

qLegal
Mentoring & networking programmes

Name of project	qLegal – Mentoring & networking programmes
Delivered by	qLegal - Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)
Type of work / opportunity	Mentoring postgraduate law students including via panel discussions and networking events. Acting as a mentor/judge on thought leadership competitions or legal design consultancy projects
Topic area	General: Supporting future lawyers
What is it?	<u>Externship Programme</u>: Providing mentoring and training support to postgraduate law students on the Externship Programme (where students spend 1 day a week for 5-6 months working within an innovative start-up, providing legal support). Volunteers participate in panel discussions, training sessions and networking events, where they will discuss the legal and business skills needed to succeed as an in-house lawyer. <u>Competition judging & mentoring</u>: Postgraduate law students participate in thought leadership (Ted-style Talk) competitions and legal design consultancy projects. Throughout they are mentored by external lawyers (on things like presentation technique or drafting style), but not necessarily on legal content. Students pitch their ideas to a panel of external lawyers who select the winners. Examples: • GreenTalks: Ropes & Gray and Bloomberg • AI Talks: Luminance AI, CMS, Wiggin • Legal Design project with Baker McKenzie
Where is it?	Primarily in person at qLegal (Holborn), your offices or one of our law firm partners' offices. <u>Competitions</u>: Mentoring primarily online, but competition/pitch day is in person at qLegal (Holborn), or your offices.
Duration	Varied: 1.5 - 2hrs for general mentoring. 2 - 3 hours (including prep) for Externship Programme mentoring. 2hrs for ESG competition judges 3 – 8 hours for ESG competition mentoring
Frequency	Ad hoc within term time (October-June, with a break in January for exams).
Who is the opportunity open to?	Anyone performing a legal role inhouse (trainees upwards, including legal-adjacent roles such as legal project management, legal tech, compliance, risk etc).

qLegal
Mentoring & networking programmes

What expertise does the lawyer need to have?	A passion for helping the next generation of lawyers and willingness to have open and honest conversations about their own career trajectories and aspirations. For the competitions: an interest in the future of law/innovation.
What do the pro bono volunteers do?	<u>Externship Programme</u>: Attend panel discussions and/or networking events to share your experience as an inhouse lawyer. Here's an example of a past event attended by GSK, HubSpot, Luminance AI and Hargreaves Lansdown. <u>General mentoring</u>: Attend networking or mentoring events to share your experience as an inhouse lawyer. You can help shape the event. Here's an example of a speed mentoring event hosted by Bloomberg. <u>Competition judging & mentoring</u>: Dependent on the role / project: • Meet students and help them to formulate ideas/proposed topics, watch a dress rehearsal and provide constructive feedback on the students' presentation technique. • Attend the competition/pitch day, judge the competition, provide constructive feedback and network with the students.
Insurance position	Not applicable (no legal advice being provided).
Other support from organisation/charity	<u>Externship Programme mentoring</u> - qLegal staff organise and facilitate the session; and provide training and internal supervision for students. You just turn up! <u>General mentoring</u> - qLegal staff help you organise and facilitate the session. <u>Competition judging & mentoring</u> - qLegal staff complete all admin, prepare briefs/instructions for volunteers, and train students.
Fee/cost	None, but ad hoc sponsorship of events / student prizes is always welcome!
Contact	Please contact NPBC In House Pro Bono lead mary@dobsonsmith.consulting for a direct introduction