

[Law Firms: What Makes a Great Mentor?](#)

By [Cordell Parvin](#) on January 31st, 2014

Many law firms have formal mentoring programs. Few law firms think about what attributes mentors should have to make the mentoring relationship valuable for the mentee and the firm.

If you could only pick three, attributes, which of these would you say are most important?

- Principle Centered
- Trustworthy
- Ethical
- Role models
- Committed
- Patient
- Understanding
- Respectful
- Responsive
- Motivated
- Talented
- Enthusiastic
- Energetic
- Inspiring
- Unselfish
- Fair
- Thoughtful
- Encourager
- Upbeat
- Storyteller
- Fun
- Team player
- Supportive

**Most
3
Important
Attributes**

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DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAW FIRM RAINMAKERS

- Straight forward
- Even keeled
- Feedback giver
- Shares
- Getting Better
- Knows person
- People focused
- Confident
- Humble
- Good listener
- Open
- Accessible
- Communicator
- Appreciative

Cordell M. Parvin built a national construction practice during his 35 years practicing law. At Jenkins & Gilchrist, Mr. Parvin was the Construction Law Practice Group Leader and was also responsible for the firm's attorney development practice. While there he taught client development and created a coaching program for junior partners. In 2005, Mr. Parvin left the firm and started Cordell Parvin LLC. He now works with lawyers and law firms on career development and planning and client development. He is the co-author of *Say Ciao to Chow Mein: Conquering Career Burnout* and other books for lawyers. To learn more visit his Web site, www.cordellparvin.com or contact him at cparvin@cordellparvin.com.