



Public Charter High School

Dear Prospective Mentor,

The mission of Thurgood Marshall Academy Charter High School (TMA) – Washington, D.C.'s *law-related* college preparatory public charter school – is to prepare high school students to succeed in college and to actively engage in our democratic society. TMA combines a comprehensive, standards-based curriculum with education about law, democracy, and human rights. We strive to create an environment that fosters critical thinking, problem solving, and public advocacy—the foundation of a legal education.

Thurgood Marshall Academy operates in the section of Washington, DC with the greatest needs and least access to resources. The school is located in Anacostia and serves students who have access to ten times fewer nonprofit services than children living in other parts of the city. Despite the fact that TMA students live in a neighborhood that suffers the lowest college graduation rate in the city (8%), 100% of TMA seniors have graduated and were accepted to college.

TMA honors Justice Thurgood Marshall's belief that all children have the right to a first-class education and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our mentor program pairs a student with a professional adult who can offer support, advice, and guidance during a student's final years of high school and the critical post-secondary planning process. Mentoring can improve a student's attitude towards school, enhance his/her confidence, and afford the invaluable opportunity to interact with a positive role model.

As an established professional in the Washington area, your knowledge and experience can serve as indispensable assets to our students. We ask you to consider becoming a mentor, and even better, to recruit your friends, co-workers, and relatives to join our mentor program for the 2008 – 2009 school year. Although your time may be limited, participation in the program requires just five hours each month. TMA students and mentors meet collectively once a month, on a selected Saturday morning, and maintain weekly phone or email contact. Mentor-mentee pairs are also expected to coordinate one additional monthly outing of their choice, such as going to a movie, a museum, out for ice cream, or to dinner. DC has a wealth of free activities and the Programs staff at TMA will guide you in planning activities with your mentee. The staff will also serve as a resource throughout the program ensuring that, as a mentor, you always feel supported.

If you are interested in developing a meaningful relationship with a Thurgood Marshall Academy student at a critical juncture in his/her high school career, please fill out the attached application as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sher
Director of Programs
Thurgood Marshall Academy



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Mentor Program Overview

What is the primary goal of the program?

To provide students with a positive adult role model who can offer support, advice, and guidance during their final years of high school and the critical post-secondary planning process.

Why become a Mentor?

- Form a meaningful relationship with a high school student
- Provide assistance to a local community in need
- Facilitate student exposure to a broad array of experiences

What type of commitment is involved?

- Participate in the program for an entire school year (September 2008 – May 2009)
- Call/email your mentee weekly
- Attend monthly Saturday Mentor Day activities
- Schedule one additional outing per month with your mentee
- Participate in initial and mid-year mentor training sessions

What is our role at TMA?

- Pair mentor with student
- Provide mentor training
- Organize and coordinate monthly Mentor Days
- Facilitate communication between mentor and mentee
- Distribute newsletters with program announcements, mentoring advice/resources, and ideas for mentor-mentee outings

For more information, please contact:

**Jessica Sher, Director of Programs
Thurgood Marshall Academy
(202) 563-6862 ext. 149
jsher@tmapchs.org**



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Mentor Days 2008 – 2009

What is a TMA Mentor Day?

Thurgood Marshall Academy's Programs Office organizes monthly Mentor Days designed to facilitate mentor-mentee bonding. On one Saturday morning a month, TMA mentors and students gather to participate in a variety of fun and enriching activities. Past Mentor Day events include ice skating, bowling, museum scavenger hunts, IMAX movies, college campus visits, and group community service projects. Mentor Days are a great way to interact with your mentee and serve as an opportunity for you to meet other mentors and TMA students.

TMA Mentor Training

To Be Scheduled-
End of September/ beginning of October

TMA Mentor Days

One Saturday per month
9:30 am – 1:30 pm

2008 – 2009 Dates

October 18, 2008

November 8, 2008

December 6, 2008

January 10, 2009

February 7, 2009

March 7, 2009

April 25, 2009

May 9, 2009



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Mentor Program Application

*Thank you for your interest in Thurgood Marshall Academy's Mentor Program. **Please complete (1) this application, (2) a background check form, and (3) a mentor questionnaire. Submit your completed application materials to Jessica Sher, Director of Programs.** After we receive your completed application, a Programs Staff member will contact you to schedule your initial mentor training session and assign your mentor-student match. We look forward to working with you!*

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Employment Information

Company Name: _____

Title: _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ ext. _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____



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Mentor Match Information

Although mentoring involves a one-on-one relationship, TMA mentors have successfully worked with multiple mentees during a year. How many students would you feel comfortable working with?

- One Two

Have you served as a mentor before? Yes No

If yes, when and for how long? _____

Education

Please list all schools after high school that you have attended.

Name of School (List most recent first)	Location (City/State)	Major Area of Study	Type of Degree or Certificate	Date Received or Expected

Experience with Youth

While prior experience working with youth is not a prerequisite for participating in any of our programs, it helps us better understand the capacity in which you might be most comfortable.

Have you ever worked with youth? Yes No

If yes, please indicate your experience with different age ranges below.

- Elementary (Grades K—5) For how long? _____
- Middle School (Grades 6—8) For how long? _____
- High School (Grades 9—12) For how long? _____



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Talents / Skills / Interests

Do you have any special talents, skills, hobbies, or interests that could be helpful in the program?

Why do you want to become a TMA mentor? _____

References

Please provide complete email addresses and phone number for three non-familial references who have known you for at least one year. References will be contacted via email or phone and will remain strictly confidential.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Email address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Email address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Email address: _____ Phone Number: _____



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Referral Information

How did you hear about Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School? Please check all that apply.

- Current/former volunteer: _____
- Received information in the mail
- Thurgood Marshall Academy website _____
- Web Posting: _____
- Current/former TMA employee: _____
- Other: _____

Do you have any friends, relatives, or co-workers who might be interested in participating in the Thurgood Marshall Academy’s Mentor Program?

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

Please read carefully before signing:

I certify that the information provided above is accurate. I grant Thurgood Marshall Academy permission to contact the references provided. If selected I will follow TMA’s Mentor Program rules and uphold my commitment as a mentor.

I will participate in Mentor Program for the entire school year from September 2008 to May 2009. _____ (Initials)

I will call/email my mentee weekly. _____ (Initials)

I will attend Mentor Day activities one Saturday a month 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. _____ (Initials)

I will schedule one additional outing per month with my mentee. _____ (Initials)

I will participate in initial and mid-year mentor training sessions. _____ (Initials)

Applicant Signature: _____ Date _____

Stewart Business Information. Clients are granted permission to make additional copies of this form.

**RELEASE/DISCLOSURE FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES
BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE INVESTIGATION AUTHORIZATION**

As part of its due diligence procedures, **Thurgood Marshall Public Charter High School** (hereafter referred to as "Company") requires that a background investigation and check of references be conducted. The objectives of the investigation are to verify information provided during the application process, investigate references and identify any factors that might be inconsistent with Company employment requirements.

I, _____, give Company and/or Stewart Business Information permission and authority to conduct a due diligence investigation and reference check into my past and current activities. I understand and consent to an investigation that may include, but is not limited to, information as to my personal character, general reputation, verification of previous employment and employment references, verification of education, credit history, motor vehicle driving record, social security wage information, criminal records and other information contained in public records. In addition, I grant permission and authority to Company and/or Landata Research, Inc. to obtain past employment information in compliance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), including 49 CFR Part 40 and 49 CFR Part 382, regarding DOT drug and alcohol testing results from past employers.

I authorize and request any Former Employers, Schools, Police Departments, States, Cities and Counties or any other Person to furnish Company and/or Stewart Business Information designees information concerning:

My Work Habits	Character	Criminal Record	Social Security Information
Reason for termination	Reputation	Driving Record	Credit History
Salary History	*Worker Comp Claims	Education History	Transcripts

And all other relevant information requested by Company.

I hereby release all Persons, Companies, Corporations, Schools, or Individuals from all liability and responsibility that may result from providing Company and/or Stewart Business Information with such information as requested.

I understand that if hired, my employment is for no definite period of time, consistent with state law, and may be terminated with or without cause and with or without notice, at any time, at the option of either Company or myself. No employee representative, manager, official or supervisor of Company, other than the president or any vice president of Company, has any authority to enter into any agreement for employment for a specified period of time or make any agreement relative to employment that is contrary to the foregoing. Any such employment agreement will be in writing, signed by the designated officer and clearly specifying its term.

If I am not hired due to information contained in the background screen report, I will be notified in writing and a copy of the said report will be supplied to me with a written summary of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970 as amended in 1996.

_____ Applicant's name	_____ Social Security Number
_____ Current Street Address	_____ City, State, and Zip Code
_____ Driver's License Number State	_____ **Date of Birth
_____ Signature	_____ Date

*Subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).** The Age Discrimination Act of 1967 (ADEA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40 years of age.



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Mentor Questionnaire

Students and mentors are matched according to common interests and potential for compatibility. All matches are same sex matches. The information you provide on this form will help us make the best possible match between you and our pool of student participants. Please be thoughtful and honest so we can make the best possible match.

Mentor Name: _____

Male Female

What are your hobbies?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping/Fashion | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football | <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing an Instrument | <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Poetry | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers/Video Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/Softball | | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance |

Other _____

Please check all below that describe your personality:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet | <input type="checkbox"/> A Follower | <input type="checkbox"/> Introspective | <input type="checkbox"/> Energetic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shy | <input type="checkbox"/> Honest | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic | <input type="checkbox"/> Calm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smart | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardworking | <input type="checkbox"/> Talented | <input type="checkbox"/> Loyal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing | <input type="checkbox"/> Dependable | <input type="checkbox"/> Serious | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talkative | <input type="checkbox"/> A Listener | <input type="checkbox"/> Funny | <input type="checkbox"/> Timid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Silly | <input type="checkbox"/> Loving | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive | |

What 3 personality traits would you like your mentee to possess? _____

What are some activities you would like to do with your mentee? _____

Do you have any other preferences we should know about your mentee-match? _____



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*Thank you for your application to
Thurgood Marshall Academy's Mentor Program!*

When complete, please return pages 4-9 to:

Jessica Sher, Director of Programs
Thurgood Marshall Academy
2427 Martin Luther King Jr., Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 563-6862 ext. 149
Fax (202) 563-6946
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