

Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
Lawyers Promoting Diversity Committee

Resources for Minority Law Students

(1) Local Universities

A. SMU Dedman School of Law

Student Organizations

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

<http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Black-Law-Students-Association.aspx>

Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA)

<http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Hispanic-Law-Students-Association.aspx>

Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)

<http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Jewish-Law-Students-Association.aspx>

Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA)

<http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Muslim-Law-Students-Association.aspx>

Older Wiser Law Students (OWLS)

[http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Older-Wiser-Law-Students-\(OWLS\).aspx](http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Older-Wiser-Law-Students-(OWLS).aspx)

SMU OUTlaw (LGBT Persons and Initiatives)

<http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/OutLaw/Home>

Women in Law

<http://studentorgs.law.smu.edu/Women-in-Law/Home.aspx>

B. Texas A&M University School of Law

Student Organizations

Women Law Students Association

<https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/organization/profile/public/id/1526>

Hispanic Law Students Association

<https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/organization/profile/public/id/1533>

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Aggies (Not law school specific)

<https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/organization/profile/public/id/1136>

Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association

<https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/organization/profile/public/id/1502>

Black Law Student Association

<https://stuactonline.tamu.edu/app/organization/profile/public/id/1503>

C. UNT – Dallas College of Law <http://lawschool.untsystem.edu/>

(2) Sister Bar Associations

- A. Dallas Hispanic Bar Association** <http://www.dallashispanicbar.com/>
http://www.dallashispanicbar.com/?page_id=33
- B. Dallas Gay Lesbian Bar Association** <http://www.dglba.org/>
http://www.dglba.org/?page_id=416
- C. JL Turner Legal Association** (The African-American Bar Association of Dallas, Texas) <http://www.jltla.org>
- D. Dallas Asian American Bar Association** <http://www.daaba.org/>
Employment opportunities: <http://www.daaba.org/employment.htm>
- E. Dallas Women Lawyers Association** <http://dallaswomenlawyers.org/>

(3) Scholarships for Diverse Candidates

http://www.law.smu.edu/getattachment/Admissions/Costs-and-Financial-Aid/Scholarships-and-Loans/Hughes-Scholarship-Application_2010.pdf

The Sarah T. Hughes Scholarship, funded and awarded by the Dallas Bar Foundation, covers the full cost of tuition and fees of outstanding minority students each year. If you are interested in applying for the Sarah T. Hughes Scholarship, you must complete the separate scholarship application. Both your scholarship application and your Application for Admission must be postmarked by February 15.

Dallas Hispanic Law Foundation Scholarship

<http://www.dallashispaniclawfoundation.com/scholarships.html>

Each year, the DHLF awards several scholarships to law students from different law schools. The DHBA Scholarship Foundation's goal is to increase diversity within the legal community by providing financial support to worthy students. Scholarship applications are taken annually.

Contact information for deadlines: dhlfscholarships@gmail.com

Application for the AAJ Women for Justice Education Fund's Mike Eidson Scholarship

<https://www.justice.org/what-we-do/enhance-practice-law/professional-recognition-awards-scholarship/scholarships/mike-eidson>

As the world's largest trial bar, AAJ promotes justice and fairness for injured persons, safeguards victims' rights—particularly the right to trial by jury—and strengthens the civil justice system through education and disclosure of information critical to public health and safety. AAJ fights daily to protect the civil justice system against corporations and powerful individuals.

The Mike Eidson Scholarship Fund was established by the AAJ Women for Justice Education Fund in 2008, in honor of AAJ Past President Mike Eidson, whose vision and generosity inspired it. The Scholarship, traditionally in the amount of \$5,000.00, is awarded annually to a rising 3L (or rising 4L in a night program) female student who has demonstrated a commitment to a career as a plaintiffs' lawyer or criminal defense lawyer, along with dedication to upholding and defending the principles of the Constitution, and to the concept of a fair trial, the adversary system, and a just result for the injured, the accused, and those whose rights are jeopardized.

If you are interested in submitting an application to be considered for this scholarship, or wish to nominate someone for this scholarship, complete this form and return to Catherine Rodman, by mail at: AAJ Education, 777 6th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001, or by email at: catherine.rodman@justice.org

JL Turner Scholarships

<http://www.jltla.org/scholarships/>

Each year since 1982 the J.L. Turner Legal Association Foundation has awarded scholarships to minority law students that are from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, or attending law school in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Funds raised from the Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet are used to fund the scholarships.

There are two distinct types of JLTLA Minority Law Student Scholarships: those awarded primarily on the basis of merit, and those based primarily on financial need.

I. Financial Need Minority Scholarships:

Although JLTLA encourages academic excellence, the need-based scholarships focus on financial need and are not primarily academic scholarships. In selecting financial-need scholarship winners, we will consider an applicant's need, disadvantaged circumstances, community involvement, and other factors, in addition to merely academic standing.

II. Merit-Based Minority Scholarships:

There are four (4) JLTLA merit-based Scholarships that may be awarded in a given year. These are primarily academic scholarship awards. The Merit Scholarships are as follows:

The Barbara Jordan Scholarship - awarded to the most outstanding female minority law student.

The Fred Finch Scholarship - awarded to the most outstanding male minority law student.

The Marie Trahan/Susman Godfrey Scholarship - awarded to an outstanding African-American male or female law student that is from (born in or raised in) the state of Texas.

The Judge's Scholarship - awarded to either a male or female minority law student who has excelled academically.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for JLTLA Minority Law Student Scholarships, you must:

- A) be a United States Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident;
- B) be currently enrolled in an ABA accredited law school in the United States;
- C) be in good academic standing at the law school (proof of academic standing is required); and
- D) be either:
 - 1) a second or third year minority law student that is from the DFW Metroplex; OR
 - 2) a second or third year minority law student that attends law school in the DFW Metroplex.

(4) ABA/National level

- **Disability Rights Bar Association** <http://disabilityrights-law.org/>
 - The DRBA is an online network of attorneys who specialize in disability civil rights law. Through the DRBA, disability rights attorneys share information and strategies, coordinate litigation and other legal representation strategies, and mentor lawyers and law students who are new to disability rights practice. The DRBA helps lawyers and individuals with disabilities pursue better cases, make more effective arguments, and understand developments in disability rights law and practice.

□ **ABA Commission on Women in the Profession** <http://www.americanbar.org/groups/women.html>

- The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession was created in August, 1987 to assess the status of women in the legal profession, identify barriers to advancement, and recommend to the ABA actions to address problems identified. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first chair of the Commission, set the pace for the Commission to change the face of the legal profession by issuing a groundbreaking report in 1988 showing that women lawyers were not advancing at a satisfactory rate.

□ **ABA - The Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity**

<http://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity.html>

- The Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity (Center) was established in 2001 as the coordinating body or umbrella for diversity efforts throughout the American Bar Association. The Center provides the framework for effective utilization of ABA resources committed to diversity, and helps to maintain racial and ethnic diversity as a priority issue for the ABA. The Diversity Center group consists of four distinct entities that address racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession, social justice system, and the educational pipeline. The Diversity Center Group's programs, projects and initiatives support the ABA's Goal III: "To eliminate bias and enhance diversity."

□ **ABA – Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession**

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/racial_ethnic_diversity/about-the-commission.html

- Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession - Founded in 1986, the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession (Commission) is a diverse group of committed lawyers serving as the catalyst for creating leadership and economic opportunities for racially and ethnically diverse lawyers within the ABA and the legal profession.

□ **ABA – Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice**

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/racial_ethnic_justice.html

- Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice (COREJ) - The ABA Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice (COREJ) addresses issues related to racial and ethnic bias in the justice system. It serves as a means to develop partnerships and eliminate bias in the justice system. Its focus is on social justice issues, based on the concepts of human rights and equality.

□ **ABA – Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline**

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/diversity_pipeline.html

- Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline (Pipeline Council) - The ABA Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline (Pipeline Council) acts as a programmatic incubator for activities that foster a more diverse educational pipeline into the legal profession and provides a forum to address these issues in our educational systems and the legal profession.

□ **ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/sexual_orientation.html

- The ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) seeks to secure equal treatment in the ABA, the legal profession, and the justice system without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

ABA – Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/commission_on_hispanic_legal_rights_responsibilities.html

- **Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities (CHLRR)** - The Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities (CHLRR) officially joined the Diversity Center Group in September 2012. CHLRR addresses key legal issues facing Latinos throughout the United States; analyzes and devises solutions for these issues; and provides recommendations for ABA, congressional and administration policy makers.

National LGBT Bar Association <http://lgbtbar.org/>

- The National LGBT Bar Association is a national association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals, law students, activists and affiliated lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender legal organizations. The LGBT Bar promotes justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBT community in all its diversity.

ABA Commission on Disability Rights

<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/>

- The ABA Commission on Disability Rights (CDR) has a dual mission: (1) to "promote the ABA's commitment to justice and the rule of law for persons with mental, physical, and sensory disabilities and (2) to promote their full and equal participation in the legal profession." CDR advocates for the legal rights of persons with disabilities, seeking to eliminate the obstacles created by stigma and prejudice based on stereotypes and to ensure their equal participation and meaningful inclusion in society. CDR's programs and initiatives will help ensure that civil rights encompass the rights of persons with disabilities.

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)

<https://napaba.site-ym.com/page/About>

- The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of over 40,000 attorneys and 63 local Asian Pacific American bar associations. Its members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. NAPABA continues to be a leader in addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities. Through its national network of committees and affiliates, NAPABA provides a strong voice for increased diversity of federal and state judiciaries, advocates for equal opportunity in the workplace, works to eliminate hate crimes and anti-immigrant sentiment, and promotes professional development of people of color in the legal profession.

Lambda Legal (LGBT/HIV Rights) <http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

- Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

BestColleges.org <http://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/minority-students/>

- In an effort to make higher education more accessible to minority students, this website has compiled a list of hundreds of public and private organizations that offer specialized minority student scholarships and aid programs. If you are a student with minority status, it's worth your while to see what's available.