

Eye On Our Community

Fayetteville Area Minority Lawyers' Association Youth Mentorship/Internship Program

Fayetteville Area Minority Lawyers' Association (FAMLA) opened the door for youth in the Fayetteville community expressing an interest in the legal field by establishing a four week youth mentorship program. The first annual FAMLA Youth Mentorship/Internship Program invited select youth to participate in the mentorship program that began with a social mixer to introduce the mentees to the local minority bar members. Mentees began their first day with a briefing and tour of the Cumberland County Courthouse given by the Trial Court administrator Ellen Hancox followed by words of encouragement by Superior Court Judge Gregory Weeks. Judge Weeks told a story of Tarzan and the ape where the outcome was always a victory for Tarzan. Judge Weeks then asked the youth "why is it that Tarzan always won?" answering the question with "because the Ape never wrote the script." Judge Weeks explained to the students in spite of their current status and situation they should always strive to write their own script.

Through this program the mentees will be exposed to many aspects of the law and make personal acquaintances with legal and political icons. Each mentee is scheduled to intern with local minority law firms, the District Attorney's office, the Public Defender's office, the Pre-Trial Release office, and the Clerk of Court's office. Mentees had the opportunity to get a briefing about Legal aid take a tour of the Cumberland County Detention Center given by Captain Tendall. On Thursday July 29th, mentees will also be briefed and tour the City Attorney's office with Assistant City attorney Patricia Bradley. Mentees will be greeted by Mayor Chavonne at this time.

Requirements of the participants of the FAMLA mentorship program are that mentees have a desire to learn, dress in business attire, maintain a journal, and participate in a FAMLA community service event.

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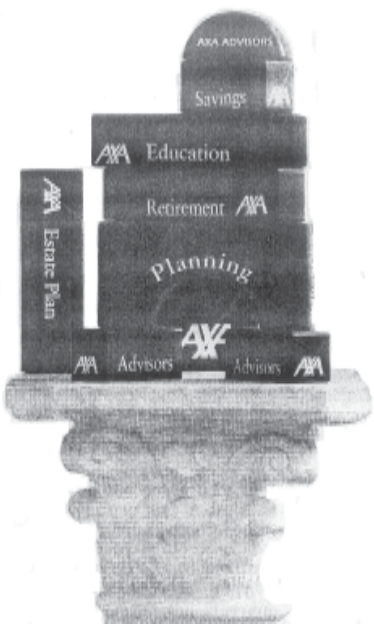


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Attorney Allen W. Rogers

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