



NATIONAL BAR INSTITUTE AFRICAN AMERICAN LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The National Bar Institute (NBI) was established in 1982 as the philanthropic arm of the National Bar Association (NBA). The African American Law Student Fellowship Program, a project of the Institute, was developed to assist students who are completing professional law degrees, a field where African American participation has traditionally been low.

As more African Americans have successfully entered the legal profession and their contributions have gained wider recognition, the National Bar Institute has recognized the need to support law students in public interest areas, or in those specialties deemed critical where African Americans remain underrepresented within the legal profession.

The fellowships are financed largely by NBA individual members, sections, regions, divisions, affiliates and augmented by corporations and foundations that value scholarship and believe in the potential of African American lawyers. Applications are reviewed by an NBI panel.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The National Bar Institute African American Law Student Fellowship Program invites applications from law students who:

- Have demonstrated a commitment to creating equality and justice for African Americans through work in their law schools, their neighborhoods and community;
- Are U.S. citizens or permanent residents;
- Are carrying a full-time class load at an accredited U.S. law school;
- Have at least two consecutive years of full-time law student experience and will complete graduation requirements within two semesters;
- Intend to return to a Black community to practice law once their legal training is completed.

African American law students in all areas of law are encouraged to apply. Fellowships range from \$1000 to \$10,000 depending on the availability of funds. It is understood that in many cases the fellowship award will be supplemented by other sources of income, and we encourage all candidates to seek other funding sources.

Selection of recipients is competitive, and decisions will be based on the use of the following criteria:

- Qualification of applicant;
- Potential of applicant to make significant contribution to the field;
- Commitment to African American issues in field of study and/or in the community;
- Financial need.

Those applicants who have developed a productive working relationship with local NBA Affiliates or Regions will be given preferences. The Institute is particularly interested in receiving applications from African-Americans who want to present a plan for addressing problems in our communities.

The African American Fellowship Application Cycle is as follows:

January 15 - Applications released.
May 15 - Application must be received deadline.
August 15 - Notification letters mailed.



Application for National Bar Institute
African American Law Student Fellowship Program
Application due May 15th

Applicant's Background Information

Please type or print

Date: _____
Submit photo with your Application.

Student's Name _____

First Middle Last

Permanent Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number () _____ E-Mail _____

Marital Status _____ Number of Children _____

Parent or Guardian's Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone Number () _____

Name of Law School you are attending _____ Name of Dean _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You must be a member of the NBA to apply. There is no fee for student memberships.

All questions must be answered. If questions are left unanswered, your application will be returned for you to complete. Your application must be endorsed by a member of the National Bar Association (NBA). See Endorsement section on page 2. The endorsement can be obtained via the mail. A personal interview or visit is not necessary. *Attach additional sheets as necessary.*

1. Educational Background: List names and addresses of schools attended including dates and grade point averages.
2. List academic honors received including purpose and date.
3. Briefly describe extracurricular activities other than employment.

4. Briefly describe work experiences including name and address of employer, supervisor's name and dates of employment.
5. Submit a list of your proposed curriculum and course of study in law school.
6. Briefly describe your interest in the legal profession and your future goals as they relate to the profession.
7. Provide a brief statement, in your words, as to why you believe you should receive the fellowship.
8. If you plan to return to an African American community after graduation, identify the name and location of the community.

If you are applying for a scholarship based on financial need, the student and/or student's family should submit a personal financial statement with the Application to be considered by the selection committee. The student should provide the committee with the total educational cost anticipated, including tuition, fees, books, and housing.

Signature of Applicant **Date** _____

ENDORSEMENT

National Bar Association Member Endorsement. For your application to be considered for the fellowship award, your application must carry the endorsement of a NBA member. If you do not know an NBA member, we will provide you with the name and address of an NBA member in your City or State.

NBA Member: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ FAX (_____) _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return Application and supporting information to:
Deadline to receive application: May 15

National Bar Institute
1225 11th Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20001-4217
Telephone: 202 – 842 – 3900

Do not write below this line

NBI Official Use Only

Date of Receipt: _____ **NBA Office** **NBI**

Committee Recommendation: