

# GETTING YOUR MEMBERS INVOLVED



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## Getting your members Involved

### Mentoring

Wanted – E mentors for CILEx students

Remember when you did your exams? Could you have done with somebody to help keep you on track? CILEx runs an e-mentoring scheme to assist students through their studies.

The mentor doesn't have to be an expert as students will have tutor support. However if you have passed some of your CILEx or other law examinations and are willing to help somebody out by e-mail from time to time, then another 'ear' might just be what they need to encourage them onwards. You can develop your own mentoring and coaching skills as well which will help your own career progression.

This isn't a lifetime commitment, and you won't have to meet anyone or give out your phone number. If you believe this might be you, and want to know more, e-mail [mentees@cilex.org.uk](mailto:mentees@cilex.org.uk)

### Inspiring the Future

Inspire future lawyers with Inspiring the Future

Can you spare one hour per year?

Inspiring the Future is a free service that connects teachers from state schools and colleges with nearly 13,000 volunteers who have pledged to give one hour per year to speak to young people about their job, career and the education route they took.

All CILEx members, at any membership grade, can sign up to the scheme to volunteer and give something back to their local schools and colleges.

Volunteers and schools are connected securely online, with volunteers receiving invites from local schools and colleges to see if they can attend events during the academic year.

CILEx volunteers will be provided with a resource pack including literature to use when visiting the school or college. A presentation is also available if required. To request a resource pack and the presentation please email [inspire@cilex.org.uk](mailto:inspire@cilex.org.uk)

To sign up to Inspiring the Future visit: [www.cilex.org.uk/media/inspring\\_the\\_future.aspx](http://www.cilex.org.uk/media/inspring_the_future.aspx)

CPD: by taking part in this scheme you may be developing skills relevant to your practice which can count as professionalism CPD.

### Working with your local CILEx Accredited Centres

- CILEx has a network of accredited centres, delivering our qualifications across England and Wales. Details of all CILEx accredited centres can be found here [http://www.cilex.org.uk/study/find\\_a\\_local\\_study\\_centre.aspx](http://www.cilex.org.uk/study/find_a_local_study_centre.aspx).
- Offer to attend centre open evenings/recruitment events. Often open evenings are quite general. CILEx Coordinators may welcome the offer of support from CILEx representatives who bring banners and materials and are able to give both practical advice related to working in the region as well as some qualification advice. [CILEx can provide all relevant materials and guidance]
- Offer to attend the college inductions of new and/or returning students. This will allow you to explain the role your branch and its members play in the region. Encourage CILEx student members to become involved and to help decide future branch objectives. This benefits CILEx, the centre, the branch and the individual. It helps strengthen the CILEx network and can be used to encourage student members to consider CILEx membership as more than just a requirement of the qualification process but also a benefit to their own professional standing and development.
- By offering to be a guest speaker during the term. Some centres add 'enrichment' sessions to the typical law and practice delivery model. They encourage practitioners to come in and talk about working in their specialism, how they coped with study and work, what CILEx offered them, revision and examination tips, job hunting and their own career aspirations.
- Consider inviting CILEx centre coordinators to join the branch committee and/ or encourage student representatives to take a place on the committee [e.g. in a Student Ambassador role]. The Coordinators are not always able to attend meetings but including them in the process and allowing them to contribute to regional discussions ensures that a relationship is maintained. CILEx branch members, who are no longer studying, are able to hear about developments in the education pathways and also professional development courses. Student Ambassadors can advise branch committees on what initiatives, support or contact that their peer group would value from the branch. This collaborative approach should help with recruitment and retention of members.
- Branch members often become aware of job opportunities at their firm prior to any external advertising. They could encourage their own HR contacts to allow them to publicise vacancies to centres via CILEx centre coordinators. A benefit to the centre as it helps to build links with local employers, to CILEx student member's not in employment and to employers are offered a means of keeping recruitment costs down and recruiting suitably qualified and competent staff.
- Invite centre representatives to attend social and professional networking events, this affords them the opportunity to connect, on a face to face level, with members of the wider legal sector, helping to raise the profile of the centre and the many courses they offer. Branches provide an additional means of referring new students to centres; this working relationship helps to ensure provision is maintained.

Consider offering Student Awards at one of your higher profile annual events. Invite local and distance learning centres to nominate award winners for each centre. Help local CILEx learners to celebrate their achievement with colleagues, friends and family. Invite their employers along to the celebration and acknowledge the support the employer gives to the individual. This benefits CILEx, the branch, local centres, and the member and forges greater links with employers. Employers attending these events are given the opportunity to meet CILEx members and learn more about who they are and what they (can) do. CILEx can provide certificates for use in your award presentation. Some branches have added decoration/frames to these for that extra finishing touch. See Annex Q.

- Branch members have been known to take up part time teaching roles at local CILEx centres. Their specialist knowledge can bring an added dimension to the teaching of CILEx courses.

