

CBA Relaunches the Future of the Legal Profession Scholars Program

The Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Committee has revised and relaunched the Future of the Legal Profession (FLP) Scholars Program. The DE&I Committee invites eligible applicants—aspiring law students who are currently enrolled or have graduated from a Connecticut-area undergraduate institution—to submit applications to this program. CBA members are encouraged to share this information with potentially eligible students who are considering applying to law school and plan to take the Law School Admissions Test in the near future.

The CBA FLP Scholars Program provides financial and mentoring support to aspiring Connecticut-area, first generation law students who have demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion or who have overcome adversity in their pursuit of a future career in the law. Accepted scholars receive a full scholarship for a LSAT preparation course, currently offered through Kaplan Test Preparation Solutions, and are also invited to participate in mentoring, networking, and educational programs designed to offer guidance and support in the journey to law school admission and matriculation.

Past FLP Scholars programs have included education on the law school application process, financial aid and scholarship, personal statement review, business etiquette, as well as opportunities for networking and learning about different careers in the legal profession. Similar programs are offered throughout the academic year to all scholars. These programs also provide an invaluable opportunity for scholars to meet with and learn from prominent members of the Connecticut legal community. FLP Scholars have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with and learn from members of the Connecticut judiciary, past and present CBA leaders, and attorney leaders employed within private, corporate, non-profit, and government law firms and legal organizations. For the 2023-2024 bar year, the FLP Scholars Committee has organized three events to date, focused on how to prepare a law school application, strategies for an effective law school personal statement, and how to fund a law school education. These sessions have included admissions and financial aid officers from the Quinnipiac University School of Law, University of Connecticut Law School, Yale Law School, and Western New England University Law School. Committee members have also offered one-on-one



personal statement review and feedback. Future sessions for this bar year will include a “speed networking” session with Connecticut lawyers, to allow Scholars to learn about different areas of the law and types of practice, and a session focused on achieving success in the first year of law school.

The CBA FLP Program is a collaborative effort of the CBA and the signatories to the Connecticut Legal Community Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pledge. The program is guided by the CBA DE&I Committee through its FLP Scholars Subcommittee. Members of the FLP Scholars Committee assist with program development, the administration of the program, and application review. Since its inception in 2019, the program has accepted 37 scholars. A list of current and previous scholars is reprinted below. In the 2022-23 bar year, fifteen scholars joined the program, the largest cohort of accepted scholars yet. Eight scholars from prior cohorts have matriculated to law school, attending schools including UConn, Quinnipiac, George Washington, and Duke. If you know of a potentially eligible aspiring law student, please encourage them to apply.

The revised and relaunched FLP Scholars Program features the following eligibility criteria:

1. Must be a junior, senior, or graduate of a Connecticut-area college or university (meaning schools located in Connecticut or in Western Massachusetts).

- Must be committed to pursuing a law degree at an accredited law school in the Connecticut-area (including law schools located in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts) or pursuing a legal career in the Connecticut area in the future.
- Applications are welcome from all aspiring law students that meet the prior eligibility criteria. Preference will be given to first-generation law students (meaning students who would be the first member of their immediate family to attend law school) with a demonstrated commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in prior academic, professional, or personal pursuits, or who are able to demonstrate that the applicant has overcome adversity or other challenges in the pursuit of a future career in the law.

Applications may be submitted online at ctbar.org/scholars. In addition to the scholarship application form, applicants must submit a professional letter of recommendation, resume or curriculum vitae, official college or university transcript, and two personal statements.

The CBA DE&I Committee is heartened by the growth of this program since its launch in 2019. The Committee hopes that this program will continue to grow and offer meaningful support to aspiring Connecticut-area law students. A list of all FLP Scholars is provided below. We look forward to all that they will accomplish in the future, and welcome your support and suggestions for the future success of the program. ■

ACCEPTED FUTURE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION SCHOLARS

2023-2024

Isabelle Lastrina

Eastern Connecticut State University,
Class of 2024
Major: Political Science
Minors: Pre-Law, Peace & Human Rights

Sontochukwu Okam

University of Connecticut, Class of 2022
Major: Political Science

Hamna Qureshi

University of Connecticut, Class of 2024
Major: Political Science

2022-2023

Haneen Alkabas

Central Connecticut State University,
Class of 2024
Majors: Political Science and Journalism

Daniell Bawuah

University of Connecticut, Class of 2023
Major: Political Science

Lauren Beizer

Villanova University, Class of 2023
Major: Political Science

Lunise Constant

Eastern Connecticut State University,
Class of 2021
Majors: Labor Relations and Human
Resource Management

Aya Cruz

University of Saint Joseph, Class of 2023
Majors: English and Political Science

Morvin Ducroisy

Eastern Connecticut State University,
Class of 2022
Major: Business Administration

Keren Gabriel

Bentley University, Class of 2023
Major: Economics-Finance

Shakira Gray

Southern Connecticut State University,
Class of 2016
Major: Political Science

Kaliyah Knight

Southern Connecticut State University,
Class of 2024
Major: Sociology—Criminology &
Criminal Justice

Alahaniss Lopez-Zea

University of Connecticut, Class of 2024
Major: Political Science

Daniela Mays-Sanchez

Barnard College, Class of 2024
Major: Sociology

Riley Morrill

University of Connecticut, Class of 2023
Majors: History and Economics

Yeraida Reinheimer

Charter Oak State College, Class of 2023,
Major: Business Administration &
Organizational Leadership

Olivia Sally

Yale University, Class of 2024
Major: Political Science

Janak Sekaran

Columbia University, Class of 2025
Major: undeclared

Jonathan Smalls

University of Connecticut, Class of 2022
Major: Political Science

2021-2022

Jalyn Brown

University of Connecticut, Class of 2023
Major: Political Science

Lelani Gorham

Cornell University, Class of 2023
Major: Government and American
Studies

Maria Kelley

University of Connecticut, Class of 2023
Major: Law, Social Justice, and the Family

Huzaiifa Khan

Wesleyan University Class of 2021
Major: Government and Social Studies

Gladencia Majule

University of Saint Joseph, Class of 2023
Major: Political Science

2020-2021

Rebecca Cabot

Norwalk Community College,
Class of 2020
Major: Legal Assistant; Amsterdam
University of Applied Sciences the
Netherlands, Class of 2002
Major: Business Administration

Emma Farrell

Wesleyan College, Class of 2022
Major: Government

Ricardo Lombera

Connecticut College, Class of 2022
Major: Sociology, Government

Alexandra Prendergast

Wesleyan University, Class of 2020
Major: Government

2019-2020

Maman Cooper

University of Connecticut, Class of 2017
Major: Political Science

Frankie De Leon

Wesleyan University, Class of 2020
Major: American Studies

Debaditta Ghosh

Wesleyan University, Class of 2020
Major: Government

Fernecia Smith

University of Bridgeport, Class of 2020
Major: Political Science