Appellate Law

Themes:

• Learning about appellate law, improving your appellate practice, and getting more appellate experience

Conversation Starters:

• Why are you interested in this area of law?
• What are some ways to get more appellate experience?
• How is appellate practice different than trial litigation?
• Who is the best appellate advocate for a client? The attorney who handled the case below, or someone with specialized appellate experience?

Activities:

• Attend a Court of Appeals or Supreme Court oral argument
• Discuss the differences between civil litigation and an appeal that is limited to the record below
• Discuss the importance of having a good record
• Discuss ways to get more experience in appellate work in your work place
• Review the standards of review and how they can affect your case
• Hold a moot court with your mentor if you have an upcoming oral argument; attend your mentor’s moot court if they have an upcoming oral argument; then attend (or listen to) the actual oral argument to see how well you anticipated the judges questions
• Have your mentor review your brief; review your mentor’s briefs
• Attend an Appellate Law section meeting or activity
• Get connected with a pro bono program that will allow you to take on more appellate cases become more experienced
Resources:

- Discuss what additional resources the mentor/mentee have found useful in their own practice
- The Washington State Rules of Appellate Procedure
- The Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure
- Legal Writing and Appellate Practice books the mentor/mentee have found useful in their own practice
- The Chicago Manual of Style