

FOUNDER & PATRON CONTENT Debo Nwauzu **PATRONS** About the Legal Gateway Scheme 3 Dame Linda Dobbs The BLD Foundation "Make a Baroness Verma Difference be the Difference" Mentoring Programme **TRUSTEES** Selection and Matching Gifty Edila (Chair) Expectations of the Mentor 4 Joel Cohen Joan Deslandes **Expectations of the Mentee** 4 Suyi Fred-Omojole Duration 5 **ADVISORY PANEL Further Information** 5 Judith Shepherd Solomon Wifa Gateway to Opportunities 5 **Tony Williams MANAGEMENT TEAM** Tricia Eghagha Annabel Burrows Claire Boakes Enquiries to: Admin@BLDFoundation.org.uk **BLD** Foundation 288 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4QP www.BLDFoundation.org.uk

About the Legal Gateway Scheme

The BLD Foundation's charitable aim is the advancement of education of those of African, Asian, Caribbean and other ethnic minority and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This is achieved through its flagship Legal Gateway Scheme, providing access to various opportunities in the legal industry, training and information about the available opportunities and equipping participants with the skills to take advantage of these opportunities.

The Legal Gateway Scheme has four distinct programmes catering to the needs of different groups of young people at different stages in their personal and academic development:

- Today's Children Tomorrow's Lawyers (TCTL) for secondary school years and sixth formers (Year 9 Year 13);
- First Headstart (FH) for first year Law and second year non-law undergraduates;
- Legal Launch Pad (LLP) for second and third year undergraduates as well as postgraduates pursuing a career in law; and
- The Make a Difference Be the Difference (MDBD) programme focusing on mentoring.

The Legal Gateway Scheme runs nationally with particular focus on London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds and the Foundation works closely with schools and universities. The Foundation is currently largely sponsored and supported by leading law firms, Chambers, Law Schools, two FTSE 100 companies and two Trusts and Foundations. Target beneficiaries are young people aged between 13-30 from ethnic minority and disadvantaged backgrounds largely from State schools, who are likely to receive or have received free school meals, educational allowance and be first generation to attend university. More details on the Legal Gateway Scheme are available on our website.

"I really enjoyed building a professional relationship with my mentor and measuring myself up as a potential candidate to the bar. I have gained valuable advice on how to make myself stand out and opportunities out there for me."

Aishah Khokhar, 2014

"My mentor was from DLA, so it was good to be able to discuss the firm, how to approach the application and what I should expect from my placement. I found my mentor was a good resource to use for preparing for assessment centres as well as making my applications."

Amrik Bhella, 2014

"Cheryl has been an outstanding mentor. She went out of her way to help me. She gave me practical advice on the profession and on the future."

Deepti Thakoor, 2014

"The experience has been fantastic. I never realised how much I needed that extra support until I met Joel. Previous mentors I have had have been difficult to talk to, unavailable for long periods of time and were often disinterested. Joel is exactly the opposite. He takes care and pride in what he does and always wants the best achievement for his mentees. He always makes sure they are aiming high and gives them self-confidence. I have not only gained valuable interview practice, but also someone whom I can speak to about any concern I have. I have gained extra support at a time when my self-confidence was low and I have Joel and the BLD Foundation to thank for all my achievements so far"

Farah Dehalvi, 2014

"My mentor has been tremendously helpful. She has been encouraging, supportive of my decisions and ambitions and understanding. I consider myself very fortunate to have her as a mentor and working with her has been an absolute pleasure."

Jeniz White, 2014

The BLD Foundation "Make a Difference be the Difference" Mentoring Programme

The BLD Foundation Make a Difference Be the Difference Mentoring Programme is primarily designed for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate beneficiaries. The objective of the MDBD programme is to connect a mentee with a mentor who will provide them with advice, guidance and support in order to enable them to explore options, focus thoughts, make better-rounded decisions and take a proactive approach to their career. Mentors are largely, though not exclusively, qualified lawyers in private practice, commerce and industry, and the public sector. The mentee is expected to set goals as to what he or she is hoping to achieve from the mentoring relationship.

We run a mentoring programme within our Legal Launch Pad programme supported by volunteer mentors from our sponsor firms, aimed exclusively at successful applicants aged 18 and over who are undergraduates or postgraduates. We also offer support to those aged 13-19 (on our TCTL programme) who are interested in the legal profession via in-school group mentoring sessions.

Selection and Matching

Mentors and mentees complete the relevant application form, which can be completed online via https://bldfoundation.tal.net/candidate. We then carefully match mentors to mentees using the information given on their respective forms. We also provide detailed guidelines outlining possible ground rules and conduct regular checks issues to ensure that the mentoring relationship flourishes. We are happy to arrange a rematch where both parties request it but only in at least 2 months into the mentoring relationship.

Expectations of the Mentor

- Complete a Mentor's registration form online at https://bldfoundation.tal.net/candidate providing as much information on the nature of help they are able to provide to ensure a good match
- Receive Mentor training details (video link) and understand the objectives of the Legal Gateway Scheme
- Read and understand the BLD Foundation Mentoring Guide lines
- Wait to be matched with a mentee (within 6 weeks of registration unless otherwise agreed)

- Receive Mentee's details and respond promptly to initial contact where possible to meet within a month of being notified of the match
- To understand the Mentee's programme of study and career goals in order to provide structured support clarify objectives from initial meeting, assess them to identify weak areas and challenge them to develop these areas, provide feedback on performance, if considered appropriate / necessary to use network of contacts to help with mock interviews or work experience where possible, notify them of events they can attend that will be of benefit, give tips on professional dos and don'ts and be a general sounding board
- To provide feedback to BLD Foundation when prompted after three and six months of the mentoring relationship, or whenever the Mentor feels it necessary, or should the Mentee be out of touch for a period of one month.

Expectations of the Mentee

- Complete a Mentee's registration form online at https://bldfoundation.tal.net/candidate providing as much information on the nature of help they are seeking to ensure a good match
- Read and understand the BLD Foundation Mentoring Guidelines
- Wait to be matched with a Mentor (within 6 weeks of registration unless otherwise agreed)

- Receive Mentee's details and make initial contact with the Mentor within a week of being notified of the match; and to maintain regular contact (at least once a month) by a pre-established preferred method
- To understand the requirements of the Mentor and nature of help the Mentor has specified that they are able to provide; and to stay within those limits for the duration of the mentoring relationship except where the Mentor offers further help
- To provide feedback to BLD Foundation when prompted after three and sixmonths of the mentoring relationship or whenever the Mentee feels it necessary, or should the Mentor be out of touch for a period of one month.

Duration

The Make a Difference Be the Difference Programme, which includes face-toface, telephone and email contacts, is for a minimum duration of 12 months; while mentoring candidates on the Legal Launch Pad (LLP) programme is for 9 months (January to September). The mentoring relationship can extend for as long as both parties wish after this time.

Further Information

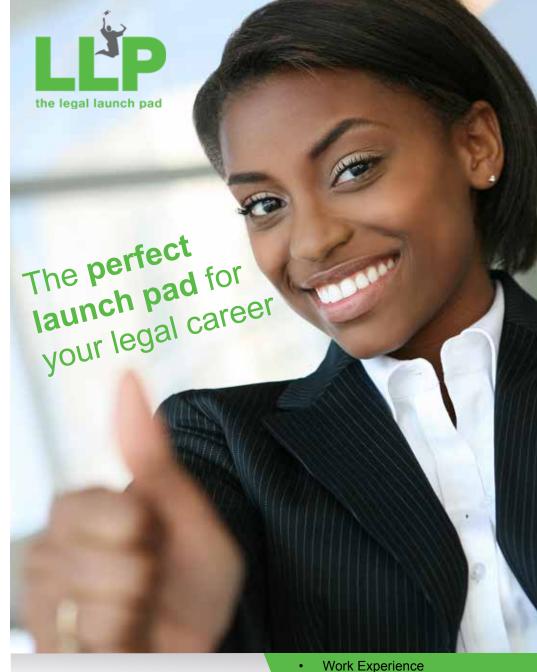
- See the Legal Gateway pages on our website
- Read about our work
- Email: Admin@BLDFoundation.org.uk for enquiries

Gateway to Opportunities

At BLD Foundation, we believe that there is an abundance of talent "out there", but the barrier is the lack of access to opportunities. Our Legal Gateway Scheme strives to remove that barrier and widen access into the profession through various programmes by providing opportunities not just for future talented professionals but also qualified professionals who want to make a difference.



BLD Foundation is a company limited by guarantee with registration number 07898613 and is also registered Charity with charity no 1148365. The registered address is 288 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QP.



What you will gain from the Legal Launch Pad programme:

- Allocated mentor
- **Induction Day**
- Training sessions
- Networking and other opportunities

To find out more, visit the Legal Gateway page on our website at: www.BLDFoundation.org.uk or email Admin@BLDFoundation.org.uk