MENTORING

It is difficult in today's ultra busy world to take time. Time to make a phone call instead of sending a text. Time to take those few additional steps to ensure a case is impenetrable. Time to extend a courtesy to the opposing counsel. Time to mentor a young lawyer who needs guidance. *Find the time*. Too often, young prosecutors with heavy workloads learn to cut corners. Or associates in big law firms struggle to find their way. Or sole practitioners simply wing it. Mentors provide answers, impart skills, and instill honesty and civility. Mentors are vital to the preservation of the profession. A young lawyer has much to gain by the tutelage of an experienced attorney, and finding a good match, a person worthy of emulating in character, is critical to a successful mentorship. There are myriad programs in place to help mentees and mentors through this process, from law firm development initiatives to *Transition to Practice*, a State Bar of Texas program that provides a yearlong curriculum. About 3,000 new lawyers are licensed in Texas each year, which means roughly 3,000 new practitioners need advice. This issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* explores the important issue of mentoring in the legal profession and how it makes an impact, from a judge's perspective behind the bench and an in-house counsel take on informal programs to the sink or swim attitude of prosecutors and a sole practitioner's rewarding journey from mentee to mentor.

We thank Board of Editors member John Browning for his assistance with this issue. If you have comments about the *Texas Bar Journal*, contact Patricia Busa McConnico at (800) 204-2222, Ext. 1520 or **patricia.mcconnico@texasbar.com**.