

Black Pre-Law Students Association (BPLSA)

REQUEST TO FUND ATTENDANCE TO THE NATIONAL BLACK PRE-LAW CONFERENCE

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Our Organization



Purpose -

The Black Pre-Law Students Association of UC Davis is committed to uplifting, educating, and empowering students of the African diaspora by providing information, resources, mentorship, and service opportunities to advance their pursuits of a legal career



Goals –

Community building through collaboration with various Black/Afro organization on campus in order to better connect UC Davis students of the African Diaspora

Academic success by providing information about the Academic and Pre-Law assistance on campus via study sessions, workshops, LSAT resources, and more

Career development by highlighting the various internships and job opportunities available on and off campus; Assisting in professional development via resume, cover letter, and application workshops and assistance.

BPLSA 2019-2020



- ❖ As a Black student initiative at UC Davis, the Black Pre-Law Students Association (BPLSA) is committed to providing resources and assistance to help the members of our diverse community excel academically. As an organization that also consists of predominately first-generation minority college students, we also actively work to provide all of our members with opportunities that will increase their chances of being competitive in their pursuit of a legal career.
- ❖ Accomplishments
 - ❖ Founding the BPLSA Mentorship Program in partnership with the Black Law Students Association at King Hall
 - ❖ Increased membership: over 30 students participating in this program
 - ❖ Partnerships with four of the top LSAT Preparation companies (PowerScore, TestMasters, Blueprint, and Princeton Review)
- ❖ Upcoming Programs
 - ❖ Initiating a BPLSA-KHOP Pipeline Program
 - ❖ Founding an LSAT lending library
 - ❖ The Career Closet

The National Black Pre-Law Conference



2019 National Black
Pre-Law Conference and
Law Fair (15th Annual)



Location: Harvard University



Dates: Friday November
8th-Saturday November 11th



Registration opens April 15th

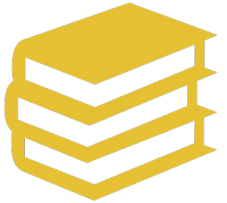


We would like to fund 15
of our students to attend,
and fiscally cover the
cost as much as possible



Total Funding Request:
\$20,473.47

The National Black Pre-Law Conference



15th year of the program - Specializes in creating networking, law school admissions, and professional development opportunities for Black Pre-Law students nation-wide



The National Black Pre-Law Conference has a vision to "provide a powerful forum to help increase the numbers of excellent, strategic and competitive African American law school applicants, students and graduates nationwide."



For the past 15 years, this conference has provided Black Pre-Law students with extensive preparation and exposure to the rigors of the law school application process via workshops, keynote speakers, application sessions, and tours of some of the nations top law school programs.

National Black Pre-Law Conference (Logistics)



All 15 students selected will be fully funded to attend the National Black Pre-Law Conference at Harvard University from 11/08-11/11. All associated travel, transportation, and lodging fees would be covered.



Students will also receive a set of BPLSA/UC Davis attire to maintain a professional and unifying presence at the conference. Students will also receive a free set of LSAT test preparation materials (the "PowerScore Bible Series"), in addition to being fully funded to take the low-cost CampusPrep LSAT course at UC Davis when they return.



Funding for LSAT preparation materials and courses would also provide continual support for students to manifest what they learned in preparation for law school admissions.

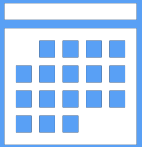


Students selected to attend will be a part of our BPLSA Board and our BLSA/BPLSA 2019-2020 Mentorship Program Cohort. Upon returning, the student cohort will be requested to put on one event or workshop for other members of the Mentorship Program to highlight important skills and/or information they obtained while at the conference. This way, information would be disseminated throughout the organization for members who did not attend the conference.

Funding Request (Transportation)

- ❖ **Transportation** - The conference is hosted at Harvard University, located in Cambridge, MA. Transportation to and from the airport, in addition to funding for round trip flights to and from the conference would be needed.
- ❖ Carpooling between the organization is an option with respect to transportation to and from the airport (parking costs would be reimbursed by BPLSA)
- ❖ Because we will not be on the premises of the conference, funding would also be requested so that we can provide attendees with discretionary funds to be allocated to fees needed for Uber, lyft, taxi, and/or public transportation (i.e. METRO) to and from the conference site.

Funding Request (Residency)



The conference takes place from 11/08-11/11/2019. Selected mentees would be scheduled to arrive 11/07, the day before the conference commences. Flights back home would be scheduled for 11/11, the evening after the conference ends. The length of this conference requires lodging for all members.



(a) Hotel Choices: Charles Hotel, Courtyard by Marriott, Kimpton Marlowe Hotel



We want all of our Black students to be/feel safe and secure so that they can maximize the conference experience, safe and efficient lodging arrangements are of the utmost importance to us. Again, we do not want a student's inability to attend or stay for the full duration of the conference be due to financial reasons, and we would like to fully accommodate every student who is selected to attend.



(b) Room Distribution: Number of rooms allocated would be 7 (2 students per room, with one room holding 3 students). Roommates would be based on a roommate survey generated by the BPLSA and distributed to all accepted mentees, to be completed prior the conference.

Funding Request (Transportation + Residency)

Flight (15 roundtrip tickets) + Charles Hotel (7 rooms) - \$920/person, \$13,800 total

Flight (15 round trip tickets) + Kimpton Marlowe (7 rooms) - \$1,043.56/person, \$15,653.40 total

Courtyard at Marriott - \$852/person, \$12,780 total.

\$100/three students, \$1500 total □ 15 students divided into 3 groups of 5

Funding Request (LSAT Support)



Students would each be provided with a full-series copy of the "PowerScore LSAT Bible" book series. LSAT preparation materials are extremely expensive, and also pose a barrier to many minority, low-income, and first-generation students who aspire to attend law school. Having a high LSAT score is of immense importance when applying to law school, and we want to provide all 15 mentees with the advantage of having testing preparation materials made available to them at no cost.



Low cost LSAT courses are provided on the UC Davis campus via an organization called CampusPrep. This organization provides both LSAT and GRE preparation for the UC Davis community at a rate of \$325 per person. LSAT preparation courses have historically been a major barrier for many minority communities in higher education. This discounted course is an exceptional opportunity for all students, and we would like to fully fund all 15 attendees to participate in this LSAT course after the conference, and continually support them in achieving a competitive score as they prepare to apply to law school.

Funding Request (LSAT Support)

- ❖ PowerScore LSAT materials
- ❖ **(b) Total Cost:** \$123.69/person, \$1,855.35 total
- ❖ Campus Prep LSAT Course
- ❖ **(e) Cost:** \$325/person, \$4875 total.



Funding Request (Professionalism/Apparel)

- ▶ **BPLSA/UC Davis Materials & Apparel** - This is a high-level professional conference geared towards Black Pre-Law students nation-wide. Mentees will be representing both BPLSA and the UC Davis Black Pre-Law population at large.
- ▶ **Attire** - Professional dress would be implemented, however, BPLSA would also like to establish a "BPLSA Conference Uniform." This would consist of a one-quarter zip sweatshirt with the BPLSA logo, one polo with the BPLSA logo, and one long-sleeve crewneck with the BPLSA logo. This attire would be for conference attendees only, and would be worn to maintain a professional and unifying aesthetic to represent UC Davis and the BPLSA even at more casual conference gatherings.

Funding Request (Professionalism/Apparel)

- ▶ **Price breakdown (15 students):**
- ▶ 1/4 zips - \$767.07, total
- ▶ Crewnecks - \$253.74
- ▶ Polos - \$668.91 total



Black Students and Law School

- ▶ There are currently 1,096 Black/African American undergraduate students enrolled at UC Davis. We comprise 4% of the university population, which is the second-lowest population after Native American students. A majority of our Black Pre-Law Students Association members identify as Black/African-American (as we collectively term: members of the African Diaspora), in addition to being first-generation and low-income students. The National Black Pre-Law Conference understands that there continue to be barriers to access for Black/African-American students in higher education, and that these inequities persist in legal education. By working to provide comprehensive information to students who may be disadvantaged in their pursuit of a legal education, the Conference aims to help increase the representation of the diverse Black/African-American population in the legal field.
- ▶ This program is a crucial service to students because it provides access to exceptional law school preparation resources that may not be available to them otherwise. LSAT test preparation, law school tours, and admissions preparation are expensive, and present a substantial barrier to many first-generation, low-income, minority students who aspire to a legal career. At BPLSA, we believe that all students should know that getting admitted to law school is a possibility for everyone, and we want to eliminate as many barriers for students as possible.

Diversity in the Legal Field



- Diversity in legal education has been a growing topic of interest in the U.S. Within the Black/African-American community, the inequities in undergraduate retention and graduation rates continue affect the number of qualified students who can get admitted to - and afford - law school. While this is both a national and systemic issue, BPLSA would like to do what it can to foster higher rates of retention and law school admission in our own Black Aggie community. We believe this begins with extensive exposure to various law-school preparation resources, mentorship, and community building. Group attendance at the National Black Pre-Law Conference would encompass all of this.



Thank You!

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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS