The American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law is the largest organization of construction lawyers in the United States and abroad. Its 6,000+ members are drawn from all areas of practice: large law firms, small firms, solo practitioners, government lawyers and corporate in-house counsel. Members represent all segments of the construction industry: owners, design professionals, general contractors, construction managers, subcontractors, suppliers, insurers and sureties. The Forum’s mission is to serve the construction industry through education and leadership. The Forum sponsors several seminars each year on different topics, and publishes a scholarly journal on construction law topics four times each year, a newsletter three times each year, and several treatises on construction law topics. A Governing Committee elected by the membership governs the Forum’s activities.

The Forum’s leadership has initiated a fellowship program for diverse construction lawyers with the goal of drawing diverse construction lawyers into the ranks of active, long-term Forum members. The Forum’s Diversity Fellowship is intended to identify diverse construction lawyers who have demonstrated interest in the Forum and are therefore potential candidates for future Forum leadership.

Currently, the Forum awards up to six (6) three-year Fellowships each spring. Fellows receive the following benefits:

- Waiver of all registration fees for the Forum’s Fall, Midwinter, and Annual Meetings;
- Reimbursement of reasonable travel and accommodation expenses associated with attending the Forum’s Annual Meeting held each spring (not to exceed $1,500 per annum);
- Waiver of Forum membership dues; and
- Payment of ABA membership dues in the following amounts: 100% in Year 1; 66% in Year 2; and 33% in Year 3.

Additionally, Fellows are afforded the opportunity to join the steering committee of one of the Forum’s fourteen (14) Divisions, and if desired, the Forum will arrange a mentor for each Fellow, appropriate to that Fellow’s needs (e.g. career advice, guidance on navigating Forum meetings, leadership, committees, etc.). While all submitted applications will be considered, the ideal candidates will have between three (3) and twelve (12) years’ experience in construction law.
Fellowship recipients are expected to attend the Forum’s Annual Meeting in the spring and are strongly encouraged to attend the Fall and Midwinter meetings. The Forum’s 2020 Annual Meeting will be held April 22-24, 2020 in Seattle, WA.

Attached is an application for the Forum’s 2020 Diversity Fellowship. Completed applications must be received on, or before, Friday, January 31, 2020. The application deadline will not be extended.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact:

Lori Y. Baggett (Chair, Diversity Fellowship Subcommittee)
Carlton Fields, P.A.
Corporate Center Three International Plaza
4221 West Boy Scout Blvd., Suite 1000
Tampa, Florida 33607
Email: lbaggett@carltonfields.com
Phone: 813.229.4220

For more information about the ABA Forum on Construction Law, please visit www.americanbar.org/groups/construction_industry
American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law Diversity Fellowship 2020

Application Form

Section 1:

Name:

______________________________________________________________________________

Firm/Organization:

______________________________________________________________________________

Address:

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: 

Fax:

______________________________________________________________________________

Email:

______________________________________________________________________________

Section 2:

Please attach a resume or other biographical information that summarizes your educational and employment background.


**Section 3:**

Type of Firm/Organization:

___Solo Practice       ___Federal Government ___Nonprofit
___Law Firm (2-10)      ___State Government ___Corporation (legal dept.)
___Law Firm (11-50)     ___Local Government ___Corporation (not in legal dept.)
___Law Firm (51-250)    ___Law Firm (250+)

Percentage of time spent on construction law matters in your practice: ____%

**Section 4:***

Please complete the following information to the extent that you would like to have it considered regarding your diversity.

Gender Identity:       ___Female       ___Male       ___Transgender

Ethnicity:

___Caucasian
___African-American/Black
___Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
___Asian
___Middle Eastern
___American Indian or Alaska Native
___Pacific Islander
___Other: ________________

Disability: ___Yes       ___No

Sexual Orientation: ___Bisexual ___Gay       ___Lesbian       ___Heterosexual

* Section 4 requests this information for the purpose of reporting compliance with ABA Goal III, which provides that in an effort to eliminate bias and enhance diversity, the ABA has as one of its goals the promotion of the full and equal participation in the association, the profession, and the justice system by all persons and the elimination of bias in the legal profession and the justice system. *(Please note that supplying this information to the ABA is voluntary.)*
Section 5:

On no more than one attached page, please explain why you are applying for the Diversity Fellowship. Please include a brief explanation of your practice, how the Fellowship opportunity would benefit your practice, and how you think you would be able to contribute to the Forum (i.e., unique perspective or practice specialty, scholarship in construction law publications or education, experience, etc.).

Section 6:

Are you currently a member of the ABA? 
___Yes  ___No
If so, please list any Divisions, Sections or Forum to which you belong:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Are you currently a member of the Forum on Construction Law? 
___Yes  ___No
If not currently a member of the Forum on Construction Law, why not?
______________________________________________________________________________

If you are not currently a member, have you ever been a member of the Forum on Construction Law? 
___Yes  ___No
If you have been a member of the Forum on Construction Law in the past, please check the reason for not renewing your membership:
___financial constraints  ___not beneficial to practice
___time constraints    ___other. Please explain: ________________________________
___switched practice area ________________________________

Have you attended any Forum on Construction Law programs? 
___Yes  ___No
If so, which one(s)?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Section 7:

How did you hear about the Diversity Fellowship?

___ABA Forum’s listserv  
___Forum’s website or publication  
___ABA listserv of another Section, Division or Forum. Please state which one:______________  
___State/local bar association email. Please identify:__________________________________________  
___Forum Member. Please identify:________________________________________________________  
___Other. Please identify:_______________________________________________________________

Section 8:

All completed applications for the Forum’s 2020 Diversity Fellowship must be received, on or before, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020. The application deadline will not be extended.

Please email your complete application package to both Lori Baggett (lbaggett@carltonfields.com) and Tamara Harrington (Tamara.Harrington@americanbar.org). The complete application package consists of the following:

(1) Completed application form;  
(2) Section 2 resume/bio; and  
(3) One-page response to Section 5.

Please submit your application package as a single document in .pdf format identified by your name (e.g., “Jones, Mary”). Please do not submit additional materials (recommendations, writing samples, articles, etc.) with your application.

Tamara Harrington  
American Bar Association  
Forums Associate Director