



LAW STUDENT'S GUIDE TO AFFINITY BAR PROGRAMMING



Minnesota American Indian Bar Association



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Twin Cities Diversity in Practice

TCDIP 1L Clerkship

For over a decade, the TCDIP 1L Clerkship has helped launch the careers of law students in the Twin Cities. TCDIP's mission is to attract, recruit, advance, and retain attorneys of color. We strengthen the legal talent pipeline with strategic partnerships between TCDIP Members from law firms and corporate legal departments. Each summer, clerks spend 6-10 weeks each with a law firm and 2-4 weeks with a corporate legal department. TCDIP 1L Clerks benefit from a full suite of supportive programming, including mentorship opportunities, professional development training, and professional coaching sessions.

Open to: Law students nationwide

Deadline: 1/15/2024

Contact: info@diversityinpractice.org

Minnesota Minority Recruitment Conference (MMRC)

MMRC is where Twin Cities legal employers interview students of color for summer associate or post-graduation employment. The main event is a full day of virtual interviews. All employers are invited to participate, including small, medium, and large firms; corporate legal departments; and public interest, nonprofit, and government entities. Students can also choose to participate in resume review, where they'll receive feedback from attorneys and legal recruiting professionals in the Twin Cities.

Open to: Law students of color nationwide

Deadline: Late May to participate in resume review; late June for MMRC

Contact: info@diversityinpractice.org

TCDIP Connect Mentoring

Using a structured small group model, TCDIP Connect brings together attorneys of varying experience levels, local law students of color, and early career attorneys of color. The goal of TCDIP Connect is to develop meaningful professional interconnectedness between multiple people who may not have otherwise crossed paths. Attorneys are from TCDIP Member law firms and corporate law departments.

Open to: 2L and 3L students of color in Minnesota

Deadline: September 20, 2023

Contact: info@diversityinpractice.org

Social Events and CLEs Throughout the Year

TCDIP hosts several social events, CLEs, and programs throughout the year. In 2022, these programs included a professional development series about feedback, Women of Color in the Law Socials, and a panel discussion about serving on a hiring committee as an early-career attorney. Follow our [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) for updates, or check out our [calendar](#) to register for events. Stay in touch with your school's student affinity leaders to keep up with our student opportunities!

Open to: Law students and legal professionals

Contact: events@diversityinpractice.org



Hennepin County Bar Association Diversity Committee

1L Diversity Clerkship

The HCBA 1L Diversity Clerkship Program first began in the fall of 2005 under the direction of the Minnesota State Bar Association. The program places first-year law students from marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds with Minnesota legal employers for a full-time, paid summer associate experience. Ultimately, the

program hopes to find its participants becoming future partners and leaders in Minnesota's legal community. For the 2021 – 2022 year, the RCBA Diversity Committee partnered with the HCBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee to support these efforts.

The 2022 summer was the program's sixteenth year, and more than 45 students applied, and 21 students were placed. Hundreds of law students from underrepresented backgrounds have been served by the program since its inception.

Open to: Minnesota law students from marginalized and/or underrepresented backgrounds.

Deadline: Mid-November

Contact: Erikka Ryan, eryan@mnbars.org



[Ramsey County Bar Association](#)

[Ramsey County Bar Foundation and Hennepin County Bar Foundation Diversity Law Student Scholarship](#)

In the spring, the [Ramsey County Bar Foundation](#) and [Hennepin County Bar Foundation](#) will award up to \$12,000 in various scholarship funds to law students who attend a Minnesota law school and who are a member of a group(s) traditionally under-represented and/or marginalized in the legal profession (including race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability) and who contributes meaningfully to diversity in their community.

The applicant must be a current Minnesota law school and applicants will be chosen based on resume (record of academic and professional achievement, leadership qualities through past work experience, community involvement and student activities) and responses to 2 prompts focused on career growth and diversity.

Open to: Minnesota law school students from marginalized and/or underrepresented backgrounds

Deadline: April (Check website for updates)

Contact: Erikka Ryan, eryan@mnbars.org



Hispanic National Bar Association

HNBA is a national association of attorneys, judges, law students, and other legal professionals whose mission is to educate, engage, and empower practicing and aspiring members of the Hispanic legal community and advocate on issues that impact the broader Hispanic community.

Open to: Legal professionals, Law students nationwide

Contact: Carla Martin, cmartin@hnba.com

Website: [Make a Donation | HNBA](#)

HNBA Events

The Hispanic National Bar Association offers opportunities to Hispanic law students nationwide. Our signature annual events include the Annual Convention (AC), Corporate Counsel Conference (CCC), Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition, and the Intellectual Property Law Institute. We have volunteer opportunities that include full registration for the AC or CCC, professional networking/mentoring events, and educational programming.

Open to: Minnesota law students, legal professionals

Deadline: None

Contact: Carla Martin, cmartin@hnba.com

HNBA Student Scholarships

HNBA offers two annual scholarships that Hispanic law students. For more information, investigate **HNBA's General Via Scholarship** and the **Uvaldo Herrera Moot Court Scholarships**.

Open to: Hispanic law students

Deadline: TBD

Contact: Carla Martin, cmartin@hnba.com



[Hmong American Bar Association](#)

[Annual HABA Banquet](#)

The Hmong American Bar Association hosts an annual banquet every fall. Registration is open to all legal professionals, including law students. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a one-year membership to HABA. The 2022 banquet will be held on October 14 starting at 5:00 p.m. Email haba.minn@gmail.com for additional details.

Open to: All law students in the Twin Cities area

Deadline: October 27, 2023

Contact: haba.minn@gmail.com



LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

[Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers \(LCL\)](#)

LCL supports legal professionals in Minnesota on any issue causing stress or distress. LCL provides free and confidential support and services regarding substance use, mental health, work-life balance and well-being, stress management, career, family, financial, licensing, and other issues. Services include short term counseling (up to 4 free sessions per issue), a 24-hour counseling hotline, referrals, peer support, coaching, support groups, education, crisis intervention and—most importantly—someone to listen to you. We can also coach you on reaching out to others. If you are dealing with any of these issues, you are not alone. There is help and there is hope!

Open to: Minnesota law students, lawyers, judges, legal support staff, and immediate family members

Contact: Joan Bibelhausen, jbibelhausen@mnlcl.org

Website: <https://www.mnlcl.org/>

LCL Educational Programs

LCL offers CLEs, law school programs, PSAs, and other educational content. We are eager to collaborate with others, including law student organizations, to develop programs or provide a speaker as a panelist or in a stand-alone program. Our goal is to raise awareness about challenges and to provide educational content that helps legal professionals do their best work and be their best selves.

Open to: Minnesota law students

Deadline: None

Contact: Joan Bibelhausen, jbibelhausen@mnlcl.org

LCL Volunteer Opportunities

Lawyers and law students volunteer with LCL to help publicize LCL services and to offer peer support to colleagues. Those providing peer support have had experiences that motivate them to support others in similar situations.

Open to: Minnesota law students

Deadline: None

Contact: Joan Bibelhausen, jbibelhausen@mnlcl.org



Minnesota American Indian Bar Association

Minnesota American Indian Bar Association (MAIBA)

Minnesota American Indian Bar Association 2022 – 2023 Scholarship

The Financial Scholarship is for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian law students who demonstrate a financial need.

Open to: American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian law students in Minnesota.

Deadline: TBD, October 2023

Contact: Jody Alholinna, jody.alholinna@courts.state.mn.us or Roni Newcomer, veronica.newcomer@whiteearth-nsn.gov



Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association (MNAPABA)

The Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association (MNAPABA) is a community of Minnesota Asian Pacific American and Asian lawyers who support one another, celebrate each other's accomplishments, create opportunities for dialogue on issues of importance to APAs, and highlight APA issues to the legal community at large. MNAPABA (formerly NAPABA-MN) is an affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

MNAPABA Membership

MNAPABA has three membership levels: Private Sector, Public Sector, and Law Student. **Our membership runs from October 1 through September 30 of each year.** Our annual dues are not pro-rated, however, **if you join on or after August 1 of a bar year, your membership fee will cover dues through September 30 of the following calendar year.** We encourage you to join no matter the time of year, however, because we are constantly providing our members with valuable resources, news, events, and connections.

Open to: Law students

Deadline: None

Contact: Victoria Dutcher, victoria.dutcher@securianam.com

Student Scholarship

MNAPABA awards a summer law scholarship to a law student or recent law graduate who will, through a summer internship with a governmental or nonprofit organization, serve underserved communities. Preference will be given to those directly serving Minnesota and/or Asian Pacific American communities.

Open to: Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: Early Summer

Contact: mnapaba@gmail.com

MNAPABA Events

All of MNAPABA's events are open to law students. MNAPABA encourages law students to attend CLEs, social events, and their annual gala as a way to connect with practicing attorneys and judges who are part of the MNAPABA network.
Open to: Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: mnapaba@gmail.com

MABL

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS

Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL)

MABL Foundation Scholarships

The Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and the MABL Foundation annually select talented law students of color throughout Minnesota to receive scholarships. Scholarships are awarded based on a law student's overall application, with emphasis on the student demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, commitment to addressing issues affecting their community, and the potential to effectuate the overall goals of the organization. Scholarship recipients are selected by a Scholarship Committee appointed to review student applications, and the scholarships are awarded at the MABL Foundation Annual Scholarship Gala.

Open to: Black, African, African Diaspora law students from Minnesota schools.

Deadline: October 14, 2023

Contact: Board@MABL.org

MABL Mentorship

Apply to be paired with a practicing lawyer and MABL Member.

Open to: Black, African, African Diaspora law students from Minnesota schools.

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Board@MABL.org



Federal Bar Association

The Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

The Minnesota Chapter is one of the largest and most active chapters of the Federal Bar Association in the country. The Chapter provides professional, educational, and networking opportunities to lawyers in the Twin Cities. Two Chapter Committees specifically target law students. First, the **Law School Outreach Committee** provides local FBA student divisions with guidance on organizing events, obtaining funding, furthering diversity, and connecting with opportunities within the FBA. It also hosts events to engage with law students in the Twin Cities Area and awards scholarships to law students. Second, the **Chapter's Mentorship Committee** seeks to connect law students and others interested in pursuing a legal career with practicing attorneys offering practical information and support.

Open to: All law students in the Twin Cities area, particularly those interested in federal practice.

Contact: Hannah Leiendecker, hannah.leiendecker@faegredrinker.com, Emily McAdam, EMcAdam@greeneespel.com, Adam Hansen, adam@apollo-law.com, Kristen Marttila, kqmarttila@locklaw.com, and Chelsea Walcker, Chelsea.Walcker@usdoj.gov.

Website: <https://www.fedbar.org/minnesota-chapter/>



Minnesota Disability Bar Association (MDisBA)

Founded in 2022, the Minnesota Disability Bar Association is an organization of Minnesota State legal professionals including attorneys, judges, staff, and students with and without disabilities as well as nondisabled allies. MDisBA offers peer support, networking, discussion, and outreach opportunities for our members with a focus on disability-related issues. We define disability broadly to include self-identification of physical, mental, visible or non-visible, permanent or temporary, and active or inactive disabilities.

Student Membership

Law students attending a Minnesota Law school or who are interested in practicing in Minnesota after graduation can join the Minnesota Disability Bar Association for free. Law student membership does not include voting privileges.

Open to: Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: None, rolling basis

Contact: mndisba@gmail.com



Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA)

MHBA Mentorship Program

The MHBA pairs law students with practicing Latinx attorneys and judges in Minnesota. The program will officially kick off with a Mentorship Reception on **October 14, 2023**. The goal is to provide law students with an opportunity, throughout the school year, to work with experienced attorneys and judges to obtain career guidance and advice. Information about how to sign up to be a mentee will be sent out and available on our website soon.

Open to: Latinx law students in Minnesota.

Deadline: None

Contact: mnhispanicbar@gmail.com

MHBA Jueves Social

Join the MHBA for an informal reception to celebrate and get to know the Latinx judges in Minnesota. This annual program varies year-to-year. Contact MHBA for more details later this fall.

Open to: All Minnesota law students.

Deadline: None

Contact: mnhispanicbar@gmail.com

MHBA Career Cultivation

This is a half-day of presentations geared towards aiding under-represented students in navigating summer jobs. There are various presentations, with subjects including: On Campus Interviews (OCI), pipeline programs like TCDIP 1L Clerkship and the HCBA 1L Diversity Clerkship, public interest grants (at each law school and outside grants). These presentations include advice from both interviewers and student panels. The presentations will be held at a date to be determined in 2023.

Open to: All underrepresented students

Deadline: None

Contact: mnhispanicbar@gmail.com



Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA)

The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA) is the primary Association of attorneys in Minnesota supporting the LGBTQ+ Community. The MLBA was founded in 1996 as a special project of OutFront Minnesota's Legal Program. The Association was started in response to the limited opportunities for LGBTQ+ lawyers and law students to network, learn together, and address homophobia within the profession. The MLBA was reorganized in 1999 as an independent, 501(c)(6), organization, and is an affiliate member of the National LGBT Bar Association.

MLBA Mentoring Program

The MLBA is developing a formal mentoring program to connect law students and newer lawyers with MLBA attorneys. Keep an eye on the MLBA website (mnlavbar.org) for further details as we get closer to launch!

Open to: Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: Fall 2023 - TBD

Contact: info@mnlavbar.org; <https://mnlavbar.org>

Free Membership for Law Students

The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA) offers law students free membership in our organization! Members gain access to networking and social opportunities for legal professionals, receive a discount on registration for the MLBA annual conference, and can sign up for our newsletter featuring news, upcoming events, and career opportunities.

Open to: Law students nationwide

Deadline: None

Contact: info@mnlavbar.org



[Minnesota Women Lawyers \(MWL\)](#)

Minnesota Women Lawyers (MWL) is an association of more than 1,200 attorneys, judges, law students, legal employers and others who are dedicated to advancing the success of those who identify as women attorneys and to striving for a just society. Guided by its values of equity, leadership, and community, MWL provides opportunities for members to develop as leaders, network with other attorneys and law students, and have an impact on the profession and their communities.

[Free Membership for Students](#)

Law student membership is FREE. Law students are invited to participate and get involved with MWL at all levels. Learn more about membership, upcoming events and initiatives, and volunteer opportunities at www.mwlawyers.org. And check us out on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

For more information, contact MWL Executive Director Debra Pexa (dpexa@mwlawyers.org).

[MWL Foundation Law Student Scholarships](#)

The Minnesota Women Lawyers Foundation offers two law student scholarships each year: **MWL Foundation Law Student Scholarship** and the **MWL Foundation Leslie Altman Memorial Law Student Scholarship**. The goal of each scholarship is to provide aid to all law students attending a Minnesota law school who demonstrate an interest in furthering the mission of Minnesota Women Lawyers, "To advance the success of women lawyers and strive for a just society." Each scholarship award is \$2,500. Recipients are required to use the award for educational purposes.

Open to: All Minnesota law students.

Deadline: Fall 2023

Contact: Jennifer McPhail, jmacphail@mwlfoundation.org

[MWL Student to Attorney Mentor Program](#)

MWL's Student to Attorney Mentoring Program matches law students and attorneys in a one-on-one mentoring relationship based on student interest and attorney practice area. The goal of MWL's Student to Attorney Mentoring Program is to

provide law student members with knowledge, advice, and support they need to successfully navigate law school and develop a fulfilling and meaningful career. This program continues over the course of the school year.

Open to: All Minnesota law students. Must be an MWL member.

Deadline: Fall 2024

Contact: Tessa Jones, tjones@mwlattorneys.org

MWL Equal Justice Award

All Minnesota law students are invited to submit papers or articles they have written on a topic involving law and social justice. The writer(s) of the selected article or essay will be awarded a cash prize of \$1,000 (total) at MWL's Annual Meeting to be held late spring each year. All topics related broadly to law, liberty, justice, and equality are eligible, whether or not related to women's rights or feminist theory. Application details are available in January.

Open to: All Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: January 2024

Contact: Debra Pexa, dpexa@mwlattorneys.org



National LGBTQ+ Bar Association

The National LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ Bar promotes justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBTQ+ community in all its diversity.

National LGBTQ+ Bar Association Law Student Membership

National LGBTQ+ Bar membership is open to all legal professionals and law students without regard to age, race, religion, gender, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity. Law students already admitted to law school may join as a law student member for \$40. If you are a member of your law school's LGBTQ+ group, you are eligible to receive 50% your membership cost, lowering it from \$40 to \$20. *Note: all law student members of the

National LGBTQ+ Bar can register for our annual Lavender Law Conference & Career Fair at no cost.

Open to: Law students nationwide

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Patrick O'Brien patrick@lgbtqbar.org

National LGBTQ Bar's Backpack to Briefcase

Welcome to Backpack to Briefcase! B2B is the National LGBTQ+ Bar's new law student members-only website with resources to help LGBTQ+ law students navigate law school and career planning. B2B houses content on a number of topics, including Law School Skills, Health & Wellness – including an LGBTQ+-competent provider map, LGBTQ+ Legal Knowledge, Career Planning, and more! We will continuously update and add items, so check back regularly to see what's new.

Open to: Law students nationwide

Deadline: None

Contact: Patrick O'Brien patrick@lgbtqbar.org

National LGBTQ+ Bar Law School Scholarship

The National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and Foundation offers three scholarships of \$2,500 each, annually. Students must be accepted or enrolled at least half-time in an ABA-accredited law school to be eligible,* and must complete an application. Scholarships will be awarded to: One incoming 1L student, one rising 2L student, one rising 3L or 4L (enrolled in evening or part-time program) student. Funds are granted on an unrestricted basis and may be used for tuition, housing, books, transportation, living expenses, bar application/study expenses, or any other law school-related expense.* Entering first-year students who have not yet been accepted to law school or have not yet chosen a law school by April 1 may still apply; funding will be released upon proof of registration.

Open to: All Minnesota law students. Must be an MWL member.

Open to: Law students nationwide

Deadline: April

Contact: Patrick O'Brien patrick@lgbtqbar.org

National LGBTQ+ Bar Trans/Nonbinary Law Graduates of Color Grant Fund

In 2022, the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and Foundation established a need-based grant available to graduating transgender and/or nonbinary law graduates of color. The Trans/Nonbinary Law Graduates of Color Grant Fund will award three

unrestricted \$1,000 grants, to help offset the costs associated with the period of time between graduation and taking the Bar Exam/employment. Accepted grantees will also receive a 1-year free membership with the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association.

Criteria: December or Spring U.S. Law School Graduate. Trans and/or Nonbinary Person of Color. Registered to take a U.S. Bar exam in the summer. February Bar exam takers are not eligible.

Open to: Trans/Nonbinary people of color graduating from law school

Deadline: April

Contact: Patrick O'Brien patrick@lgbtqbar.org

International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges, Judge Paul G. Feinman Scholarship

The International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges established the Judge Paul G. Feinman Scholarship in 2021. This scholarship is to assist you as you create your own path of passion and commitment to justice, as our friend Judge Feinman always did. The Scholarship will be awarded annually to a law student who has demonstrated a commitment to the LGBTQ+ community and will be working (as a judicial intern, extern, clerk, etc.) with a judge or judicial officer at some time prior to the student's graduation from law school. The scholarship is in the amount of \$2,500. Scholarship funds are unrestricted and may be used for tuition, housing, books, transportation, living expenses, bar application/study expenses, or any other law school-related expense.

Open to: Law Students Nationwide

Deadline: January

Contact: International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges, lgbtjudges@gmail.com