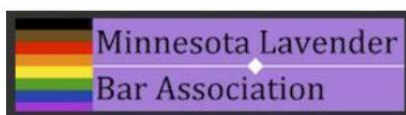


TC

TWIN CITIES  
DIVERSITY IN  
PRACTICE

DIP

# LAW STUDENT'S GUIDE TO AFFINITY BAR PROGRAMMING



Hello Law School Students!

If you are reading this, you are on the right track to connecting with amazing opportunities at fifteen great organizations in Minnesota! This guide centralizes the many sources of support for law school students. Our goal is to make it easier for you to engage and start making connections.

Use the chart on the next page to get a quick overview of the organizations and deadlines. Check out the rest of the guide for more details about how to apply and access resources.

Thank you to the many attorneys and professionals who offer these programs. We are here to support your career development and success.

Welcome to our vibrant and inclusive legal community!

With gratitude,



Summra M. Shariff

Executive Director

Twin Cities Diversity in Practice (TCDIP)

TCDIP Justice Forward Foundation

| Affinity Bar Organization                            | Program Title                                                     | Deadline                                                                 | Intended Audience                                                              | Page Number |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Twin Cities Diversity in Practice                    | TCDIP 1L Clerkship                                                | Applications open in November, due in January.                           | 1L students                                                                    | 5           |
|                                                      | TCDIP Connect Mentoring                                           | Applications due October 5                                               | 2L and 3L students                                                             | 5           |
|                                                      | Social Events and CLEs Throughout the Year                        | None                                                                     | Law students in the Twin Cities                                                | 6           |
| Hmong American Bar Association                       | Annual HABA Banquet                                               | Mid October                                                              | All Students                                                                   | 6           |
| Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers                        | General Information                                               | None                                                                     | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 7           |
|                                                      | LCL Educational Programs                                          | None                                                                     | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 7           |
|                                                      | LCL Volunteer Opportunities                                       | None                                                                     | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 7           |
| Minnesota Native American Bar Association            | Minnesota American Indian Bar Association 2026 – 2027 Scholarship | October 2026                                                             | American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian law students in Minnesota. | 8           |
| Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association     | MNAPABA Student Membership                                        | Membership runs from October 1 through September 30 of each year         | Law students nationwide                                                        | 8           |
|                                                      | Student Scholarship                                               | Anticipated June 2027                                                    | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 9           |
|                                                      | MNAPABA Annual Gala                                               | August 25, 2026 for individual registrations; Gala on September 8, 2026  | Everyone                                                                       | 9           |
|                                                      | MNAPABA Events                                                    | Ongoing                                                                  | Law students nationwide                                                        | 10          |
|                                                      |                                                                   |                                                                          |                                                                                |             |
| Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers               | Student Membership                                                | Rolling                                                                  | Law students                                                                   | 10          |
|                                                      | MABL Foundation Scholarships                                      | October                                                                  | Black, African, African Diaspora law students from Minnesota schools.          | 11          |
| The Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association | General Information                                               | None                                                                     | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 11          |
| Minnesota Disability Bar Association (MDisBA)        | Student Membership                                                | Rolling                                                                  | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 12          |
| Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA)            | General Information                                               | Event dates pending; check MHBA events page for updates                  | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 12          |
|                                                      | MHBA Student Scholarship Fund                                     | Usually due after January 1; check MHBA events page for updates          | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 12          |
|                                                      | The Manuel Cervantes Endowment Fund Award                         | Usually due after January 1; check MHBA events page for updates          | Law Students Nationwide                                                        | 12          |
|                                                      | MHBA Mentorship Program                                           | Event dates pending; check MHBA events page and social media for updates | Minnesota Law Students                                                         | 13-14       |
|                                                      |                                                                   |                                                                          |                                                                                |             |
| Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA)            | Free Membership for Law Students                                  | None                                                                     | All Law Students                                                               | 14          |
| Minnesota State Bar Association                      | General Information                                               | None                                                                     | All Law Students                                                               | 15          |

|                                        |                                            |                                                                             |                                                                              |       |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|                                        | Diversity Law Student Scholarship          | Spring 2027; additional information expected from law schools in March 2027 | Minnesota law students from marginalized and/or underrepresented backgrounds | 15    |
|                                        | HCBA IL Diversity Clerkship                | Applications open Mid-November                                              | Minnesota Law Students                                                       | 15-16 |
| <b>Minnesota Women Lawyers (MWL)</b>   | Free Membership                            | None                                                                        | All Law Students                                                             | 16    |
|                                        | MWL Foundation Law Student Scholarships    | Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.                                    | All Minnesota Law Students                                                   | 16    |
|                                        | MWL Student to Attorney Mentor Program     | December 18, 2026                                                           | MWL Student Members                                                          | 17    |
|                                        | MWL Social Justice Writing Award           | Fall 2026                                                                   | Minnesota Law Students                                                       | 17    |
|                                        | MWL Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities | Ongoing                                                                     | All Minnesota Law Students                                                   | 18    |
| <b>National LGBTQ+ Bar Association</b> | Membership                                 | Ongoing                                                                     | Law Students Nationwide                                                      | 18    |
|                                        | Backpack to Briefcase                      | None                                                                        | Law Students Nationwide                                                      | 18    |
|                                        | LGBTQ+ Bar Law School Scholarship          | April                                                                       | Law Students Nationwide                                                      | 19    |
|                                        | LGBTQ+ Trans/Nonbinary Grant               | April                                                                       | Trans/Nonbinary Law Students of Color                                        | 19-20 |
|                                        | Feinman Scholarship                        | January                                                                     | Law Students Nationwide                                                      | 20    |
|                                        |                                            |                                                                             |                                                                              |       |



## Twin Cities Diversity in Practice

### TCDIP 1L Clerkship

For over a decade, the TCDIP 1L Clerkship has helped launch the careers of law students of color in the Twin Cities. 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 at a law firm and 2-4 weeks with a corporate legal department (typically a client of the law firm). TCDIP 1L Clerks benefit from supportive programming, including mentorship groups, professional development training, and small group coaching sessions.

Open to: All 1L students nationwide with special encouragement for 1L students of color to apply.

Applications open: November  
Deadline: January

Contact: [info@diversityinpractice.org](mailto: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. Students can expect a time commitment of approximately 1-2 hours per month from October – May. Participants benefit from the support of TCDIP Staff, a structured mentorship handbook, and guided agendas.

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

Deadline: October 5

Contact: [info@diversityinpractice.org](mailto:info@diversityinpractice.org)

## **Social Events and CLEs Throughout the Year**

TCDIP hosts several social events, CLEs, and programs throughout the year. Follow our [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#), 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: [info@diversityinpractice.org](mailto:info@diversityinpractice.org)

Website: <https://diversityinpractice.org/>



## **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 2025 banquet will be held on October of this year. Email [haba.minn@gmail.com](mailto:haba.minn@gmail.com) for additional details.

Open to: All law students in the Twin Cities area

Deadline: Mid-October

Contact: [haba.minn@gmail.com](mailto:haba.minn@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/habaminn.org/>



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: Jon Tynjala, [jtynjala@mnlcl.org](mailto:jtynjala@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: Jon Tynjala, [jtynjala@mnlcl.org](mailto:jtynjala@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: Jon Tynjala, [jtynjala@mnlcl.org](mailto:jtynjala@mnlcl.org)



## Minnesota Native American Bar Association (MNABA)

### Minnesota Native American Bar Association Scholarship 2026 – 2027 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: November TBD

Contact: Roni Newcomer, [veronica.newcomer@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:veronica.newcomer@whiteearth-nsn.gov).

Website: <https://mnabar.org/>

---



## 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).

Social Media: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mnapaba/>

## **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 nationwide

Deadline: Membership runs from October 1 through September 30 of each year.

Contact: [mnapaba@gmail.com](mailto:mnapaba@gmail.com)

Website: <https://mnapaba.wildapricot.org/>

## **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

Applications anticipated: April or May 2027

Deadline: Anticipated June 2027

Contact: [mnapaba@gmail.com](mailto:mnapaba@gmail.com)

Website: <https://mnapaba.wildapricot.org/>

## **MNAPABA Annual Gala**

Our largest event of the year, the Gala draws over 300 attendees and includes a keynote address, awards, and robust student attendance. Students can apply for subsidized or free tickets and connect with firms, judges, and community leaders. Law students should contact their law school if they are interested in attending.

MNAPABA's 2026 Annual Gala will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center. MNAPABA strongly encourages all attendees, including sponsored guests, to complete individual registrations by August 25, 2026. Registrations or changes submitted after this date may result in limited availability of name tags or meal selections.

Open to: Everyone

Deadline: August 25, 2026 for individual registrations; Gala on September 8, 2026

Contact: [mnapaba@gmail.com](mailto:mnapaba@gmail.com)

Website: <https://mnapaba.wildapricot.org/event-6619398>

## **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: Law students nationwide

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: [mnapaba@gmail.com](mailto:mnapaba@gmail.com)

Website: <https://mnapaba.org/>



## **Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL)**

### **MABL Membership**

MABL membership is free for law students and provides access to networking opportunities, professional development programs, mentorship, and community events throughout the year. Students are also invited to attend MABL's annual Gala, held each November, which brings together members of the legal community to celebrate excellence and support the next generation of attorneys. In addition, MABL awards scholarships to law students each year. The scholarship application process opens in the fall, and eligible students are encouraged to apply. Information about membership, events, and scholarship opportunities is available through MABL's website and communications.

Open to: Any law student at a Minnesota law school.

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: [membership@mabl.org](mailto:membership@mabl.org)

Website: <https://mabl.org/>

## **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

Contact: [Board@MABL.org](mailto:Board@MABL.org)

Website: <https://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.**

**Email:** [communications@mnfedbar.org](mailto:communications@mnfedbar.org)

**Law School Outreach Committee:** Zac MacFarland, [zmcfarland@fredlaw.com](mailto:zmcfarland@fredlaw.com)

**Mentorship Committee:** Gina Tonn, [gtonn@greeneespel.com](mailto:gtonn@greeneespel.com)

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



## **Minnesota Disability Bar Association (MDisBA)**

Founded in 2022, the [Minnesota Disability Bar Association](https://www.mdisba.org/) 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.

Social Media: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/minnesota-state-bar-association/home/>

### **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.

Open to: Law Students

Location: Law students at Minnesota law schools only

Launch Date: September 1, 2022

Program Close: None, rolling basis

Deadline: None, rolling basis

Contact: [mndisba@gmail.com](mailto:mndisba@gmail.com)

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



## **Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA)**

### **MHBA Social Events**

Join the MHBA for social events and networking throughout the year to get to know the Latine judges and attorneys in Minnesota. Dates for events during the upcoming

school year remain pending, so students should continue to check the MHBA events page for updates.

Open to: All Minnesota law students.

Deadline: Event dates pending; check MHBA events page for updates

Contact: [mnhispanicbar@gmail.com](mailto:mnhispanicbar@gmail.com)

Website: <https://minnhba.org/events/>

Social Media: TikTok: mnhispanicbar, Bluesky: mnhispanicbar.bsky.social, Instagram: mnhispanicbar

## **MHBA Student Scholarship Fund**

The MHBA Student Scholarship Fund is designed to assist with law school-related expenses. The scholarships are intended for: a) Current law students of any law school in the state of Minnesota who actively support or have a proven track record of supporting the Latine or the Hispanic community, or b) Prospective law students, admitted to any law school in the state of Minnesota, that support or have supported the Latine or Hispanic community. Student scholarship applications are usually due after January 1. For more information, please contact [mnhispanicbar@gmail.com](mailto:mnhispanicbar@gmail.com).

Open to: All Minnesota law students supporting the Latine or Hispanic community.

Deadline: Usually due after January 1; check MHBA events page for updates

Contact: [mnhispanicbar@gmail.com](mailto:mnhispanicbar@gmail.com)

Website: <https://minnhba.org/>

## **The Manuel Cervantes Endowment Fund Award**

The MHBA Endowment Fund serves as a source of funding for law student interns working at non-profit organizations serving the Latine community. Endowment fund applications are usually due after January 1.

Open to: Law students nationwide.

Deadline: Usually due after January 1; check MHBA events page for updates

Contact: [mnhispanicbar@gmail.com](mailto:mnhispanicbar@gmail.com)

Website: <https://minnhba.org/awards/>

## **MHBA Mentorship Program**

In 2004, the MHBA began its Law Student Mentorship Program to mentor the next generation of attorneys in Minnesota. Every year the program kicks off with a reception, where law student members are matched with member attorneys to

provide guidance and an introduction into the legal community in Minnesota. More information, including registration information, will be available on the MHBA website and social media platforms.

Open to: Minnesota Law Students.

Deadline: Event dates pending; check MHBA events page and social media for updates

Contact: [mnhispanicbar@gmail.com](mailto:mnhispanicbar@gmail.com)

Website: <https://minnhba.org/>

---



## **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.

### **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](mailto:info@mnlavbar.org)

Website: <https://mnlavbar.org>

---



## **Minnesota State Bar Association**

Minnesota State Bar Association is a professional community of lawyers, law students, and legal professionals in our state. MSBA supports your journey to becoming an attorney by offering complimentary membership during your time in law school. Maximize your law student membership by attending networking gatherings, CLEs, and other events. Join a few of our 40 practice area sections aligned with your interests. Utilize MSBA's practice tools, resources, publications, and consider volunteering for pro bono work. And perhaps most importantly, connect with experienced attorney members to build your professional network. They look forward to supporting the rising generation of lawyers like you.

Website: <https://mnbars.org/?pg=join>

### **Diversity Law Student Scholarship**

In Spring 2027, there will be at least \$18,000 in scholarships available through the Diversity Law Student Scholarship. Students can look for information from their law schools with additional details in March 2027.

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

Deadline: Spring 2027; additional information expected from law schools in March 2027  
Contact: Erikka Ryan, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Foundations, [eryan@mnbars.org](mailto:eryan@mnbars.org)

Website: <https://www.mnbar.org/ramsey-county-bar-association/public/foundation/diversity-scholarship>

### **HCBA 1L Diversity Clerkship Program**

The HCBA 1L Diversity Clerkship Program places first-year law students with Minnesota legal employers for full-time, paid summer associate experiences. Ultimately, the program hopes to find its participants becoming future partners and leaders in Minnesota's legal community. The RCBA Diversity Committee has partnered with the HCBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee to support these efforts.

The summer of 2026 was the program's 19<sup>th</sup> year, and more than 50 students applied, and 12 students were placed. Hundreds of law students, including those from underrepresented backgrounds, have been served by the program since its inception.

The 1L Diversity Clerkship program's mission is to provide fair and equitable clerkship opportunities for local law students. Any student may apply, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability.

Open to: Current 1L students currently attending a Minnesota law school.

Deadline: Mid-November

Contact: Erikka Ryan, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Foundations, [eryan@mnbars.org](mailto:eryan@mnbars.org)

Website: <https://www.mnbar.org/hennepin-county-bar-association>



## Minnesota Women Lawyers (MWL)

### Free Membership for Students

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.

**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](http://www.mwlawyers.org). And check us out on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). Visit the MWL Law Student Hub for the latest information! <https://mwlawyers.org/page/LawStudentHub>

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

### MWL Foundation Law Student Scholarships

The Minnesota Women Lawyers Foundation is pleased to announce the 2026 **MWL Foundation Law Student Scholarship**, the 2026 MWL Foundation **Leslie Altman Memorial Law Student Scholarship**, and the 2026 **MWL Foundation Hollins-Matchett-Mitchell Law Student Scholarship**. The Minnesota Women Lawyers

Foundation offers these three law student scholarships each year to provide aid to 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, and recipients are required to use the award for educational purposes. All law students are welcome to apply for more than one MWL Foundation scholarship, provided they meet the eligibility criteria for each scholarship.

Open to: All Minnesota law students.

Deadline: Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Notification: Scholarship recipients will be notified in October. Scholarships will be awarded at the annual Rosalie Wahl Leadership Lecture on Wednesday, November 4, 2026.

Contact: Jennifer McPhail, [jmacphail@mwlfoundation.org](mailto:jmacphail@mwlfoundation.org)

### **MWL Student to Attorney Mentor Program**

MWL’s Student-to-Attorney Mentoring Program connects law students with practicing attorneys through a one-on-one mentoring relationship based on student interests and attorney practice areas. The goal of MWL’s Student-to-Attorney Mentoring Program is to provide law student members with the knowledge, guidance, and support they need to successfully navigate law school and develop a fulfilling and meaningful career. During FY26-27, the program will transition to a January–December cycle with separate “2L” and “3L to Practice” phases to provide continued support from law school through the transition into legal practice. Participation in the program requires active MWL membership.

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

Registration Opens: November 9, 2026

Deadline to Register: December 18, 2026

Contact: Tessa Jones, [tjones@mwlawyers.org](mailto:tjones@mwlawyers.org)

### **MWL Social Justice Writing Award**

All law students currently enrolled in or a 2026 graduate of one of the three Minnesota law schools (Mitchell Hamline School of Law, University of Minnesota Law School and University of St. Thomas School of Law) are invited to [submit](#) a scholarly paper or article they have written on a topic involving law and social justice. All topics related broadly to law, justice, and equity are eligible, whether or not related to women's rights or feminist theory. The writer(s) of the selected MWL Social Justice Writing Award paper will be awarded a cash prize of \$2,500 total at the MWL Rosalie Wahl Leadership Lecture in Fall each year.

Open to: All Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: Fall 2026

Contact: Debra Pexa, [dpexa@mwlawyers.org](mailto:dpexa@mwlawyers.org)

Website: <http://www.mwlawyers.org/>

## **MWL Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities**

Each year, MWL provides many opportunities for law students to gain volunteer and leadership experience. Through this active involvement, law students not only help to advance MWL's mission, but also develop professional skills and build relationships with attorneys from across the profession.

Open to: All Minnesota Law Students

Deadline: Ongoing

Contact: Tessa Jones, [tjones@mwlawyers.org](mailto:tjones@mwlawyers.org)

Website: <http://www.mwlawyers.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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Spring 2027

Contact: Lia Pedro, [lia@lgbtqbar.org](mailto:lia@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: Spring 2027

Contact: Lia Pedro, [lia@lgbtqbar.org](mailto:lia@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: Spring 2027

Contact: International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges, [lgbtqjudges@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtqjudges@gmail.com)

Website: <https://lgbtqbar.org/>

---