

Mentoring Program

Mentoring Breakfast: Career Path

Guest Panelists:

Robert W. Kelley

Partner, Kelley Uustal

The Hon. Catalina Avalos

Director, Tripp Scott

Gordon Weekes, Jr.

Exec. Chief Public Defender, Law Office of the Public Defender

Ryan Galka

Attorney, Yeboah Law Group P.A.

Friday, February 9, 2018

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

NSU Shepard Broad College of Law

NSU Law Mentoring Program Agenda

7:30– 7:50 a.m.: Check-in and Breakfast Networking

7: 50 – 8:00 a.m.: Welcome, Introductions and overview
Laura Dietz, Director Alumni Relations

8:00 a.m.: **Program: Career Path**

Panelists: **Robert W. Kelley**, Partner at Kelley Uustal
The Honorable Catalina Avalos, Director, Tripp Scott
Gordon Weekes Jr, Exec Chief Public Defender, Law Office of the Public Defender
Ryan Galka, Attorney, Yeboah Law Group P.A.

Moderator: **Laura Dietz**, Director Alumni Relations

Alumni panelists will discuss their legal career paths in law firms, government, the judiciary and more. Following the panel, attendees will have an opportunity to network with the panelists and alumni to gain deeper insights for leading a fulfilling and successful career.

8:35 a.m.: Networking



Robert W. Kelley earned his Juris Doctorate from NSU Law in 1981. In school, he was editor in chief of the Nova Law Review. Today, he is admitted to the Florida State Bar, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, the United States Court of Appeals of the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Kelley, Partner of Kelley/Uustal is an accomplished trial lawyer who has received national recognition for high-profile case successes. In one of his most notable cases, he obtained a winning verdict after a six-month jury trial against General Motors (GM), earning him national attention and media coverage, including a segment on 60 Minutes.

The Honorable Catalina M. Avalos graduated from NSU Law in 1996. She currently holds a director role with the law firm of Tripp Scott, PA and focuses her practice in the areas of labor and employment, and complex commercial litigation. AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell, Avalos has experience representing both plaintiff and defendants in employment matters and often serves as quasi in-house counsel for various corporate clients providing advice for their employment needs. Avalos handles cases involving harassment, race discrimination in the workplace, enforcement of non-compete agreements, business partnership disputes, tortious interference, wrongful death actions, violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, contractual disputes and claims brought under Florida’s Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Florida Whistle-blower’s



Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Gordon Weekes, Jr. has dedicated his life to public service and the pursuit of justice. He received his Juris Doctorate in 1997 from Nova Southeastern University College of Law. In 1997, he also began his career as an Assistant Public Defender at the Broward County Public Defender's Office where he represents the poor, the mentally ill and children of his community. Gordon Weekes was appointed as the Exec Chief Public Defender, Law Office of the Public Defender in charge of the Juvenile Division and has been instrumental in implementing a host of programs that have drastically reduced the number of young people entering the system.

Ryan Galka graduated from NSU Law in 2010 and has since become a skilled trial attorney with experience litigating thousands of cases, and has tried over 100 cases. Before joining the Yeboah Law Group, Ryan was a prosecutor at the Broward County State Attorney's Office for over seven years. She prosecuted a large variety of cases, many involving violent offenders, while also supervising and training new attorneys.



Mentoring Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The NSU Law Mentoring Program (“Program”) includes the following:

- A group mentoring model and not the traditional 1:1 pairing of Mentor to Mentee.
- In-person meetings at NSU during the academic year bring all Mentors and Mentees together.
- A list of suggested activities organized by group to help Mentors discover opportunities to help Mentees achieve the learning outcomes for the Program.

The Mentoring Program Learning Outcomes By the end of the academic year, the Mentees should:

1. Plan for the transition from law student to lawyer, including time management skills and goal-setting;
2. Create and maintain a mentoring relationship with a colleague;
3. Understand strategies to manage: clients, cases, projects, and employees;
4. Practice preparation techniques in professional settings, such as meetings, hearings, depositions, trials, business transactions;
5. Prepare strategies to address novel situations as they arise in the business and practice of law.

Mentor/Mentee Practice Groups

On the Information & Group Registration Form, Mentors will select one Practice Group to join that is the most relevant group to their area of practice. Likewise, Mentees will select one Practice Group to join that best aligns with their area of interest.

At the scheduled in-person meetings at NSU, Mentors and Mentees will meet in their respective groups for the program event. This will enable group members to get to know one another better and plan for additional meetings.

Messages may be sent occasionally to Mentors and Mentees, keeping them informed about Program events and opportunities of interest to one or more Groups. Explanations of each Group are included on the Registration form.

Laura Dietz | Director of Alumni Relations
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