

Hosting a Judge in Your Legal Writing Classroom

Who to ask?

Level? Trial or Appellate

Who?

1. Former colleague
2. Former judge you appeared in front of
3. Colleagues suggestions
4. Alumni (ask Dean)

Making the Request

1. Timing: Well in advance (3-4 months)
2. Flexible: Offer range of dates (anytime in March)
 - Combine your classes
 - Reschedule class time if necessary
3. Content: Let judge know what you are hoping for
 - You'd love students to hear from another source
4. Format:
 - Q&A
 - Judge's remarks?

Prepare in advance with students

1. Brainstorm in class
2. Have students email questions
3. Encourage students to ask questions
 - Don't make this painful for judge
4. Encourage students to dress well
 - Opportunity to make impression on behalf of law school

Before visit, send judge email

Logistics

- Where will you meet him
- Parking (where, validate, etc.)
- Your cell or office phone #

Content

- Remind him what you've emphasized with your students
- Send questions in advance

During visit

1. Be prepared to ask questions if students are shy

After visit

1. Meal? (Ask if reimbursement)
2. Gift? (Sweatshirt)
3. Thank you letter

Rewards:

1. Fun for you
2. Fun for students
3. "Yes" moments when judge reinforces what you've been teaching
4. Adds credibility to you (Better buy in)
5. Fun to discuss in following class
 - a. Surprised? Thoughts? What did judge emphasize? What did she say impressed her? Etc.

Good educational opportunity b/c emphasizes and reinforces in a way that could only really be accomplished when coming from judge's mouth.