

## THE PROFESSIONALISM COMMISSION

was created by the Court of Appeals in 2004 to determine ways to promote professionalism among Maryland judges and lawyers, and provide sustained attention and assistance to the task of ensuring that the practice of law remains a high calling, focused on serving clients and promoting the administration of justice, as well as the public good.

The Maryland Professionalism Center has replaced the Professionalism Commission and continues to administer the Court of Appeals Mentoring Program. Chaired by a Judge on the Court of Appeals, the Center promotes the exercise of professionalism among judges and lawyers.

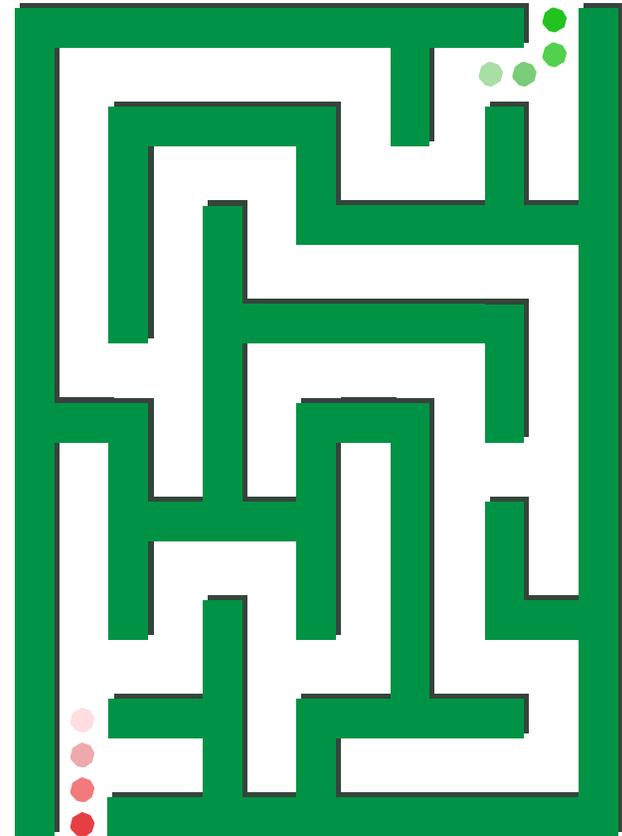


To volunteer as a mentor or to sign up as a new admittee, contact:

Maryland Professionalism Center  
2011-D Commerce Park Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-260-3762  
mdprofessionalism@mdcourts.gov

[www.marylandprofessionalism.org](http://www.marylandprofessionalism.org)

# Mentoring makes a *difference*



Judiciary Education and Conference Center  
MARYLAND PROFESSIONALISM CENTER

# Mentoring Makes a

Each year, more than 1,500 new attorneys are admitted to the Maryland Bar. As new attorneys make the transition from law school to legal practice, the challenges of establishing a practice in the first year can be overwhelming and daunting, at best.

In 2010, the Court of Appeals approved the pilot for the Mentoring Program for New Admittees to elevate the competence, professionalism and success of Maryland attorneys by creating positive mentoring relationships. Specifically, the mentoring relationship:

- Fosters the development of the new admittee's practice skills and increases his or her knowledge of legal customs;
- Contributes to a sense of integrity in the legal profession;
- Promotes collegial relationships among legal professionals and involvement in the organized bar;
- Improves legal ability and professional judgment; and
- Encourages the use of best practices and highest ideals in the practice of law.



Mentoring links new admittees with an experienced attorney to help sharpen their skills and provide guidance at the beginning of an attorney's legal career. The voluntary program works on several different levels to foster the development of a new attorney's career, while creating a sense of pride and purpose for the mentor.



Participants are matched according to their location and practice areas.

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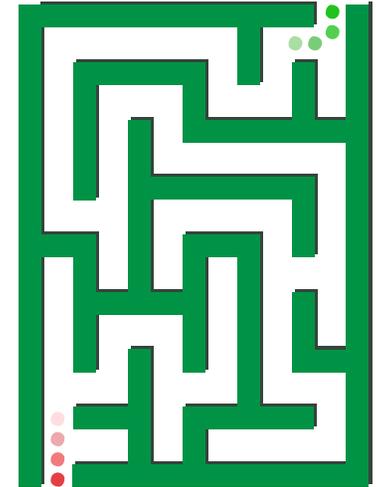
# Difference

## Admittee Requirements

- Have successfully passed the Maryland Bar Exam;
- Be admitted to practice law in Maryland;
- Register with the Professionalism Center and respond to requests for information;
- Be committed to practice in the State of Maryland, whether in a public or private position, for the duration of the mentoring term; and
- Live or work in the State of Maryland.

## Mentor Requirements

- Be an active member of the Maryland Bar;
- Possess a minimum of five years of experience;
- Have read **The Ideals of Professionalism** and agree to convey by word and deed, the values embodied in the **Ideals**;
- Not be employed by the same employer as the mentee; and
- Have a legal record free of any disciplinary sanctions.



Participants are required to conduct six in-person meetings during the mentoring term and engage in select professional activities outlined in the Mentoring Agreement form, which details the program's requirements.

