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**Diversity Scholarship Program & Application
2023-2024**

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Diversity Scholarship Program 2023–2024



TYLA Organizational History & Committee Overview

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) began over 80 years ago as the Texas Junior Bar association. Growing from an initial membership of 200 lawyers, the organization now boasts over 34,000 members. The TYLA's regular membership is comprised of all members of the State Bar of Texas, irrespective of age, licensed twelve (12) years or less at the beginning of each fiscal year beginning June 1.

TYLA has special committees that promote projects and programs aimed at either assisting lawyers in their profession or serving the public. Each committee's specific goals are accomplished through the work of its volunteer Board members. To further TYLA's commitment to the future of the profession, it also serves and helps law students throughout the state.

TYLA's Commitment to Diversity

TYLA has a steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, to further the Bar's purposes of improving the quality of legal services and regulating the legal profession. To that end, TYLA's objectives and goals for diversity are:

- to help and encourage persons with diverse experiences and backgrounds to enter the legal profession;
- to promote increased participation by diverse lawyers in the activities, programs, and projects of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the State Bar of Texas; and
- to encourage all members of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the State Bar of Texas to acknowledge the importance of diversity, to promote greater inclusion of diverse members of the profession, and to facilitate greater access to programs, services, and employment opportunities for diverse members of the profession.

The TYLA Diversity Scholarship Program is one of the many TYLA sponsored projects designed to meet these objectives each year. A committee made up of TYLA Directors will review all applications and select the scholarship recipients based on the criteria described below.

Scholarship Criteria and Eligibility

TYLA intends to award three scholarships, first place \$5,000, second place \$3,000, and third place \$1,500 to one or more law students from the ABA-accredited law schools or ABA-provisionally approved law schools in Texas. The recipient must be attending one of these Texas law schools.

The scholarships are open to students of any ethnicity or gender, and diverse backgrounds include and are not limited to diversity based on gender, national origin, race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, veteran status, socioeconomic status, and geography.

In awarding the scholarships, TYLA will consider the applicant's resume, response to the attached three essay questions, letter(s) of recommendation, and criteria to include but not limited to demonstrated commitment to diversity, academic performance, involvement in community/extracurricular activities including student organizations and affinity groups, and financial need.

These applications will be graded as follows:

- 1) **Essay Question Response:** 20 points each (for a total of 60 points)
- 2) **Degree of Financial Need:** 30 points
- 3) **Letter of Recommendation and Resume:** 10 points

An application may be downloaded from the TYLA website (www.tyla.org). Applications may also be obtained at the law school financial aid office or by contacting either of the addresses or phone numbers listed below:

Texas Young Lawyers Association
Tracy Brown, Executive Director
1414 Colorado, 4th Floor
Austin, Tx 78701
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, Texas 78711-2487
(512) 427-1529

Office of Minority Affairs, State Bar of Texas
Caren Cheavens, Director
1414 Colorado, 5th Floor
Austin, Tx 78701
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, Texas 78711-2487
(512) 427-1538

TO APPLY:

Email a completed application to:
Bree Trevino, btrevino@texasbar.com

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023.
(We will not accept any applications emailed after Friday, October 13, 2023.)

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Diversity Scholarship Program 2023 – Application

Please email this application to btrevino@texasbar.com by October 13, 2023.

(If you need additional space to properly respond, please attach additional pages as needed. Please provide the application and attachments in the order listed in Section IV in ONE SINGLE PDF before emailing)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME: _____

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

II. LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION

LAW SCHOOL NAME: _____

DEGREE SOUGHT (JD or LLM): _____ GPA: (cumulative) _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: _____

LAW SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:(PLEASE INCLUDE EXTRA SHEET OF PAPER IF MORE ROOM IS NEEDED) _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:(PLEASE INCLUDE EXTRA SHEET OF PAPER IF MORE ROOM IS NEEDED) _____

III. FINANCIAL NEED

Education and Living Expenses for 2023-2024 (please itemize): _____

% Education Financed by Loans: _____

% Living Expenses Financed by Loans: _____

% Education Financed by Awards/Scholarships: _____

% Living Expenses Financed by Awards/Scholarships: _____

% Education Financed by Own Income, either current or saved: _____

% Living Expenses Financed by Own Income either current or saved: _____

% Education Financed from Other Sources (family, gifts, etc.): _____

% Living Expenses Financed from Other Sources (family, gifts, etc.): _____

Please list the amount and source of any financial awards, grants, fellowships, scholarships, gifts, and contributions that you will receive in the 2023-2024 academic year: _____

IV. RESUME, ESSAYS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please provide the application with the following items as **one single PDF in the order listed below**:

- (a) A current resume.
- (b) Separate, typewritten responses to **each** of the following questions (*limit your response to four pages total*):
 - 1. A personal narrative. Please describe your experience with diversity and your commitment to bring diversity to the legal profession.
 - 2. Why do you believe that diversity is important in the practice of law?
 - 3. What can the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the State Bar of Texas do to promote and support diversity in the legal profession?
- (c) At least one (1) letter of recommendation that specifically addresses the factors that make you a good candidate for a TYLA Diversity Scholarship.

AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT: I have reviewed the information listed in this application for omission and errors. To the best of my knowledge the information is complete and accurate as reported. I understand that the TYLA reserves the right to investigate all information stated in this application.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____