



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
LEGAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

2012
Application Package

To serve equally our members, our profession, and the public by defending liberty and delivering justice as the national representative of the legal profession
– American Bar Association’s Mission

THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FUND FOR JUSTICE AND EDUCATION
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
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THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FUND FOR JUSTICE AND EDUCATION
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ENTITIES
FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

Antitrust Law Section
Business Law Section
Criminal Justice Section
Dispute Resolution Section
Family Law Section
Forum on the Construction Industry
General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division
Government & Public Sector Lawyers Division
Health Law Section
Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section
Intellectual Property Law Section
International Law Section
Judicial Division
Labor and Employment Law Section
Law Practice Management Section
Law Student Division
Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar Section
Litigation Section
Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law Section
Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
Science and Technology Law Section
Senior Lawyers Division
State and Local Government Law Section
Taxation Section
Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section
Young Lawyers Division

Thank you for your interest in the American Bar Association (ABA) Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund is to encourage racial and ethnic minority students to apply to and attend law school and to provide financial assistance to ensure that these students have the opportunity to attend law school for three years.

The ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 of financial assistance annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA-accredited law school. An award made to an entering first-year student may be renewable for two additional years, resulting in financial assistance totaling \$15,000 during his or her time in law school. Although each recipient will need to re-apply for the scholarship in his or her second and third year, the expectation is that the scholarship will be renewed each year if satisfactory performance in law school has been achieved, the student is otherwise eligible, and funding is available.

In addition to whether the applicant is a member of a racial and/or ethnic minority that has been underrepresented in the legal profession, the applicant's financial need; personal, family and educational background; personal statement; and participation in community service activities will be considered in selecting the recipients of the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarships. **It is important for every applicant to complete all portions of the application.** Financial information for the applicant and his or her parents is required to evaluate the applicant's financial need. A committee of ABA members will select the recipients. The decisions of the committee are final.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **ALL completed applications must be received on or before March 1, 2012.**
- **ALL completed applications should be placed on a flash drive and sent along with the hard copy on or before March 1, 2012.**
- **Faxed applications will not be accepted.**
- **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**
- **To secure a word document of the application please visit:
<http://www.ambar.org/DiversityScholarship>**

ABA LEGAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP 2012 APPLICATION PACKAGE

Requirements for Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, an applicant must meet *all* of the following requirements:

1. **The applicant must be an entering, first-year law student in the 2012 academic year. Only students beginning law school in the 2012 academic year will be eligible for an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship.** Law students who have completed one or more semesters or years of law school are not eligible. Applicants who are part-time law students also must be starting law school in the 2012 academic year to be eligible.
2. At the time of submission of the application, the applicant must have achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 grading scale) at his or her undergraduate institution. If the applicant has not completed his or her undergraduate degree at the time the application is submitted, he or she must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 grading scale) as of the most recent completed semester.
3. The applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America. Students, who are citizens and residents of a foreign country, even if they plan to attend law school in the United States, are not eligible to apply.

Before receiving scholarship funds, recipients will be required to demonstrate admission to and plans to enroll at an ABA-accredited law school. Because the deadline for submitting applications is March 1, 2012, the applicant will have applied to law schools, but may not yet have been admitted to law school. If the applicant is selected to receive an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, he or she will be required to demonstrate admission to and plans to enroll at an ABA-accredited law school before receiving scholarship funds. Students who do not enroll or who leave law school after being admitted will be required to return all or a proportional amount of scholarship funds.

To apply for a Legal Opportunity Scholarship, please provide the following information:

1. **Application Form.** Each applicant must complete the attached application form. *Parents' financial information is required for every scholarship applicant. Exceptions will only be granted if the applicant is married or classified as independent at the corresponding applicant's undergraduate school (Documentation may be requested to verify marital and/or independent status).* If special circumstances exist which prevent you from providing financial information for your parents, please explain those circumstances in a separate statement. If your parents are separated or divorced, we will require information from both biological parents. Parents may complete separate applications, and all information will be kept confidential.

To complete the application, you must attach copies of federal income tax forms for yourself and your parents. If you have completed your 2011 federal income tax return, please attach a copy to the application. Because the application will be submitted before the April 15, 2012 tax deadline, you may submit copies of your 2010 tax forms if you have not completed your 2011 forms. Please indicate in the appropriate section of the application if you or your parents are not required to complete federal income tax forms. Each applicant is responsible for notifying the American Bar Association Fund for Justice and Education in writing of any changes that may have an effect on their financial status.

2. **Personal Statement.** Your personal statement is your opportunity to include information that the application form does not convey and that you feel will assist us in reaching a thoughtful decision on your application. Examples of such information include a description of your personal strengths, your contributions through community service, a description of any special or unusual circumstances that may have affected your academic performance, or your personal and family history of educational or socio-economic disadvantage. While this list is not all-inclusive, we offer it for you to consider the types of information that may be useful in evaluating your application. Please limit your personal statement to 1,000 words and use only one side of the paper. Font size must be at least 12 point.

3. **Recommendations.** Each applicant must submit two recommendations, at least one of which should be from a professor. If you have been out of school for a number of years and have difficulty finding an academic recommender, please substitute letters from employers and/or others who have worked closely with you. No more than four recommendations will be considered. Recommendation letters are particularly useful when the writer provides substantive, comparative information about the applicant's abilities, activities and personal qualities, including specific examples that illustrate these attributes.

The recommenders should return their letters to you in sealed, signed envelopes, to be included with your application. If your college maintains a central file of recommendations, that office may place copies of the recommendations in a sealed envelope signed by an authorized person in that office. *The recommendations must be submitted with the application.*

4. **Transcript.** Each applicant must submit a copy of his or her **unofficial** transcript from his or her undergraduate institution. If you are selected to receive an ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, you will be required to submit an **official** copy of the transcript before receiving scholarship funds.

5. **Additional information.** Please do not send any collateral materials such as photos, articles, resumes, etc. outside of those required above. Please do not insert the scholarship application in any type of binder, folder or binding.

Send Applications to:

American Bar Association
Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund - Application
Attn: Sharon Tindall
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-4714

If you have any questions, please email us at legalosf@americanbar.org

For additional information, please refer to our website at <http://www.ambar.org/DiversityScholarship>

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR THE LEGAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Name: Mr. _ Ms. _ Dr. _ _____
Last First Middle Initial

Male ____ Female ____

Present Address: _____
Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____
Primary Secondary

E-mail Address: _____

Date upon which correspondence should be sent to permanent address: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Permanent Address/Phone:
(if different from above) _____
Street

City/State/Zip Code Phone

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Place of Birth: _____

Citizenship: ____ U.S.A. ____ Permanent Resident (How long have you lived in the U.S.? ____)

Other: _____
Country

Optional: The purpose of the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund is to encourage racial and ethnic minority students, groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession, to attend law school and to provide financial assistance to these students. ***Please indicate here any such groups in which you would include yourself:***

You are **strongly** encouraged to attach a brief statement describing aspects of this identity that are relevant to your application, such as personal and family background, community service activities or other connections to your racial or ethnic minority community. Please limit your statement to 1,000 words.

Undergraduate and Graduate Education

Undergraduate Colleges/Universities	City and State	Degree	Date Degree Awarded or Expected	Major	Grade Point Average
Graduate and Professional Schools					

Score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT): _____

Please complete the following sections even if the information is included elsewhere in the materials you submit. Please do not use references such as “see resume” or “see attached material.” If you need additional space, provide the remaining information on additional pages following the format of each section.

Academic and Non-Academic Honors and Awards

List the honors and awards you have received (memberships in honor societies, leadership awards, etc.).

Extracurricular Activities and Interests (Collegiate and/or During the Last 5 Years)

List the activities and describe your participation or offices held. If you do not have significant extracurricular activity, you may choose to attach an optional brief statement describing why there is minimal extracurricular activity.

Activity

Years or Semesters
InvolvedOffices Held or Description of
Participation

Community Service Activities

List community service activities in which you have participated. We encourage you to discuss these activities and your contribution to the activities in your personal statement.

Activity	Years or Semesters Involved	Offices Held or Description of Participation

Please indicate your interest in becoming active in the organized bar (American Bar Association, State or Local Bar).

Full-time Employment

List your last five positions of full-time employment and military service. (List employment during the school year in the section below.) Begin with your most recent employment.

From	To	Position Held	Name and Location of Employer	Reason for Leaving

Part-time and Term-time Employment

List positions of employment you held as an undergraduate or graduate student during the academic year. Begin with the most recent.

From	To	Position Held	Name of Employer	Year Worked	Hours Per Week

Yes No Have you been placed on academic probation or been required to withdraw from any school for academic reasons?

Yes No Have you ever been the subject of any disciplinary action taken by any school or college, or are charges pending?

Yes No Has your undergraduate or graduate course been interrupted for one or more terms for any reason?

Yes No Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? Or is any charge pending against you for any crime other than a minor traffic violation?

Yes No Have you ever been separated from a branch of the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” please explain fully in a separate statement.

To complete your application, you are required to submit at least two letters of recommendation. (No more than four letters of recommendation will be considered.) Please provide the names of the persons submitting recommendations on your behalf. Include each person’s affiliation and/or connection to you, e.g., “professor” or “my college counselor”:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please list the ABA-accredited law schools to which you have applied for admission:

Student's Asset Information

Please complete the following asset information for the student (and spouse, if applicable). For information that requires an explanation, please refer to the section at the end of the application entitled "**Special Circumstances or Explanation of Information.**"

- a. Cash, savings and checking accounts: \$_____ .00
- b. Home:
 - _____ Own Monthly mortgage payment: \$_____ .00
 - Current mortgage balance: \$_____ .00
 - _____ Rent Monthly rent payment: \$_____ .00
- c. Other real estate (explain): \$_____ .00
- d. Business (explain): \$_____ .00
- e. Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and other investments (explain): \$_____ .00
- f. Trust funds of which the student/spouse is a beneficiary: \$_____ .00
- g. Retirement accounts: \$_____ .00

Educational Loans and Financial Assistance

For information that requires an explanation, please refer to the section at the end of the application entitled "Special Circumstances or Explanation of Information."

- a. Educational scholarships/grants other than from the ABA for the 2012-2013 academic year. (If this information is not available at the time of filing, please provide updated information as it becomes available.)

Source: _____ \$_____ .00
 Source: _____ \$_____ .00

- b. Financial assistance from student's parents.

Academic year 2011-2012 \$_____ .00
 Academic year 2012-2013 (anticipated) \$_____ .00

- c. Are you currently in default on a federal educational loan? _____ Yes (explain) _____ No

- d. Undergraduate financial aid:

Year	Grants/Scholarships	Loans
Freshman	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00
Sophomore	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00
Junior	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00
Senior	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00

- e. Graduate financial aid:

Year	Grants/Scholarships	Loans
First	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00
Second	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00
Third	\$_____ .00	\$_____ .00

Parents' Information

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone: (____) ____ - ____

Mother's Occupation:* _____ Employer: _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Address: _____
(if different) Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone: (____) ____ - ____

Father's Occupation:* _____ Employer: _____

Parents Marital Status: ___ Married ___ Separated/Divorced ___ Never Married

___ Mother Deceased

___ Father Deceased

*If retired, please indicate position from which parent retired.

If parents are separated or divorced, financial information for each biological parent should be provided.

Family members who receive more than half support from parents:	Name	Relationship to Applicant	Attending college at least half-time? (yes or no)	If yes, name of college
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Parents' Financial Information

The income tax figures below are from: (check one)

1. _____ a completed 2011 IRS Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
2. _____ an estimated 2011 IRS Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
3. _____ a completed 2010 IRS Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
4. _____ will not file a 2011 U.S. income tax return (please skip to "d" below - "2010 Income earned from work - father").

Parents' Income Tax Figures:

- a. Total number of exemptions: _____
- b. Adjusted Gross Income: \$_____00
- c. U.S. income tax paid: \$_____00
- d. 2011 Income earned from work - father \$_____00
- e. 2011 Income earned from work - mother \$_____00
- f. Interest/dividend earnings: \$_____00

Untaxed income and benefits (yearly totals):

- a. Social security benefits: \$_____00
- b. Earned Income Credit: \$_____00
- c. Child support received for all children: \$_____00
- d. Deductible IRA/Keogh payments, untaxed portion of pensions: \$_____00
- e. Other untaxed income and benefits: \$_____00

Parents' Asset Information

For information that requires an explanation, please refer to the section at the end of the application entitled "Special Circumstances or Explanation of Information."

- a. Cash, savings and checking accounts: \$_____00
- b. Home: _____ Own Monthly mortgage payment: \$_____00
Current mortgage balance: \$_____00
_____ Rent Monthly rent payment: \$_____00
- c. Other real estate (explain): \$_____00
- d. Business (explain): \$_____00
- e. Investments (explain): \$_____00

Special Circumstances or Explanation of Information Provided. Please attach an additional sheet to explain any requested information on this form. Please use the section headings for reference on each additional sheet. You may also explain any other information that would affect you/your parents' financial situation.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the information given on this application is complete and accurate. I understand that providing false, misleading or incomplete information will be the basis for denial or revocation of scholarship funds. I hereby agree to provide proof of the information that I have given on this application form, including a copy of my and my parents' U.S. income tax returns. I understand that failure to provide such proof may result in denial of scholarship funds. I will promptly inform the ABA Fund for Justice and Education, in writing, if there is any change in any of the facts provided herein.

Signature of Applicant

Date

The completed application includes:

1. A completed hard copy application form along with a flash drive; signed and dated by the applicant.
2. A copy of federal income tax forms for applicant and his or her parents or independent status explanation (if copy of parent's tax information is not provided)
3. A personal statement
4. A diversity statement (*optional*)
5. At least two letters of recommendation submitted with the application.
6. A copy of the applicant's undergraduate transcript
7. The signed release form

Completed applications must be received on or before March 1, 2012 and should be sent to:

American Bar Association
Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund - Application
Attn: Sharon Tindall
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-4714

If you have any questions, please email us at legalosf@americanbar.org

**For additional information, please refer to our website at
<http://www.ambar.org/DiversityScholarship>**

RELEASE FORM

**American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-4714**

American Bar Association, Legal Opportunity Scholarship

This is to confirm that the undersigned has applied for a scholarship grant from the American Bar Association Legal Opportunity Scholarship Program.

As consideration for such grant and for the opportunity to participate in the American Bar Association Legal Opportunity Scholarship Program, you hereby grant the ABA the right to use in all media, your name and voice, and, if we so choose, your photograph, biography and excerpts from your scholarship application, in connection with the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, publicity about the program, newsletters, brochures and other materials.

If the foregoing terms are satisfactory, please sign, and date this agreement below and return it with your application. Execution of this Agreement does not obligate the ABA to select you as a scholarship recipient, nor to publish your information or other materials.

I hereby consent to the use of information about myself and my application, as stated and described herein, and agree with the provisions of this release form:

Signature:

Date:

Name: (typed or printed)

Permanent Address:

Permanent Phone Number(s):
