Open to new 1L sign-ups in Fall Semester and Continuing Student Mentees from prior pilot program years

**WHAT IS THE CARDozo & NYSBA-YLS PILOT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?**
The New York State Bar Association (“NYSBA”) chose Cardozo to launch one of its new long-term pilot programs in academic year 2011-2012. As part of the program, the NYSBA has arranged for discounted memberships for Cardozo students who participate so they can become members of both the NYSBA and the Young Lawyers Section (“YLS”) for a discounted rate. Students who become members of the NYSBA and the YLS are then eligible to participate in this small pilot program through which students can be matched on a first come basis with a practicing attorney mentor who is a member of the NYSBA-YLS.

The pilot program’s goal is to match a NYSBA Young Lawyers Section member attorney with a Cardozo 1L in year one of the attorney’s participation, and then add a new 1L in each successive year. With matches occurring each Fall semester, this will create a “mentoring cluster” formed by the attorney, the new 1L, the rising 2L, and the rising 3L who were mentored as 1Ls in the prior year and will continue to be mentored. The new 1L who can count on the advice of both the attorney and the “big brother/big sister” 2L and 3L students. The program has grown from the approximately 30 NYSBA mentors available to be matched with 1Ls in the 2011-2012 academic year to over 40 attorneys participating in the 2012-2013 year, however, due to the number of attorney volunteers, not every 1L who wishes to participate will be able to receive a mentor. Any 1Ls who are not able to be matched will still be eligible to receive the discounted membership rate for the NYSBA and YLS, as well as attend the launch reception described below if they have paid their member dues.

Each Fall semester there will be a reception at Cardozo to launch the program for the academic year ahead and at which students can meet the attorney mentors and the big brother/sister law student mentors with whom they are matched. *All students participating in the mentorship program are expected to attend the launch reception event and should plan on doing so.* An additional benefit of participating in the pilot program is that the NYSBA mentors encourage attendance at their Annual Meeting in New York City in January. Mentored students will be able to attend NYSBA programming during the Annual Meeting. At the end of the Spring semester, a reception is held to celebrate the end of the mentoring year.

**Important Note:** 1L students are able to participate in BOTH the Cardozo Student-Alumni Mentorship Program (open to all students) and this NYSBA Pilot Program. Should you not be one of the students able to be matched on a first come basis with a NYSBA mentor, you are highly encouraged to participate in the already established Cardozo Student-Alumni Mentorship Program.
HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE NYSBA-YLS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:
At a date and time announced by the Office of Career Services to all students, typically in September, 1L students may, on a first come basis, visit the Office of Career Services (Room 1128) to review a binder containing the profiles of the participating NYSBA-YLS attorney mentors. Students will have the ability to match themselves with one of the available mentors via this physical sign-up process. 1Ls are advised that by signing up for one of these NYSBA-YLS mentors, they agree to attend the launch reception to meet their mentor (the date of which is announced in advance along with the announcement of the sign-up date) and also agree to becoming registered NYSBA-YLS members. Copies of the NYSBA-YLS reduced fee membership forms will be available at the OCS Reception desk. OCS can collect your completed forms (with accompanying check or with credit card information filled out) on the day you sign up or in the days leading up to the launch event.

In fairness to all students, you are to select ONLY one mentor through this pilot program! There are no exceptions. Students found to have requested multiple NYSBA mentors will be banned from the pilot program!

Julie Anna Alvarez in the Office of Career Services oversees the 1L NYSBA-YLS Pilot Mentorship Program. If you have questions or for more information, please email jalvare1@yu.edu.