**Discussion Guide: *The Unknown Girl* (La fille inconnue) (2016)**

Written and directed by Jean-Pierre Darden and Luc Dardenne

This is a movie about a doctor, but it has much to say to other professionals, including lawyers. It also speaks to the act of “professing” a particular set of skills and the obligations that come with that profession.

*For Group Discussion or Consideration:*

* What kind of professional is Dr. Jenny Davin? Why?
* What is admirable about her work as a professional?
* For the most part, Dr. Davin sees her patients as whole people, not just medical problems to be addressed. How does this manifest itself? That is, how can you tell? Are there times where she falls short of this? Is there a parallel for lawyers here?
* Why does she turn away the “unknown girl”? Was she wrong to do it? Why does she feel guilty? If she were the “consummate professional,” what would she have done? Is the answer always the same for anyone in that circumstance? Is it different for lawyers than for doctors?
* Identify unhealthy practices of Dr. Davin. Are there parallels for lawyers?
* Identify a few of her healthy practices. What are the parallels for lawyers?
* What motivates her decision to stay in the low-income practice? Is this admirable? Why or why not?
* The patients with whom she interacts have various views of Dr. Davin: friend, confidant, confessor, adversary, stranger, mechanic, etc. Would the patients realize the relationship—or be aware of it—in these terms? Is Jenny aware of how each patient sees her? If so, to what extent?
* Would each patient describe his or her relationship with Dr. Davin the same way that the doctor would describe it? Why or why not?
* How would the doctor describe her patients? Is each different?
* How might this film help us think more clearly about lawyer-client relationships?
* How might Christian conviction help a young lawyer handle failure or guilt in law practice?
* Do you believe you will go through your first few years of law practice without failure or regret? Why or why not? How can you prepare yourself for failure?
* Is it possible to avoid making a mistake like Dr. Jenny made with the “unknown girl”?