

Welcome Class of 2025,

Law school can be daunting. Learning a new environment, a new subject, meeting new people, and the general navigation of law school life can create anxiety and unease. It can also raise a lot of questions. At Robson Hall, we have created and maintained the Buddy Program to address these uncertainties of entering law school.

The Buddy Program is a program in which 1Ls are matched up with upper-year students (2Ls and 3Ls) to help them in their law school journey. The MLSA does this by creating a survey in which first-year and upper-years fill out to match each other based on interests, preferences, and other relevant factors. Upon the creation of these pairings, buddies are encouraged to meet, get coffee, remain in contact, and build relationships. This provides multiple benefits such as:

- 1) **The new law students will have upper-year students to rely on;** for instance, they can ask questions they don't feel comfortable asking anyone else. The upper-years guide new students and provide them with information. These upper-year students can also provide you with information that no other person may be able to, making them a valuable connection. This will hopefully dispel any mysteries about entering law school.
- 2) **The new students will have an opportunity to make connections.** As you will learn, in the field of law, connections and networking are important to a successful advancement and career. Therefore, allowing new students to meet upper-years and build those connections is a form of community building through which students past have treasured and grown lifelong connections. Buddies may be able to provide you with information on what volunteer opportunities are especially rewarding or valuable; they also may be able to provide with you more connections and opportunities given activities they are involved in or can give advice on how to approach law school that will benefit you in the future.
- 3) **There are practical benefits for buddies.** Upper-year students have spent time creating outlines, learning how professors like their exams written, crafting their study habits, and enhancing their abilities in many other ways; these are techniques and strategies they may be willing to pass on. This is advice, wisdom, and (possibly) written material that may substantially assist you in achieving your goals. Learning how to think legally can be a significant shift, and upper-year students are here to help with that and to help you craft your approaches.
- 4) **There are benefits to the upper-year students as well.** Mentorship in the legal profession is incredibly important and something the legal profession values. The Buddy Program allows mentors to grow their skills and abilities in this area, helping create legal professionals that understand the importance of mentorship and who have experience guiding younger professionals.

For these reasons, we encourage you to register for the Buddy Program and engage with your buddy. It has proven an invaluable asset to many students, and we hope it will also be for you. The class representatives run this program—you will be contacted regarding this program to sign up and complete a survey after registration. We look forward to matching you and your buddy.

Sincerely,

Your 2022-2023 MLSA Executive

President: Mikal Sokolowski

Vice-President Internal: Brayden Gray

Vice-President External: Ashley Bains

Vice-President Finance: Cody Dangerfield