

- 1. Program Title:** LSAT Prep Scholarship Program
- 2. Name of Bar Association:** Nebraska State Bar Association
- 3. Address:** 635 S. 14th Street, Ste 200
- 4. City, State Zip:** Lincoln, NE 68508
- 5. Phone:** 402-475-7091
- 6. Email:** Lneeley@nebar.com
- 7. Number of Association Members:** 6,444

8. Description of your program to include:

Program objectives

LSAT exam scores are one of the primary factors considered by law schools in the admissions process. Participation in a preparatory class is becoming increasingly common. There is, however, a considerable expense in enrolling for this class. In an effort to expand the pipeline for a more diverse legal profession, the Nebraska State Bar Association's Minority Justice Committee established a LSAT Prep Scholarship Program to help minority students overcome the economic barrier they may face in taking the LSAT prep course.

The LSAT Prep Scholarship Program provides a scholarship for a Kaplan LSAT Prep Course and covers the costs of registering for the LSAT exam. The course includes 14 sessions, 3.5 hours in length, for a total of 49 hours. Online assistance is also available.

History of Program: The program was established in 2008.

Number of times presented: The Review Committee considers applications each February and July. To date 19, scholarships have been awarded. Kaplan provides preparatory courses throughout the year. Scholarship recipients sign up for the Kaplan class in advance of their scheduled LSAT exam. Kaplan offers a "higher score guarantee" option to the scholarship recipients which allows them to take the Kaplan course a second time if they wish to retake the LSAT exam.

Targeted Audience: Nebraska law schools produce 86.9% of the state's practicing lawyers. Few minorities from other states matriculate in Nebraska law schools, so expanding the pipeline of minority law students in Nebraska is critical to improving diversity in the state's legal profession.

To be eligible for the scholarship, one must be a racial/ethnic minority, reside in Nebraska, and demonstrate economic need. Recipients are required to complete the LSAT prep course and take the LSAT exam on the designated date. Recipients are required to apply to at least one law school in Nebraska and indicate a genuine interest in staying in Nebraska after law school.

The scholarship is promoted on the Nebraska Legal Diversity Website (www.nelegaldiversity.org); is disseminated to every state, private, and community college in the state; is promoted by Kaplan; and is advertised by the Nebraska Hispanic and Midlands Bar Associations. The scholarship has been successful in reaching both

traditional and non-traditional students from a variety of racial/ethnic backgrounds (see attached table).

Number of People Participating: To date, 19 scholarships have been awarded. Currently, 14 of the 19 scholarship recipients have completed the LSAT Prep Course and taken the LSAT exam.

Measureable results of efforts to date (include statistics, program evaluation and follow up):

To date, 19 scholarships have been awarded. Currently, 14 of the 19 scholarship recipients have completed the LSAT Prep Course and taken the LSAT exam. Also, 2 of the 14 (14%) have already been accepted and are enrolled in law school. Moreover, 3 applicants have applications pending at Creighton University School of Law, and 6 applicants have applications pending at the University of Nebraska College of Law. Two students have retaken the LSAT exam and are awaiting their new results.

As part of the scholarship agreement, Kaplan provides the NSBA with the students' lowest and highest practice exam scores, and the students provide us with their final LSAT exam scores. On average, students experienced a 7-point difference between their lowest and highest practice exam scores and between their lowest practice exam score and their final LSAT score. For example, the average score for students was 140 on the practice exams, but 147 on the LSAT exam itself. While the difference for some students was smaller (between 3-5 points), some students experienced between 13 and 16 point improvements. (see table below).

Table 1: Evaluation Data as of March 31

Student	Race/ Ethnicity	GPA	Lowest Practice Score	Highest Practice Score	Difference b/w Lowest and Highest	LSAT SCORE
1	Black	3.7	136	141	5	141
2	Latina	3.65	133	138	5	139
3	Native American	3.5	154	163	9	161
4	Latina	3.2	142	149	7	146
5	Latina	3.4	148	151	3	151
6	Latina	3.33	131	147	16	137
7	Black and Puerto Rican	2.92	126	139	13	146
8	Native American	3.44	149	157	8	155
9	Black	3.72	130	141	11	140
10	Black	2.99	133	135	2	136
11	Native American	3.19	147	149	2	147
12	Native American	3.75	150	157	7	161
13	Black	3.35	147	154	7	Enrolled at Creighton
14	Black	3.31	149	154	5	Enrolled at Creighton
15	Black	2.89	139	146	7	
16	Black	3.7				
17	Black	3.52				
18	Latino	3.49				
19	Latina	3.91				

As one student indicated: “Yes, I got my LSAT score back and am very happy! I got a 161 and am in the 84th percentile! The Kaplan course definitely helped, especially their course materials. The first practice test I took about a year ago I got a 149 and was averaging a 153 before, so the class helped me improve a lot.”

Future program plans: Efforts have recently begun to stay in touch with our LSAT Prep Scholarship Recipients. Recipients are invited to participate in additional programs designed to assist them with applying to law school: how to write a personnel statement, understanding financial aid, etc. Students are also invited to participate in larger bar networking events.

9. Total Program Budget: The NSBA is very proud to have negotiated a reduced rate from Kaplan. Through our scholarship program, we receive each Kaplan course at half price, and are therefore able to fund twice as many students. The cost of each Kaplan course is \$649. If students are not eligible for a LSAT exam fee waiver, the scholarship also covers this cost, which is \$132. The per student cost, therefore, ranges from \$649 to \$781.

10 Source of Program Funds: Scholarships funds are raised through firm and attorney contributions. The Nebraska State Bar Association also hosts a charity poker tournament/casino night to raise funds for the program.

11. Other Resources (e.g., in-kind contributions, materials, etc.): As discussed earlier, Kaplan provides each scholarship to our program at half price.

12. Identify other partners who supported your effort (e.g., bar associations, agencies, high schools, colleges/universities, law firms, etc.):

Scholarship Review Committee: Scholarships are reviewed each April and July by a diverse group of attorneys, representing firms, law schools, the Nebraska Hispanic Bar Association, and the Midlands Bar Association (Nebraska's association of Black attorneys).

Scholarship Promotion: Partners also assist in promoting the scholarship. The scholarship is promoted on the Nebraska Legal Diversity Website (www.nelegaldiversity.org); is disseminated to every state, private and community college in the state; is promoted by Kaplan; and is advertised by the Nebraska Hispanic and Midlands Bar Associations.

13. Note any recognition that these efforts have received (e.g., media coverage, awards, etc.): See attached articles from *The Nebraska Lawyer* magazine.

14. Could another bar association easily replicate this program? Is so, how? Are there materials, checklists, reports that lend themselves to a “how to” guide for other organizations? Please include any pertinent materials with the application form or send separately by email.

The NSBA has a packet of materials available upon request to assist with replication of this program, including the following:

- A flier to encourage sponsorship among attorneys and law firms
- A flier to promote the scholarship
- Sample letters notifying colleges and universities of the scholarship program
- The scholarship application form

15. What suggestions or recommendations would you offer to others who might undertake a similar program?

There has been one occasion where the number of worthy applicants exceeded the amount of available funds. In this instance, instead of denying applicants, students with later graduation dates were deferred until the next application cycle. This solution, therefore, allowed the program to replenish funds without denying worthy applicants or inconveniencing students' law school application process.

16. Program contract person, title, phone number:

Elizabeth Neeley
Director, Nebraska Minority Justice Committee
402-475-7091

17. Program contact person's snail mail and email address:

Nebraska State Bar Association
635 S. 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Lneeley@nebar.com

LSAT Prep Scholarship Program

In an effort to promote a diverse legal profession, the Nebraska Minority Justice Committee together with the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation, established a LSAT Prep Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Review Committee reviews applications twice a year. In 2010, applications are due by either February 5th or July 10, 2010.

The LSAT Prep Minority Pipeline Scholarship Program provides a scholarship for a Kaplan LSAT Prep Course and covers the costs of registering for the LSAT exam. The course includes 14 sessions, 3.5 hours in length, for a total of 49 hours. Online assistance is also available, and students may take the course a second time at no additional cost if the student does not take the test, or wants to retake it.

LSAT Prep Application Form

Recipients

Since its inception, the program has awarded 19 scholarships. Congratulations to: Eya Assignon, Elizabeth Anne Baxter, Keegan Bordeaux, Daniela Bravo, Elisabeth Dority, Meghan Douglas, Leslie Espino, Carl Erwin, Analise Harris, Cheree Hatfield, Stacey Marie Henry, Keisha Holloway, Joy Iromuanya, Jamal Jackson, Lucas Larose, Sara McCue, Alex Rivera-Aschan, Rachel Strong, and Janette Taylor.

Sponsors

Thanks to the generous financial contributions of the following firms and organizations, 19 LSAT Prep Scholarships have been awarded: Koley Jessen PC LLO (Platinum Level Sponsor); Baird Holm LLP, Jackson Lewis, and Husch Blackwell Sanders (Gold Level Sponsors); and Legal Aid of Nebraska, the Midlands Bar Association, and McGrath North Mullin & Kratz, PC (Silver Level Sponsors).



MJC Co-Chair, Linda Crump congratulates three of the 2008 LSAT Prep Scholarship Recipients.



The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation Second Annual Charity Poker Tournament & Casino Night



Tiffany Lopez-Wilson and Erin Ebeler with the blackjack dealer at the Second Annual Charity Poker Tournament and Casino Night. Tiffany was named the tournament winner for the second consecutive year.

The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation hosted the Second Annual Charity Poker Tournament and Casino Night, Friday February 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in Lincoln at the Ridnour Room in the Apothecary. The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation (formerly NSBA Charitable Funds Inc), which is a 501(c)(3) organization, is a fundraising vehicle for the charitable programs of the Nebraska State Bar Association. As part of its mission to promote a diverse legal profession, the proceeds from this event support the Foundation's LSAT Prep Scholarship Program. The LSAT Prep Scholarship Program provides scholarships to individuals who demonstrate economic need and who are historically underrepresented in Nebraska's legal profession.

2010 Casino Night Sponsors

- Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather LLP - Craps Table Sponsor
- Husch Blackwell Sanders, LLP - Blackjack Table Sponsor
- Jackson Lewis LLP - Beverage Sponsor
- Koley Jessen PC LLO - Blackjack Table Sponsor
- NSBA Young Lawyers Section - Blackjack Table Sponsor
- Rembolt Ludtke LLP - Blackjack Table Sponsor

Food Sponsors

- Budweiser
- Road House Bar & Grill
- Brewsky's
- Sun Valley Bar & Grill
- Catering Above All
- JTK Cuisine
- Kentucky Fried Chicken
- Beacon Hills
- Blimpie
- Billys

Poser New Dean of UNL College of Law



Susan Poser

SUSAN POSER, a professor of law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law and chief of staff and associate to the chancellor, has accepted appointment as the dean of the UNL College of Law. Poser will assume the dean's post on May 15.

Poser became chief of staff and associate to the chancellor at UNL in 2007, and has been a professor at the UNL College of Law since joining the faculty full-time in 1999, being promoted to associate professor in 2004 and full professor in 2008. In 2005, Poser became director of UNL's Robert J. Kutak Center for the Teaching and Study of Applied Ethics. She has been on the Women's and Gender Studies faculty, the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, and served as chair of the University of Nebraska System-wide Gender Equity Committee. In 2005 she received the Law College's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Poser is a member of the Pennsylvania and Nebraska bars and serves on the Ethics Committee of the Nebraska State Bar Association. In 2006 she was awarded the Shining Light Award from the Nebraska State Bar Foundation for her work on the Nebraska Rules of Professional Conduct. She was a law clerk to Chief Judge Dolores K. Sloviter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. She practiced law in Philadelphia and was the Zicklin Fellow in Ethics in the Legal Studies Department of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. In spring 2004, she was a visiting professor at the Boalt Hall School of Law at University of California, Berkeley.

Poser earned her bachelor's degree in ancient Greek and political science from Swarthmore College, her J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. from the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program, also at University of California, Berkeley. She teaches courses on torts, products liability, the legal profession, wills and trusts; and court, politics and legal/social reform.

"This is a huge honor for me and I am thrilled and excited

Nebraska Minority Justice Committee LSAT Prep Scholarship Program

The Scholarship

The LSAT Prep Minority Pipeline Scholarship Program provides a scholarship for a Kaplan LSAT Prep Course and covers the costs of registering for the LSAT exam. The course includes 14 sessions, 3.5 hours in length, for a total of 49 hours. On-line assistance is also available, and students may take the course a second time at no additional cost if the student does not take the test, or wants to retake it.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a racial/ethnic minority, reside in Nebraska, and demonstrate economic need. Recipients are required to complete the LSAT prep course and take the LSAT exam on the designated date. Recipients are required to apply to at least one law school in Nebraska and indicate a genuine interest in staying in Nebraska after law school.

Application

To apply for the Scholarship please submit an application and the following documents to the Review Committee by February 5th or July 16th, 2010 (application form and instructions are available at www.nelegaldiversity.org).

- Proof of economic need (demonstrated by LSAT fee waiver qualification, proof of financial aid received at college, or tax return)
- Academic achievement (copy of college transcript, or any graduate school transcripts, if applicable)
- Resume
- Recommendation letters (two letters, academic and/or professional)
- Interest in law: personal statement that discusses why the applicant is a strong candidate for the scholarship, career goals and reasons for pursuing legal education of no more than 500 words.

Selection

The Review Committee will review applications each February & July. The number of recipients will be determined by the amount of funding. Applicants will be notified in writing by the Review Committee. Scholarships will be presented to recipients each April & July and recognized at the Annual Legal Diversity Summit in the fall.



LSAT Prep Scholarship Program: A New Opportunity for Charitable Contributions

Sponsorship Opportunity



Individuals or firms are invited to sponsor a scholarship and/or contribute to an endowment for the LSAT Prep Scholarship Program. The various sponsorship levels are as follows:

- Platinum Level Sponsor: A contribution of \$2,400 funds two LSAT Prep Scholarships and helps to build an endowment for the LSAT Prep Scholarship Program Fund.
- Gold Level Sponsor: A contribution of \$1,200 provides two LSAT Prep Scholarships.
- Silver Level Sponsors: A contribution of \$600 provides one LSAT Prep Scholarship.
- Bronze Level Sponsors: A contribution of less than \$600 toward the LSAT Prep Scholarship Fund.

All contributions are tax deductible. Platinum Level Sponsors will receive a full page of free ad space in *The Nebraska Lawyer* magazine, Gold Level Sponsors will receive a half page of free ad space. All sponsors will be recognized for their generosity via:

- The Nebraska State Bar Association website (www.nebar.com)
- The Nebraska Legal Diversity website (www.nelegaldiversity.org)
- A scholarship presentation ceremony at the annual Legal Diversity Summit
- Recognition in *The Nebraska Lawyer* magazine
- *E-counsel* (the Nebraska State Bar Association's electronic newsletter)



The Scholarship

The LSAT Prep Scholarship Program provides a scholarship for a Kaplan LSAT Prep Course and covers the costs of registering for the LSAT exam. The course includes 14 sessions, 3.5 hours in length, for a total of 49 hours. On-line assistance is also available, and students may take the course a second time at no additional cost.

Eligibility & Review



To be eligible for a LSAT Prep Scholarship individuals must reside in Nebraska, demonstrate economic need, and be a racial/ethnic minority. Recipients are required to complete the LSAT prep course and take the LSAT exam on the designated date. Recipients are required to apply to at least one law school in Nebraska and indicate a genuine interest in staying in Nebraska after law school.

The application form and process are available online at www.nelegaldiversity.org. The Review Committee will consider applications each February and July. The number of recipients will be determined by the amount of funding. Applicants will be notified in writing by the Review Committee. LSAT Prep Scholarships will be presented to recipients each February and July and recognized at the annual Legal Diversity Summit in the fall.

**Nebraska State Bar Association, PO Box 81809, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-475-7091 • Fax 402-475-7098**



The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation

LSAT Prep Scholarship Application Form

*Created to provide LSAT
Preparation assistance for
minority groups who are
underrepresented in
Nebraska law schools.*

I. Contact Information

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

II. Personal Information

Racial/Ethnic Background: _____

Sex: ___ male ___ female

Date of Birth: _____

III. Education

Name of College _____

Undergraduate GPA: _____ Graduation Year _____

IV. Application Checklist

To apply for the Scholarship please submit this application form and the following documents to the Review Committee by February 5 or July 16, 2010.

- Proof of economic need (demonstrated by LSAT fee waiver qualification, proof of financial aid received at college, or tax return)
- Academic achievement (copy of college transcript, or any graduate school transcripts, if applicable)
- Resume
- Recommendation letters (two letters, academic and/or professional)
- Interest in law: personal statement that discusses why the applicant is a strong candidate for the scholarship, career goals and reasons for pursuing legal education of no more than 500 words.

V. Agreement

I understand that if I am selected for the LSAT Prep Scholarship Program, I will be required to:

- Take the _____ LSAT Test.
Indicate: June, September, October, December or February
- Apply to either the University of Nebraska College of Law or Creighton University School of Law.
- Attend all my scheduled LSAT Prep Classes and the practice LSAT exams.
- Allow Kaplan to share my test scores of practice LSAT exams with the Scholarship Committee.
- Provide the Scholarship Committee with written notification of my final LSAT score.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return all application materials in one envelope to:

**Nebraska State Bar Association
LSAT Scholarship Committee
635 S. 14th Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508**

The Scholarship Committee is not responsible for lost, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, and ineligible applications; and they will not be considered. All materials submitted will become the exclusive property of the Scholarship Committee and will not be returned.

SAMPLE LETTER ENCOURAGING SPONSORHIP

February 26, 2008

Name
Address
City, NE zip code

Dear _____:

Thank you for your participation in the Call to Action Initiative Signing Ceremony. Fifty-seven firms and corporations signed on to the *Statement of Diversity and Call to Action* on February 1st at the Cornhusker Hotel. If you were present at the event, we are including a complimentary photograph.

In essence, the Call to Action Initiative has created a network of firms and corporations that have agreed to work collaboratively and innovatively to promote diversity in the legal profession. The goals are to expand the pipeline of diverse law school applicants and take steps to ensure that we can retain the attorneys of color currently practicing in Nebraska. We know that every firm and corporation is unique and will want to participate in their own way. Throughout the year, the Nebraska State Bar Association will offer the firms and corporations in the Call to Action network the opportunity to participate in programs which we believe will help promote a diverse profession. We are writing today to tell you more about one such program.

The LSAT Prep Scholarship Program

The Nebraska Minority Justice Committee has established a LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) Prep Scholarship Program. The Program provides a scholarship for a Kaplan LSAT Prep Course and covers the costs of registering for the LSAT exam. The course includes 14 sessions, 3.5 hours in length, for a total of 49 hours. On-line assistance is also available, and students may take the course a second time at no additional cost (additional information about the scholarship, eligibility criteria and the application process are enclosed).

Sponsorship Opportunity

You and your firm are invited to sponsor a scholarship and/or contribute to an endowment for the LSAT Prep Scholarship Program. The various sponsorship levels are as follows:

- Platinum Level Sponsors: A contribution of \$2,400 funds two LSAT Prep Scholarships and helps to build an endowment for the LSAT Prep Scholarship Fund.
- Gold Level Sponsors: A contribution of \$1,200 provides two LSAT Prep Scholarships.
- Silver Level Sponsors: A contribution of \$600 provides one LSAT Prep Scholarship.
- Bronze Level Sponsors: A contribution of less than \$600 toward the LSAT Prep Scholarship Fund.

SAMPLE LETTER ENCOURAGING SPONSORHIP

All contributions are tax deductible. Platinum Level Sponsors will receive a full page of free ad space in *The Nebraska Lawyer* magazine, Gold Level sponsors will receive a half page of free ad space. All sponsors will be recognized for their generosity via:

- The Nebraska State Bar Association website
- The Nebraska Legal Diversity website
- A scholarship presentation ceremony at the annual Legal Diversity Summit
- Recognition in *The Nebraska Lawyer* magazine
- *E-counsel* (the Nebraska State Bar Association's electronic newsletter)

If you or your firm is interested in becoming a scholarship sponsor, please contact the Minority Justice Committee Director, Dr. Liz Neeley at 402-475-7091 or Lneeley@nebar.com by April 1st, 2008.

Thank you again for agreeing to be participate in our Call to Action Initiative. The Initiative can only effect change, however, if we actively participate in programs such as this LSAT Prep Scholarship Program. Please give this program your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Mark
President
Nebraska State Bar Association

Linda R. Crump
Co-Chair
Nebraska Minority Justice Committee

SAMPLE LETTER TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Nebraska Minority Justice Committee

The Nebraska State Bar Association
635 South 14th Street
P.O. Box 81809
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1809
(402) 475-7091
(800) 927-0117
FAX (402) 475-7098

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Equity, Access & Diversity Programs
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Lincoln, NE 68588-0437
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Nebraska Supreme Court
2219 State Capitol
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FAX (402) 471-3482
jgerrard@nsc.state.ne.us

Committee:

Daphne Aronson
Hon. Edna R. Atkins
Valorie Bendixen
Judy Beutler
Riko E. Bishop
Ellen Brokofsky
Marianne Culhane
Hon. Vernon C. Daniels
Judi gaiashkibos
Becky Gould
John P. Grant
Anne Hobbs
Cecilia Huerta
Hon. John F. Irwin
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Don Kleine
Catherine M. Mahern
Andrea Miller
Monica Miles-Steffens
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David R. Stickman
Alan Tomkins
Hon. Kenneth J. Vampola
Terrance O. Waite
Janice Walker
Thomas Warren
Linda L. Willard
Sherman Willis
Steven L. Willborn
Mark J. Young

April 24, 2008

Greetings,

I am writing to inform you of a new scholarship opportunity for students interested in pursuing law school. The Nebraska Minority Justice Committee has established a LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) Prep Scholarship Program. Information about the scholarship is enclosed and is available on the Nebraska Legal Diversity Website: www.nelegaldiversity.org. Please, post this information and pass this information on to any potential applicants. The original deadline for the application was March 15, 2008. **Because we raised more money than expected, we are offering another scholarship cycle with a due date of July 14, 2008.**

The Scholarship

The program provides a scholarship for a Kaplan LSAT Prep Course and covers the costs of registering for the LSAT exam. The course includes 14 sessions, 3.5 hours in length, for a total of 49 hours. On-line assistance is also available, and students may take the course a second time at no additional cost if the student does not take the test, or wants to retake it.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a racial/ethnic minority, reside in Nebraska, and demonstrate economic need. Recipients are required to complete the LSAT prep course and take the LSAT exam on the designated date. Recipients are required to apply to at least one law school in Nebraska and indicate a genuine interest in staying in Nebraska after law school.

Application

To apply for the Scholarship please submit an application (available online at www.nelegaldiversity.org) and the following documents to the Review Committee by July 14th.

- Proof of economic need (demonstrated by LSAT fee waiver qualification, proof of financial aid received at college, or tax return)
- Academic achievement (copy of college transcript, or any graduate school transcripts, if applicable)
- Resume
- Recommendation letters (two letters, academic and/or professional)
- Interest in law: personal statement that discusses why the applicant is a strong candidate for the scholarship, career goals and reasons for pursuing legal education of no more than 500 words.

Selection

The Review Committee will review applications at the end of July. The number of recipients will be determined by the amount of funding. Applicants will be notified in writing by the Review Committee. Scholarships will be presented to recipients each July and recognized at the Annual Legal Diversity Summit in September.

Sincerely,



Liz Neeley, Ph.D.
Director, Nebraska Minority Justice Committee