



DIVERSITY AWARD PROGRAM 2020-2021

In support of recent law school graduates navigating a challenging job market in light of COVID-19, the Houston Young Lawyers Association is awarding three (3) \$500 awards to diverse law school graduates (**must have graduated between May 2020 and December 2020**), one for a recent graduate of each of Houston's law schools: University of Houston Law Center, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and South Texas College of Law.

THE HYLA Diversity Committee

The HYLA Diversity & Inclusion Committee was established in 2016. Its objectives are:

- to engage with lawyers of color, women lawyers, lawyers with disabilities and lawyers with non-traditional sexual orientations and gender identification;
- to promote increased participation by diverse lawyers in the activities, programs, and projects of the Houston Young Lawyers Association;
- to encourage all members of the Houston Young Lawyers Association and the greater Houston legal community 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 Diversity Award Program is one of the many Diversity & Inclusion Committee sponsored activities/programs designed to meet the objectives each year. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee members review all applications and select the award recipients based on the criteria described below.

HYLA recognizes diversity based upon gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, socio-economic status, and geography.

AWARD CRITERIA, ELIGIBILITY AND ANNOUNCEMENT

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee intends to award monies to one or more recent law school graduates at each of the ABA-accredited law schools in Houston. The recipient must have attended and graduated from one of the Houston-area law schools. In awarding these monies, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee will consider the applicant's resume, response to the essay questions, demonstrated commitment to diversity through HYLA, and other criteria such as academic performance, service to the community, and post-graduate activities.

An application may be downloaded from the HYLA website (<https://www.hyla.org/scholarships>) or requested via email from lucy_cain@hyla.org.

Award winners will be announced, and recipients will be invited to attend the Houston Young Lawyers Foundation/HYLA Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 7, 2021. More details to follow.

TO APPLY, e-mail a completed application to:
hyladiversityinclusion@gmail.com

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM, APRIL 5, 2021.
(HYLA will not accept any late applications.)



DIVERSITY AWARD PROGRAM 2020-2021 (APPLICATION)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. First & Last Name: _____

2. Permanent Mailing Address: _____

3. Cell Phone: _____ | Alternate Phone: _____

4. E-mail Address: _____

5. Gender Identity:

Choose All That Apply (Optional)

Agender Genderqueer or gender fluid Non-binary

Man Transgender Woman

Other: _____

Prefer not to disclose

6. Sexual Orientation:

We have expanded eligibility for this award to celebrate law students who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Please choose all that apply (Optional)

Gay Lesbian Bisexual Pansexual Asexual Queer

Other: _____

Prefer not to disclose

7. Ethnic Background:

Choose All That Apply (Optional)

Black/African-American Asian-American Latino/a/x

White/Caucasian American Indian/Alaska Native Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Other

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II. LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION

8. Law School Name: _____

9. Graduation Date: _____ GPA: _____

Applicants are welcome to attach a separate sheet of paper for Questions 10-12 if needed.

10. Law School Activities: _____

11. Community Activities: _____

12. Post-Graduate Activities: : _____

III. RESUME AND ESSAY

Please submit the following materials along with this application:

- I. A copy of your current resume; and
- II. A type-written 500-word essay answering **one** of the following questions:
 - COVID-19 has created a wide spectrum of challenges for law school graduates. How has the pandemic impacted your life, personally and professionally?
 - In your opinion, how do you think the pandemic will shape the future of learning and community building in law school? Do you think these changes will be for the better? Why or why not?
 - How, in your opinion, can the legal community address the needs of marginalized and underserved communities who have been disparately impacted by COVID-19?

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AFFIRMATION OF APPLICATION: 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 HYL A and its Diversity & Inclusion Committee reserves the right to investigate all information stated in this application.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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