

Mentoring Program

The Law Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender has established a Mentoring Program for the benefit of new attorneys or attorneys with little or no experience in Hamilton County, as well as attorneys who may benefit from additional individual or specialized training as determined by the Public Defender, Deputy Public Defender or appropriate Division Director.

Pursuant to this program, there is an established list of licensed attorneys who have been in practice for at least five years and who are experienced in their particular field of law. These attorneys are willing to act as Mentors and assist attorney Mentees as assigned by the Law Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender.

Once assigned, a Mentee is expected to shadow and work with the assigned Mentor for a probationary period of 30 to 90 days, or until such time as the Mentor determines the Mentee's performance to be satisfactory. The Mentee shall not designate as Counsel of Record, but may participate and assist in the preparation of the client's case to the extent deemed appropriate by the mentoring attorney.

Once the Mentor has determined that the Mentee has successfully completed their probationary period, the Mentor shall file an Evaluation Form with the Division Director recommending possible placement or participation upon the requested Rotation Panel.

Successful completion of this Mentoring Program does not guarantee placement on any particular Rotation Panel. The decision to place a Mentee on any Rotation Panel will be made by the Division Director, Deputy Public Defender or Public Defender based upon successful participation in and completion of the Mentoring Program, as well as available vacancies on each Rotation Panel. Participants may be limited however, and if placement is not made, the Mentee's name may be placed on the list of attorneys eligible to fill vacancies on the panels as they occur.

In the event a Mentee is assigned to a Rotation Panel, that Mentee would be expected to abide by the Standards, Guidelines and Regulations of the Law Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender. These Standards require submission of verification of a Law Office location, letterhead, Professional Insurance Declarations page, e-mail address, CLE transcript and additional documentation deemed necessary by the Public Defender, Deputy Public Defender or Division Director.