

## Law Students

Our summer associate program is our primary source for entry-level associates. Selected law students are offered positions as summer associates with the hope and expectation that each will demonstrate the characteristics to make a successful Lathrop Gage attorney. Rather than hire a large number of summer associates to compete for a limited number of entry-level positions, we hire only as many summer associates as we expect will satisfy our hiring needs following graduation.

*“We take our work very seriously, but we don't take ourselves too seriously.”*

*– Bridget Romero  
Partner  
Labor & Employment*

Our program combines challenging legal projects with real-world experience in an effort to provide summer associates an accurate view of life at Lathrop Gage. We make sure that our summer associates observe the hands-on practice of law through depositions, closings, witness interviews, negotiations and client meetings. Summer associates receive assignments from diverse practice areas and departments, working with a variety of partners and other attorneys. Two partners serve as "work coordinators" for the summer program; they monitor the quantity and variety of projects, and ensure that each summer associate has an opportunity to experience his or her areas of interest.

In addition to the work coordinators, each summer associate is offered guidance by an associate mentor. Each completed assignment is evaluated by the assigning attorney and the Recruiting Committee, a group of partners and associates who provide each summer associate with a formal evaluation in the middle and at the end of the summer.

We also provide summer associates with opportunities to form social bonds throughout the firm. Social and team-building events include dinner parties, sports activities, trips to client facilities, tours of local attractions and evening outings at concerts, plays and sporting events. This is an integral part of the summer program, as lawyers and summer associates get to know one another outside the office atmosphere.