

External Public Interest Funding Opportunities

Below is a list of external public interest funding opportunities available to current students and recent graduates. The list is broken into three sections: funding opportunities for 1Ls and prospective students; opportunities available to 2Ls; and those available to 3Ls and recent law school graduates.

External Funding Opportunities for 1Ls & prospective students:

[ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund](#)

- Open to all **first-year** minority law students, the fund is to encourage racial and ethnic minority students to apply to law school and to provide financial assistance to ensure that students have the opportunity to attend law school for three years.
- An award of \$5,000 is given annually to each scholarship recipient attending an ABA accredited school.
- Application deadline: April

[Arnold & Porter LLP Diversity Scholarship](#)

- Available to **first-year** students who contribute to the diverse background of the law school student body, demonstrate strong academic achievement, and demonstrate an interest in promoting diversity in the legal profession.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000
- Application deadline: February

[Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund Fellowships & Grants](#)

- AEF awards summer fellowships and grants each year to **law students** from around the nation. The purpose of the fellowships is to fund a student's internship with a public interest organization that benefits either the metropolitan Washington, D.C. community-at-large and/or the Asian Pacific American community. AEF requires the internship be unpaid (excluding nominal pay), arranged by the student, and extend at least ten weeks or a total of 400 hours.
- Amount awarded: \$4,000-6,000
- Application deadline: late April

[Bar Association of San Francisco Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarships](#)

- Awarded to qualified students from minority groups underrepresented in Bay Area law schools. Available to minority students admitted into and entering an ABA-accredited law school for the fall, and **current law students**.
- Amount typically awarded: \$10,000 annually
- Application deadline: April

[Bridging the Dream – Sallie Mae Scholarship](#)

- Awarded to **prospective or current graduate students** for sharing stories about what led them to graduate school.
- Amount awarded: \$20,000
- Application deadline: February

California Bar Foundation Diversity Scholarships

- The 1L Diversity Scholarship is awarded to **first-year** law students from diverse backgrounds at California law schools.
- Amount awarded: \$7,500
- Application deadline: June

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

- Aids people in active movements for social and economic justice. Applicants must be **enrolled in an accredited school** and receiving academic credit for the time period covered by the grant, and must be living in the U.S.
- The maximum grant available is \$10,000 per year. Funds are disbursed to cover each separate semester in which the grantee is attending school.
- Application deadline: April

Defense Research Institute Diversity Scholarship

- This scholarship is available to **incoming second and third-year** full-time students. The scholarship is open to African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, LGBT and multi-racial law students. All female law students are also eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity. Any other rising law students who come from backgrounds that would add to the cause of diversity, regardless of race or gender, are eligible to apply.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000
- Application deadline: March

Equal Justice America

- Fall & Spring Fellowships
 - Provides \$1,500 fellowships to **students in participating law schools** who work during the semester/summer for organizations providing direct civil legal assistance for the poor.
 - Applications considered on a rolling basis
- Summer Fellowship
 - Provides \$4,000 to **students in participating law schools** who work full-time during summer for organizations providing direct civil legal assistance for the poor.
 - Application deadline: March

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps JD

- Provides **law students** with the opportunity to deliver critically needed legal assistance in low-income and underserved communities across the country. Students who either have or have not secured a position with a legal host organization for the summer are welcome to apply.
- Students can receive a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) after completing their service in the EJA AmeriCorps JD program. The Education Award can be applied toward qualifying student loans or current tuition.
- Application deadlines:
 - Spring start: January
 - Summer start: April

Equal Justice Works Rural Summer Legal Corps

- Connects **first and second-year** public interest law students with civil legal aid organizations to address pressing legal issues facing rural communities. Selected candidates will work with a host organization in a rural location for 8-10 weeks over the summer providing legal services to underserved and low-income individuals.
- Students will receive a \$5,000 stipend for their service.
- Application deadline: late February

Farella Braun + Martel LLP Diversity Scholarship

- Available to **first-year** law students who are students of color, members of the LGBTQ community, disabled, or whose background or experience would otherwise contribute to the diversity in the legal profession.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000
- Application deadline: March

Goodwin Procter 1L Diversity Fellowship

- Available to **first-year** law students from underrepresented backgrounds to help cover expenses while working in a public interest law position during the summer after their first year of law school.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000. Recipients will also receive a guaranteed callback interview with a Goodwin office of their choice during the interview season after the student's first year of law school, to allow the student to be considered for a position in the summer associate program during the summer after the student's second year of law school. The callback process also entails consideration of an additional scholarship during the second year of law school.
- Application deadline: late February

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund: Earl Warren Scholarship

- This scholarship is awarded annually to **rising first and second-year** full-time students at accredited law schools whose commitment to racial justice reveals outstanding potential for training as civil rights and public interest attorneys.
- Awards are \$10,000 per year for three years (as long as scholars remain in good academic standing and continue to meet the scholarship criteria) for a total of \$30,000. Scholars are given two unique opportunities: (1) an LDF internship, externship, or guided research project, and (2) an invitation to LDF's Civil Rights Training Institute.
- Application deadline: May

"One Lawyer Can Change the World" Scholarship

- BARBRI and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity have partnered to offer one hard-working **first-year** law student this scholarship to help pay for the first year of law school.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000
- Application deadline: late April

Public Interest Law Initiative Law Student Internship Program

- Connects **first and second-year** law students from across the country with public interest law agencies in Illinois and pays them for their work.
- Typically, interns receive \$6,000 for working 400 hours during the summer and \$3,000 for working 200 hours over a semester.
- Application deadlines:
 - Fall Application: August
 - Spring Application: mid-October
 - Summer Application: mid-October for second-year students and December for first-year students

Switzer Foundation Environmental Fellowship Program

- One-year Fellowships are awarded to **graduate students** whose studies are directed toward improving environmental quality and who demonstrate the potential for leadership in their field.
- Amount awarded: \$15,000 for graduate study as well as networking and leadership support
- Application deadline: January

Zelle Diversity in Law Scholarship

- Designed to encourage and assist **first-year** law students from diverse backgrounds with diverse perspectives, as well as students with proven interest in diversity-related issues, in pursuing the law as a profession.
- Amount awarded: \$30,000 over two years
- Application deadline: April

External Funding Opportunities for 2Ls:

Akin Gump/Robert Strauss Diversity Scholarship

- Awarded to **second-year** law students at ABA accredited law schools to offset expenses for their third year of law school.
- In addition to a \$25,000 award, the scholarships also provide mentoring from firm attorneys and a paid second year Summer Associate position in the firm's Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, D.C., offices.
- Application deadline: July to September

American Association of University of Women (AAUW) Fellowships

- Awarded to **second-year** women in a law program who are women of color, and must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and who pursue a full-time course of study during the fellowship year in a degree program where women's participation traditionally has been low. Applicants apply during their second-year and the fellowship occurs during the third-year of law school.
- Amount awarded: \$5,000-\$18,000
- Application deadline: January

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- Amount awarded: \$4,000-6,000
- Application deadline: late April

Baker Donelson Diversity Scholarship

- Available to diverse **second-year** students, the award is paid during the third year of law school to help with the cost of law school tuition and related expenses. In addition, recipients will be given a second-year Summer Associate position at one of the firm's offices.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000
- Application deadline: August

Bar Association of San Francisco Bay Area Minority Law Student Scholarships

- Awarded to qualified students from minority groups underrepresented in Bay Area law schools. Available to minority students admitted into and entering an ABA-accredited law school for the fall, and **current law students**.
- Amount typically awarded: \$10,000 annually
- Application deadline: April

Bridging the Dream – Sallie Mae Scholarship

- Awarded to **prospective or current graduate students** for sharing stories about what led them to graduate school.
- Amount awarded: \$20,000
- Application deadline: February

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

- Aids people in active movements for social and economic justice. Applicants must be **enrolled in an accredited school** and receiving academic credit for the time period covered by the grant, and must be living in the U.S.
- The maximum grant available is \$10,000 per year. Funds are disbursed to cover each separate semester in which the grantee is attending school.
- Application deadline: April

Defense Research Institute Diversity Scholarship

- This scholarship is available to **rising second and third-year** full-time students. The scholarship is open to African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, LGBT and multi-racial law students. All female law students are also eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity. Any other rising law students who come from backgrounds that would add to the cause of diversity, regardless of race or gender, are eligible to apply.
- Amount awarded: \$10,000
- Application deadline: March

Equal Justice America

- Fall & Spring Fellowships
 - Provides \$1,500 fellowships to **students in participating law schools** who work during the semester/summer for organizations providing direct civil legal assistance for the poor.
 - Applications considered on a rolling basis
- Summer Fellowship
 - Provides \$4,000 to **students in participating law schools** who work full-time during summer for organizations providing direct civil legal assistance for the poor.
 - Application deadline: March

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps JD

- Provides **law students** with the opportunity to deliver critically needed legal assistance in low-income and underserved communities across the country. Students who either have or have not secured a position with a legal host organization for the summer are welcome to apply.
- Students can receive a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) after completing their service in the EJA AmeriCorps JD program. The Education Award can be applied toward qualifying student loans or current tuition.
- Application deadlines:
 - Spring start: January
 - Summer start: April

Equal Justice Works Rural Summer Legal Corps

- Connects **first and second-year** public interest law students with civil legal aid organizations to address pressing legal issues facing rural communities. Selected candidates will work with a host organization in a rural location for 8-10 weeks over the summer providing legal services to underserved and low-income individuals.
- Students will receive a \$5,000 stipend for their service.
- Application deadline: late February

Goodwin Procter 2L Diversity Fellowship

- Available to **second-year** law students from underrepresented backgrounds to help cover expenses for their third year of law school.
- Amount awarded: \$15,000. The award is contingent on the student's accepting an offer to join Goodwin's summer associate program and on accepting an offer, if extended, to join the firm as a full-time associate.
- Application deadline: not available

PSJD Funding Opportunities

- [PSJD Pro Bono Publico Award](#)
 - Available to **second and third-year** law students to recognize the significant contributions that law students make to underserved populations, the public interest community, and legal education by performing pro bono work.
 - Amount awarded: \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque

- Application deadline: September
- [Firms Allowing Split Public Interest Summer Options](#)

[Public Interest Law Initiative Law Student Internship Program](#)

- Connects **first and second-year** law students from across the country with public interest law agencies in Illinois and pays them for their work.
- Typically, interns receive \$6,000 for working 400 hours during the summer and \$3,000 for working 200 hours over a semester.
- Application deadlines:
 - Fall Application: August
 - Spring Application: mid-October
 - Summer Application: mid-October for second-year students and December for first-year students

[Sidley Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship](#)

- Awarded to **second-year** law students who join Sidley's summer program.
- Amount awarded: \$20,000
- Application deadline: Summer

[Switzer Foundation Environmental Fellowship Program](#)

- One-year Fellowships are awarded to **graduate students** whose studies are directed toward improving environmental quality and who demonstrate the potential for leadership in their field.
- Amount awarded: \$15,000 for graduate study as well as networking and leadership support
- Application deadline: January

External Funding Opportunities for 3Ls & Recent Law School Graduates:

[Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund Fellowships & Grants](#)

- AEF awards summer fellowships and grants each year to **law students** from around the nation. The purpose of the fellowships is to fund a student's internship with a public interest organization that benefits either the metropolitan Washington, D.C. community-at-large and/or the Asian Pacific American community. AEF requires the internship be unpaid (excluding nominal pay), arranged by the student, and extend at least ten weeks or a total of 400 hours.
- Amount awarded: \$4,000-6,000
- Application deadline: late April

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- Awarded to qualified students from minority groups underrepresented in Bay Area law schools. Available to minority students admitted into and entering an ABA-accredited law school for the fall, and **current law students**.
- Amount typically awarded: \$10,000 annually
- Application deadline: April

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- Awarded to **prospective or current graduate students** for sharing stories about what led them to graduate school.
- Amount awarded: \$20,000
- Application deadline: February

[California Bar Foundation Diversity Scholarships](#)

- The 3L Diversity Scholarship is awarded to **third-year** law students from diverse backgrounds at California law schools.
- Amount awarded: provides a free Barbri course and living stipend
- Application deadline: February

[Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](#)

- Aids people in active movements for social and economic justice. Applicants must be **enrolled in an accredited school** and receiving academic credit for the time period covered by the grant, and must be living in the U.S.
- The maximum grant available is \$10,000 per year. Funds are disbursed to cover each separate semester in which the grantee is attending school.
- Application deadline: April

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 - Applications considered on a rolling basis
- Summer Fellowship
 - Provides \$4,000 to **students in participating law schools** who work full-time during summer for organizations providing direct civil legal assistance for the poor.
 - Application deadline: March

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- Provides **law students** with the opportunity to deliver critically needed legal assistance in low-income and underserved communities across the country. Students who either have or have not secured a position with a legal host organization for the summer are welcome to apply.
- Students can receive a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) after completing their service in the EJA AmeriCorps JD program. The Education Award can be applied toward qualifying student loans or current tuition.
- Application deadlines:
 - Spring start: January
 - Summer start: April

[PSJD Funding Opportunities](#)

- [PSJD Pro Bono Publico Award](#)
 - Available to **second and third-year** law students to recognize the significant contributions that law students make to underserved

populations, the public interest community, and legal education by performing pro bono work.

- Amount awarded: \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque
- Application deadline: September
- [Firms Allowing Split Public Interest Summer Options](#)

[Skadden Foundation Fellowship](#)

- Awards two-year fellowships for **law school graduates and outgoing judicial law clerks** who want to work in the public interest. Grants are made to organizations only, not to individuals. Therefore, applicants must identify a sponsoring public interest organization that provides civil legal services to the poor, including the working poor, the elderly, the disabled or those deprived of their civil or human rights.
- Skadden provides each Fellow with a salary and pays all fringe benefits to which an employee of the sponsoring organization would be entitled.
- Application deadline: mid-September

[Switzer Foundation Environmental Fellowship Program](#)

- One-year Fellowships are awarded to **graduate students** whose studies are directed toward improving environmental quality and who demonstrate the potential for leadership in their field.
- Amount awarded: \$15,000 for graduate study as well as networking and leadership support
- Application deadline: January