

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund

APPLICATION FOR THE 2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

About the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship

The mission of the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund is to encourage racial and ethnic minority students to apply to 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.

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 academic year 2017.
2. Only students beginning law school in this academic year will be eligible for a scholarship. Law students who have completed one or more semesters or years of law school are not eligible.
3. Applicants who are part-time law students also must be starting law school in this academic year to be eligible.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Before receiving scholarship funds, recipients will be required to demonstrate admission to and plans to enroll at an ABA-accredited law school. Because of the deadline for submitting applications 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.

Instructions for Completing Scholarship Application

To apply 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 regardless of the student's age, marital status, length of self-emancipation or family responsibilities. 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 federal income tax return, please attach a copy to the application. Because the application will be submitted before the April tax deadline, you may submit copies of your previous year tax forms if you have not completed tax forms currently due. 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 ABA Fund for Justice and Education in writing of any changes that may have an effect on their financial status.

2. Personal statement. Please limit your personal statement to 1,000 words and use only one side of the paper. Font size must be at least 11 points. 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.
3. Transcript. Each applicant must submit a copy of his or her transcript from his or her undergraduate institution. If you are selected to receive a scholarship, you will be required to submit an official copy of the transcript before receiving scholarship funds.
4. 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. Recommenders may forward the recommendation to include in the package or may send separate to the email box below with the subject line: Recommendation for (applicant's name).
5. Release form. Please make sure that you sign the release form.
6. Additional information. Please do not send any collateral materials such as photos, articles, resumes, etc. outside of those required above.

Application deadline: **March 2, 2017**

Send completed applications to legalosf@americanbar.org

Mailed or faxed applications will not be accepted

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

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
LEGAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION
2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Name:

Mr. _ Ms. _ Dr. _

Last

First

Middle Initial

Gender:

Male _____

Female _____

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 provide financial assistance which will help these students attend law school.

Please tell us which of these groups apply to you:

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.

Permanent Address/Phone:

(If different from above)

Street

City/State/Zip Code

Phone

Date upon which correspondence should no longer be sent to permanent address:

Temporary/School Address:

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone:

Primary

Secondary

E-mail Address:

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): _____

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

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

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

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

YES	NO	QUESTION
		Have you been placed on academic probation or been required to withdraw from any school for academic reasons?
		Have you ever been the subject of any disciplinary action taken by any school or college? If yes, are charges pending?
		Has your undergraduate or graduate course been interrupted for one or more terms for any reason?
		Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?
		Do you have any charges pending against you for any crime other than a minor traffic violation?
		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.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS (COLLEGIATE AND/OR DURING THE LAST 5 YEARS)

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

Activity	Years or Semesters Involved	Offices Held or Description of Participation

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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

Activity	Years or Semesters Involved	Offices Held or Description of Participation

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

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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 "college counselor":

ORGANIZED BAR ASSOCIATION

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

APPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING ABA-ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOLS

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

APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Marital Status: Single Married Separated/Divorced

Do you have legal dependents other than a spouse? Yes No

Are you the first person in your family to attend college? Yes No

If accepted to law school will you be the first person in your immediate family to attend graduate school? Yes No

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

	Student	Spouse (if applicable)
Weekly earnings	\$	\$
Expected income for 2016	\$	\$

PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT

	Name of Employer	Position	No. of Weeks Employed	Weekly Income
Summer 2016				
Academic Year 2017				

TAX INFORMATION

Please complete the following student financial information (and spouse, if applicable). Due to the March 2nd deadline for submitting this application, 2016 federal tax forms (which are due April 15, 2017), may not be available. If not, please attach a copy of your 2015 federal tax forms; and explain in a separate statement if there are any differences between your 2015 federal income tax return and your anticipated 2016 federal income tax return.

Please check which one of the following applies to you:

_____ I completed a 2016 federal income tax return and a copy is attached.

2016 Adjusted Gross Income (including spouse) \$ _____

_____ I have not yet completed a 2015 federal income tax return. A copy of my 2015 federal income tax return is attached.

2015 Adjusted Gross Income (including spouse) \$ _____

_____ I am not required to complete a federal income tax return.

Please complete the following information:

Previous year earned income: \$ _____

Previous year untaxed income: \$ _____

Previous year interest/dividend income: \$ _____

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	\$
b. Home: own – monthly mortgage payment	\$
c. Home: own – current mortgage balance	\$
d. Rent: monthly rent payment	\$
e. Other real estate (explain)	\$
f. Business (explain)	\$
g. Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and other investments (explain)	\$
h. Trust funds of which the student/spouse is a beneficiary	\$
i. Retirement accounts	\$

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 **2017-2018** academic years.
(If this information is not available at the time of filing, please provide updated information as it becomes available.)

Source: _____ \$ _____
Source: _____ \$ _____

- b. Financial assistance from student's parents.
Academic year 2017-2018 \$ _____
Academic year 2017-2018 (anticipated) \$ _____

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

Undergraduate financial aid

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

Graduate financial aid

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

PARENT'S INFORMATION

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Address: _____

City State Zip Code

Telephone: _____

Mother's Occupation:* _____ Employer: _____

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

Father's Name: _____

Father's Address
(If different) _____

City State Zip

Telephone: _____

Father's Occupation:* _____ Employer: _____

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

Parents Marital Status: Married Separated/Divorced* Never Married

Mother Deceased Father Deceased

*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

Parents' Financial Information

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

- 1. _____ a completed 2016 IRS Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
- 2. _____ an estimated 2016 IRS Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
- 3. _____ a completed 2015 IRS Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
- 4. _____ will not file a 2016 U.S. income tax return (skip to "d" below – 2016 Income earned from work - father").

Parents' Income Tax Figures:

- a. Total number of exemptions: _____
- b. Adjusted Gross Income: \$ _____
- c. U.S. income tax paid: \$ _____
- d. 2016 Income earned from work - father \$ _____
- e. 2016 Income earned from work - mother \$ _____
- f. Interest/dividend earnings: \$ _____

Untaxed income and benefits (yearly totals):

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

Parents' Asset Information

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

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

I certify 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 me 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 (typed NOT accepted)

Date

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 selected, 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: (typed NOT accepted)		Date:
Name: (typed or printed)		
Permanent Address:		
Permanent Phone Number(s):		