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**Minority Scholarship Program & Application
2008-2009**

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Minority Scholarship Program 2008-2009

TYLA Organizational History & Committee Overview

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) began over 60 years ago as the Texas Junior Bar Association. Growing from an initial membership of 200 lawyers, the organization now boasts over 24,000 members. Each attorney licensed in Texas who is age 36 or younger as of June 1, or who is within his or her initial 60-month licensing period before June 1, is a regular member of TYLA. No application or separate dues are required.

TYLA has approximately 15 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 members. Several TYLA programs directly impact law students and new lawyers.

The Minority Involvement Committee

The Minority Involvement Committee (MIC) was created in 1985. Its objectives are:

- * to facilitate and encourage minorities to enter the legal profession; and
- * to promote increased participation by minority lawyers in the activities, programs, and projects of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the State Bar of Texas.

The Minority Scholarship Program is one of the many MIC-sponsored projects designed to meet these objectives each year. MIC members, many of whom are minority attorneys, review all applications and select the scholarship recipients. TYLA supports diversity in the profession and includes in its definition of minority both ethnic and gender minority populations in the bar.

Scholarship Objectives

The Minority Scholarship Program fulfills both of the MIC objectives. It facilitates minorities entering the legal profession by providing financial assistance to selected minority law students to help them meet the rigorous challenges and financial burdens of law school. It encourages minority involvement in TYLA, and thus the State Bar, by introducing and familiarizing minority students with the association's activities. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one minority student at each of the following schools:

Baylor University School of Law	Texas Tech University School of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law	Texas Wesleyan University School of Law
South Texas College of Law	University of Houston Law Center
Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law	University of Texas School of Law
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law	

Scholarship Criteria and Eligibility

The scholarship will be awarded to a law student who is a member of a recognized minority group, including but not limited to women, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans. The recipient must either be attending or have been admitted to an accredited Texas law school. Selection criteria will include: financial need, merit, and scholastic performance. Consideration will also be given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside law school.

An application may be accessed and 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 below:

Texas Young Lawyers Association
Tracy Brown, Director
1414 Colorado
P.O. Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711-2487
(512) 427-1529 (800) 204-2222, ext. 1529

Office of Minority Affairs, State Bar of Texas
Caren Blackwell, Director
1414 Colorado
P.O. Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711-2487
(512) 427-1538 (800) 204-2222, ext. 1538

TO APPLY:

Mail a completed application to:
TYLA Minority Involvement Committee,
P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711-2487.
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 17, 2008.



TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Minority Scholarship Program 2008-2009 (Application)

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) will award a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority law student at each ABA-accredited law school in Texas. Any member of a recognized minority group, including but not limited to women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, is eligible to apply. Selection criteria includes: financial need, merit, and scholastic performance. Consideration is also given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside law school.

The purpose of this scholarship is to facilitate and encourage minorities to enter the legal profession by assisting minority law students to meet the challenges and financial burdens of law school. This application should be completed and returned to the TYLA Minority Involvement Committee, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. **Applications must be postmarked on or before October 17, 2008.** This scholarship will be awarded in December 2008.

Please print or type in black ink.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME: _____

SSN: _____ AGE: _____ D.O.B. _____ SEX: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

ETHNIC BACKGROUND: (Check the appropriate designation)

_____ African American _____ Asian American _____ Hispanic _____ Caucasian
_____ Native American _____ Other (please specify)

MARITAL STATUS: _____ Single _____ Married NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS: _____

II. LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION

LAW SCHOOL NAME: _____

CLASSIFICATION: _____ GPA: (cumulative) _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: _____

LAW SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ESSAY

Please attach (1) at least two letters of recommendation and (2) prepare a two-page typewritten essay on one of the following questions:

1. What role(s) should the minority attorney play in the community and profession? Please reference your previous activities and how they will serve as a foundation for your own contributions to the profession.
2. The legal profession is perennially under attack as self-serving and non-responsive to the needs of the public. As a future member of this profession, what role do you think an attorney, specifically a minority attorney, should play in improving its image? Please state your personal experiences as an example

IV. EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL STATUS

Please provide an employment record for the past two (2) years.

Employer	City, State	Dates Employed	Position	Salary

Spouse's Employer: _____

Address: _____

Position: _____ Salary: _____

Last Year's Annual Income: _____ Last Year's Expenses: _____
(including spouse's)

Current Income: _____

Present/Anticipated Expenses: (please itemize)

% Education Personally Financed: _____ % Living Expenses Personally Financed: _____

Financial Support Expected from Other Sources: Amount \$ _____
(please list sources of financial awards, grants, fellowships, scholarships, gifts, and contributions that you currently receive or anticipate receiving)

Are you or do you anticipate living with your parents while enrolled in law school? _____ NO _____ YES

Military Experience: _____ NO _____ YES If yes, please complete the following:

Branch: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Are You Eligible for G.I. Bill Assistance? _____ Amount \$ _____

Are You Receiving G.I. Bill Assistance? _____ Amount \$ _____

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 Minority Involvement Committee reserves the right to investigate all information stated in this application.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____