

Youth Leaders in Law: Regional Mentors



Thank you for your interest in becoming a mentor for Youth Leaders in Law (YLL)'s upcoming regional chapters. This detailed guide will provide you with more information regarding roles and responsibilities, our tentative schedule for training and recruitment, and hopefully provide answers to questions you may have. If you require additional information that is not covered in this document, please contact us via email at admin@youthleadersinlaw.com.

I. Background of YLL

Youth Leaders in Law was founded in June 2018 when a group of high school students in Calgary, Alberta approached the Canadian Bar Association Alberta Branch Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee with an idea to create a conference that inspired high school students to explore a career in law. We recognized that there weren't many opportunities for students interested in the legal profession and social sciences in general, so we were excited to launch an initiative that was the first of its kind.

As YLL is partnered with the EDI, its mandate is to encourage students from all walks of life to pursue a career in law and explore opportunities. Since our inaugural conference in 2019, we have reached over 300 diverse students in Canada and have connected them with nearly 40 guest speakers, including lawyers, law students, deans of admission, and articling students. At our 2021 conference, we will be welcoming students from around the world, reaching countries such as Singapore, Pakistan, Romania, the United States, and more.

To advance our mandate of diversity and inclusion, we have worked with other organizations, including the Law Society of Alberta, the University of Calgary, multiple law firms around Calgary, and nonprofit organizations such as the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth. We are incredibly excited to welcome more lawyers and students from around Canada to join our team in the 2021/22 school year.

II. Roles and Responsibilities of our Lawyers

Currently, the Alberta YLL team consists of 5 lawyer mentors who assist with various stages in the conference planning process. As a lawyer mentor, you will be primarily responsible for three things:

1. Reaching out to your networks to contact potential guest speakers for the conference,
2. Contacting firms, societies, and professional associations in conjunction with the students for sponsorship,
3. Providing feedback on students' suggestions.

Typically, lawyers will attend monthly team meetings with the students from August-March of every year (assuming the conference is held in March), where the entire team will provide updates on logistics and ensure that everybody is on the same page. We understand that as lawyers, your schedules are quite busy, so we have high expectations that students will take initiative, work as a team, and take responsibility for the majority of planning the conference.

Once we have selected our lawyer mentors, we will arrange a meeting with our current lawyer mentors where you can ask questions about their experience, the workload, and more.

III. Scheduling

The current YLL team has compiled a tentative schedule of events from February 2021 until the end of the summer.

February 2021 - recruitment for lawyer mentors begins. By the end of February, we hope to finalize our list of lawyer mentors for each region.

March 2021 - near mid-March, we will begin to host introductory meetings with selected candidates to further detail roles and responsibilities. Here, you will have the chance to ask detailed questions about your involvement. Our 2021 Virtual Conference will take place on March 20th, so we will ask new mentors to attend to get a feel for what you are working towards. At this time, we will also begin opening the regional executive team application form for students.

May 2021 - in early May, we will begin to interview shortlisted students. You will be invited to listen in on interviews, take notes, and discuss with us as we select our group of students.

June 2021 - we will host our first team meetings early in the month to get everybody acquainted. Throughout the summer, we will be hosting various seminars on different topics, such as our suggested conference planning schedule, the process for selecting speakers, and more. At times, we will also break into smaller group meetings where members from departments across branches will meet to work on specialized 'position' or department training.

After our summer training sessions, your regional executive team will work independently to create the conference, however, our Board of Directors, consistent of the original founding team, will be available for support should you need it.

IV. Recruitment

As we are focused on encouraging diversity in the legal field, we also hope that our executive teams will be diverse and consist of individuals from various walks of life. For that reason, we encourage everyone to apply, regardless of background or experience. Here are a few soft criteria that we are looking for among applicants:

- Exemplified experience with teamwork and leadership
- Ability to communicate with individuals of all ages and backgrounds
- Openness to new ideas and suggestions
- Adaptability and flexibility (especially in the event that another virtual conference must be held)
- Commitment to advancing equality, diversity, and inclusion

If you have further questions about the program or YLL in general, please contact the email listed above. We are incredibly excited to review your application!

Ready to Apply? Use this link to access the Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/o8V1xPUpHYC4naFE7>

Best of luck!