean as having exhibited a sincere interest in the advancement of diversity in the legal profession. The Diversity Conference covers all annual meeting program fees and costs for the selected mentees.

In the words of two mentees:

"As an underrepresented and diverse student transitioning from another profession, I must say that the Virginia State Bar is really a special place. It is uniquely full of genuinely caring and giving members. I hope this diversity initiative will continue in the future, and I plan to remain involved in any capacity to help advance its mission."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Mentor/Mentee Initiative. Honestly, it was one of the best experiences I've had in the legal field so far. The pairing with my mentor was perfect for what I might like to do in the future. [The mentor] was incredibly helpful and made every effort to

not only introduce me to everyone, but also made the same efforts for the other mentees whose mentors could not be at certain events. The entire conference appeared open and accepting of all the law students. I greatly appreciate that."

On behalf of the Diversity Conference, thank you to all mentors and other volunteers for your time and dedication in making this program a continued success!

If you are interested in serving as a mentor at next year's annual meeting, or would like to help in any other capacity, please feel free to contact me at (703) 615-4821 or latoya.asia@etrade.com.



Latoya Asia is an Assistant General Counsel at E*TRADE Financial Corporation in Arlington, where she practices employment law and litigation. Ms. Asia has served on the VSB Diversity Conference Board of Governors in many leadership capacities over the years, most recently as chair of the Law Schools Committee. When she is not working, Ms. Asia enjoys spending time with her toddler daughter, Olivia, volunteering in her community, and traveling abroad.