

# Welcome to the Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program!

The transition from law school to actual legal practice can be a stressful time. **Bridge the Gap (BTG) Mentorship Program** aims to ease that transition by providing practical information and pairing new attorneys with mentors.



## Important Facts About the BTG Mentorship Program

- + Mandated by NMSC Rule 24-110 NMRA
- + Administered by the State Bar of New Mexico
- + All newly admitted attorneys must register with the program.
- + Registration must be completed within 30 days of being admitted to the Bar
- + Exemption and deferral options exist (read the rule for details)
- + The Program must be completed within the first full year after admission
- + Cost of the Program for new attorneys is \$300



## Benefits of the BTG Mentorship Program

- + Acquire skills and build relationships necessary to become a successful practitioner
- + Receive the 12 CLE credits required for the first year of practice (**\$600 Value**)
- + Comply with the Trust Accounting CLE requirement of Rule 17-204(C) NMRA (**\$55 Value**)
- + Audit up to 18 credits of Bar Foundation CLE programming at no charge (**\$300 Value**)

## Bridge the Gap Mentorship Program Process and Timeline

Register for the Program and pick a mentor (within 30 days of being admitted)

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Receive approval for the mentor/new attorney pairing

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Pay half the fee by March 31 of your first full year of practice

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Register for the Bridging the Gap—Practical Skills for New Lawyers CLE

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Take the How to Comply with Disciplinary Board Rule 17-204 (trust accounting) CLE

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Complete five hours of work with your mentor

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Mentor and new attorney certify completion of the program

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Pay second half of the fee by Dec. 31 of your first full year of practice

+

Sit back and relax knowing both your mentorship and CLE requirements for the year have been met and you have the tools and skills for a successful law practice



**Get started today!**

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# BRIDGE

THE



## Mentorship Program



Bridging the gap between

**LAW SCHOOL**  
AND  
**PRACTICE.**

A program mandated by New Mexico Supreme Court Rule 24-110 that must be completed within your first full year of practice.

**It's fun,  
it's informative,  
and it's required!**



# Curriculum

The BTG curriculum includes 7 credits of structured CLE classes and 5 credits earned through activities with the mentor. Structured CLE classes cover ethics and law practice topics. These classes are taught by attorneys with special expertise in each area. The mentor/new attorney activities for the remaining 5 CLE credits focus on introducing the new attorney to the legal community in New Mexico.

**Six CLE credits** are provided in a one-day class that is offered 4 times per year. Each class is available statewide through webcasting. Class topics include:



+ **Practice Management:** calendaring; case file management; time keeping and fees/billing



+ **Client Relations:** client interviewing and fact gathering; accepting/declining representation; managing client expectations; handling difficult clients; problem solving in addition to litigating; confidentiality; conflicts; common malpractice and grievance issues; and identifying the client in different work situations (government, in-house counsel, private firm, etc.)



+ **Self-Care and Handling Stress:** healthy ways to handle stress and maintain optimal mental, emotional and physical health



+ **Diversity and Cultural Competence:** addressing and cultivating diversity and cultural competence in the profession with both peers and clients



+ **Professional Development and Contributing to the Legal Community:** State Bar services; State Bar sections, committees and divisions; voluntary bars; national organizations (ABA); pro bono and community service; MCLE and other requirements of licensing



**One CLE credit** is provided through attendance at one of the numerous offerings of the Disciplinary Board's Trust Accounting class. Each class is available statewide through webcasting. This class meets the trust accounting training requirement of Rule 17-204(C) NMRA.

**Five CLE credits** are provided through discussions and activities with an assigned mentor. Example activities are:



\*Attend a reception with the Young Lawyers Division after the CLE to make connections and practice networking skills.

**And more!**