



## **DIVERSITY AWARD PROGRAM 2022-2023**

In support of law school students navigating the challenges associated with a degree and to ease some of the financial burden, the Houston Young Lawyers Association is awarding three (3) **\$2,500 awards** to diverse law school students (**can even be a recent graduate, with a graduation date of May 2022 and December 2022**), each from Houston-area law schools: University of Houston Law Center, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and South Texas College of Law Houston.

### **THE HYLA Diversity and Inclusion 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; and
- 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/current law students at each of the ABA-accredited law schools in Houston. The recipient must attend or have 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, if applicable.

An application is attached but may also be downloaded from the HYLA website (<https://www.hyla.org/scholarships>) or requested via email from [lucy\\_cain@hyla.org](mailto: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 Wednesday, May 3, 2023. More details to follow.*

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST EMAILED TO HYLADIVERSITYINCLUSION@GMAIL.COM**

**BY 5:00 PM CST, APRIL 14, 2023**

**(Late applications will not be considered)**



## DIVERSITY AWARD PROGRAM 2022-2023 (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 (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Anticipated Graduation Date (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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

11. Law School Activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Community Activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. 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 essay of minimum 500 words (maximum of 750 words) answering the following question:
  - We live in a world in which much of our self-representation is curated online via short-lived social media ‘stories’ and disappearing photos. What photo or other representation of yourself is authentically you? What does it say about your growth into the person you are today and the lawyer/legal professional you want to become? Please use only the words in your essay to address this question. **Do not include photographs or other materials in your answer.**

**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 HYLA and its Diversity & Inclusion Committee reserves the right to investigate all information stated in this application.

Applicant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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