



Denver Law Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Pipeline Initiatives Seeking Law Student/Faculty Mentors & Participants 2020-2021

1) *Denver Urban Debate League*

- a. **Background:** Competitive speech and debate programs have traditionally been academic activities in which white youths and those with socioeconomic privilege have primarily engaged and succeeded. Recognizing both the lack of access to these activities for youths living in poverty and students of color, and the power of speech and debate to elevate learning, literacy, and life skills which prepare youth to succeed in the information age, community leaders, including Prof. Corrada and DU Law Alum Rico Munn, founded the Denver Urban Debate League in 2008 based on a best practices model developed in New York, Atlanta, and Chicago. DUDL currently partners with Denver, Aurora, Mapleton, and Westminster Public Schools and is housed at Denver Law. For a list of participating schools, visit <http://www.denverdebate.org/participating-schools.html>. (program website: <http://www.denverdebate.org/history-and-mission.html>)
- b. **Your task:** Participate as a judge in debate or speech tournaments. Prior debate experience is not necessary. 2020 events are virtual. 2021 events are likely to be virtual; not yet confirmed.
 - i. **Debate Judges:** Commit to a **two-hour** block of time. The judge listens to the debate, keeps time, takes careful notes, then immediately after the round the judge completes and official ballot, naming a winning team and assigning speaker points to each debater. The judge offers a brief oral critique as well, to both teams, in addition to a brief written analysis of the debate on the ballot which is eventually read by the students and coaches. The judge is strongly encouraged to discuss who they are as well at the end: their identity, role as law student, etc.
 - ii. **Speech Judges:** Commit to a **one-hour** block of time. There are two categories: impromptu and drama. Impromptu requires students to create a speech based on a topic that is provided a few minutes before their speaking time. In Drama, the student has prepared a published piece to perform. The judge will fill out a ballot ranking each competitor and assigning speaker points. Instructions are provided. The judge is strongly encouraged to discuss who they are as well at the end: their identity, role as law student, etc.
- c. **Pre-requisites:** A single one-hour training is required. This will be organized by DU Law and will be held via Zoom in 2020-2021. Background checks required. Law students will not have to pay for such checks if the cost is prohibitive. (\$15 plus tax).
- d. **Fall Dates:**
 - i. **NOTE:** *If you are interested in October/November dates, contact afreeman@law.du.edu and sign up directly here: <http://www.denverdebate.org/sign-up-for-shifts.html>.*
 1. October 23, 5-7pm (debate)
 2. October 26, 3:30-5:30pm and 5-7pm (debate)
 3. October 26, 3:30-5:30pm (speech)
 4. November 6, 3:30-5pm (policy)
 5. November 13, 5-6:30pm (policy)
 6. November 14, 10-11:30am (policy)
 7. November 19, 3:30-5pm (policy)
 8. November 21, 10-11:30am (policy)
 9. November 23, 3:30-5pm or 5-6:30pm (policy)

10. December 11 (speech); contact afreeman@law.du.edu, times available soon

11. December 12 (debate); contact afreeman@law.du.edu, times available soon

e. **Save Spring Dates (sign-ups not yet available)**

1. January 29 (speech), will begin after 3pm

2. January 30 (debate), Saturday-times throughout the day

3. February 26 (speech), will begin after 3pm

4. February 27 (debate), Saturday-times throughout the day

5. March 26 (speech city championships), will begin after 3pm

6. March 27 (debate city championships), Saturday-times throughout the day

2) Denver Public Schools Career and College Success Program

- a. **Background:** DPS runs a career mentoring program and in 2020, they are seeking mentors, particularly Spanish speaking mentors and mentors who identify as Black as students are organized by cohort. The model of coach mentorship matches high school sophomores and juniors one-to-one with a professional in their field of study. Students and mentors follow a structured set of activities to help the student envision potential educational and professional paths. (program website: <https://collegeandcareer.dpsk12.org/coach-mentoring/>)
- b. **Your task:** Law students, lawyers, and law faculty are needed for mentors. Mentors attend scheduled group events (fall dates: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSDHFqn-Z4bJb7YyDLtwaCEayU8GYtqkt7XLPY74KPoOnKuA/viewform>).
- c. **Pre-requisites:** 1) Complete online [Mentor Application](#); 2) Complete a brief interview (10 minutes) and background check process; 3) Watch recorded training session: <https://vimeo.com/465083508/8dd949db0f>; 4) Begin mentoring sessions, kicking off by late October (all virtual for fall); 5) Select schedule preference: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSDHFqn-Z4bJb7YyDLtwaCEayU8GYtqkt7XLPY74KPoOnKuA/viewform>.

3) LYRIC: Learn Your Rights in Your Community

- a. **Background:** Learn Your Rights in the Community (LYRIC) is an organization started in 2009 by two juvenile public defenders who were frustrated that so many of their young clients didn't understand their constitutional rights during interactions with the police. LYRIC is composed of attorney and law student volunteers donating their time to empower young people to exercise their constitutional rights. The curriculum brings constitutional law to life for young people in schools, juvenile justice facilities, and community settings across Colorado. (program website: <https://lyriccommunity.org/>)
- b. **Your task:** Lead know your rights trainings on the 4th, 5th, and 6th amendment to middle or high school youth. The curriculum is provided to you. Include time to discuss who you are as well: your identity, role as law student, etc. For 2020-2021, all trainings are likely to be virtual. Associate Dean Alexi Freeman teaches a two-credit class alongside Hannah Proff, co-founder of LYRIC, for 2Ls/3Ls in which students lead these trainings for Colorado youth. The class fulfills the public service requirement. It will next be offered in Spring 2021 and given the pandemic, may involve other youth justice work as well for LYRIC and partners.
- c. **Pre-requisites:** If you are not a student enrolled in the Denver Law class for credit, you are required to attend a two-hour training before leading a session. Dates for future volunteer trainings are not yet set. Sign up to receive info here: <https://lyriccommunity.org/give/>.

4) Law School Si Se Puede (Yes We Can)

- a. **Background:** This program was developed by Judge Christine Arguello in 2014 and aims to expand the pipeline to law school for diverse applicants by matching Fellows with Mentors who guide Fellows through college with the goal of helping them receive admission to the law school of their choice. The program mentors and trains high achieving college freshmen from diverse backgrounds for four years. Through exposure programs, it also demystifies the law school application process and gives Fellows access to the legal profession. Skill-building

workshops and other opportunities are provided to prepare Fellows for success in college, law school, and beyond and help we build a community around Fellows that is committed to their success. (program website: <http://lawschoolyeswecan.org/>)

- b. **Your task:** Law students and lawyers are needed to serve as mentors. A team of three Mentors (two lawyers and one law student) is assigned to each Fellow. Mentors will meet in person or virtually as a group or individually with their Fellow at least once each month. Mentors are encouraged to communicate as often as necessary with their Fellow via e-mail, phone, or text. Mentors will give Fellows useful insights into what they can do now to become competitive applicants for law school. To encourage the most supportive relationship, Mentors and Fellows are asked to commit to the mentoring relationship until the Fellow graduates from college.
- c. **Pre-requisites:** A mentor application is required: <http://lawschoolyeswecan.org/mentors-1>. To discuss the program in more depth, contact Christine Hoffman: christine.elizabeth.hoffman@gmail.com

5) Bridge Builders Esq.: National Mentorship Program for Aspiring Black Lawyers

- a. **Background:** This program is an extension of the work of The National Black Pre-Law Conference and The National HBCU Pre-Law Summit. It provides a greater opportunity to establish mentor/mentee relationships for those law students and attorneys wanting to give more beyond volunteering for a day or two, and for those serious law school aspirants who are in great need of more support and guidance after they leave the conference weekend. (program website: <https://bridgebuildersesq.org/>)
- b. **Your task:** Black law students and Black lawyers are invited to become mentors. Students must be currently enrolled in law school and be a member of the National Black Law Students Association. Associate Dean Freeman has signed up to be a lawyer mentor.
- c. **Pre-requisites:** A mentor application is required. Visit <https://bridgebuildersesq.org/> and click on Mentor/Mentees on the top menu, then law student mentor or lawyer mentor.