



**Brown Bag Program, February 23rd at Noon CST by teleconferencing.**

**Please RSVP to Merisa Lima ([mlima@mayerbrown.com](mailto:mlima@mayerbrown.com)) by Friday, February 19th.**

*Strategic Mentoring: Finding Mentors Who Will Advance Your Career  
Featuring Ida Abbott*

Program Description (CLE credit is pending):

Ida will discuss how to strategically find mentors at every stage of your career. Some specific topics included are:

- What it means to think strategically about the mentors you should have
- The uses and limits of formal mentoring programs
- The need for “champions,” how to get one, and how they differ from mentors
- Networks as a source of mentors, inside and outside your firm
- How to initiate a mentoring relationship with a desired mentor

## About the Speaker

Ida Abbott has been advising professional service firms, professional associations and corporations about talent development, management and retention since 1995. She has long been recognized as a leader in the fields of mentoring, leadership and professional development, and has been elected a Fellow of the College of Law Practice Management.

For many years, Ida has been at the forefront of efforts to promote women in the legal profession. She is co-founder and Director of the Hastings Leadership Academy for Women at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, (<http://www.pardc.org/LAW/>) where she is also a Faculty Fellow. Ida is also co-Director of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum and a member of the Advisory Board of the New York Women’s Bar Association Foundation. She operates the Women Managing Partners’ Roundtable for women leaders in California, and serves as a coach to individual women who aspire to leadership and career success.

Ida has held leadership positions in many bar associations and legal organizations, and recently served as Vice-Chair of the Academic and Professional Development Committee of the International Bar Association. She is a founder and former board member of the Professional Development Consortium, an association of professional development specialists at major US and international law firms. She is the founder and director of the Professional Development Roundtable for Global Law Firms.

Ida’s clients are located throughout the world. They include firms and companies of varying size and complexity, from small and mid-size local offices to global accounting firms and half of the AmLaw 100 law firms.

Before starting her consulting firm, Ida practiced law for 20 years. She specialized in complex litigation at a large international law firm, where she also ran the firm's professional development and pro bono

programs. She often served as a judge pro tempore in the San Francisco Superior Court and as a private and court-appointed mediator and arbitrator.

Ida has authored many articles and resource materials, and four highly acclaimed books, including *Lawyers' Professional Development: The Legal Employer's Comprehensive Guide*, and *The Lawyer's Guide to Mentoring*. She has been a columnist for *Diversity & the Bar Magazine* and writes a newsletter, *Management Solutions*, which is available on her website. Her new book on women and law firm leadership will be published in the spring of 2010.

Ida received her J.D. from Hastings College of the Law, M.A. from the University of Miami, and A.B. from Smith College.

	<p>Check out the Coalition Website at <a href="http://www.thewomenscoalition.com">www.thewomenscoalition.com</a></p>
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