

July 17, 2020

State Bar of Texas
Diversity in Profession Committee
Austin, Texas

Re: Request for Permission to File Texas Bar Foundation Grant Application

Dear Mr. Cantu:

The Diversity in the Profession Committee would like to request permission to file a grant application with the Texas Bar Foundation to continue and expand its Bar Exam Preparation Scholarship Initiative.

We submit this request so that Diversity in the Profession and the Texas Bar Foundation may partner to further the reach and impact of the Bar Exam Preparation Scholarship Initiative, thereby increasing access to bar preparation courses by relieving some financial hardship and ultimately impacting the bar passage rates of diverse attorneys and the diversity of the State Bar.

1. **Name of the program, project, committee, or section seeking funds.**
Project Name: Bar Exam Preparation Scholarship Initiative; Requesting Committee: Diversity in the Profession Committee
2. **Name and position of the individual making the request; if a committee or section, then a statement should be included advising whether the project was endorsed by a majority of the committee or section.**
Grant Requestor: Tracy Almanzán, Chair of Diversity in the Profession Committee, all members of DIP, and all members of the Grant Committee
3. **Description of the project and the time frame for its implementation and conclusion.**
Traditionally, the awards have been limited to the donations received from the main bar prep companies (BarBri, Kaplan, Themis). In 2020/2021, DIP would like to increase the number of awards to diverse 3L students because the demand remains high. These awards will increase the bar passage rate of diverse law students and therefore positively impact the diversity of the State Bar.

Time frame for implementations and conclusion: Scholarship advertised in Texas law schools: late fall 2020; applications due in January 2021; awards announced in March 2021; and awards distributed in March and April 2021.
4. **Statement of whether funds from outside sources have been previously solicited for the project and the result of that solicitation.**

In kind donations of bar exam preparation course credits (from \$500 up to full course credit certificates) have been solicited from and contributed by Themis, BarBri and Kaplan in previous years.

5. **Detailed budget of expenses.**
Total budget: \$50,000 in monetary scholarships. All expenses are assumed by the Office of Minority Affairs and by members of the Diversity in the Profession Committee with the exception of the awards themselves, i.e., the bar exam preparation course certificates, and monetary scholarships, to the extent grant funds are provided by the Texas Bar Foundation, up to the \$50,000 requested.
6. **Disclosure of all sources of funding for the project.**
Themis, BarBri, and Kaplan are anticipated in kind contributors for this project again this year.
7. **Statement of whether or not matching funds will be expected from the State Bar.**
No matching funds are expected from the State Bar.
8. **Statement of whether or not the project meets a particular need of the State Bar.**
Yes, this project meets various needs and missions of the State Bar.
 - Promote diversity in the administration of justice by increasing the diversity of Texas lawyers
 - Promote diversity in the practice of law by increasing the diversity of Texas lawyers
 - Assure all citizens equal access to justice by increasing the number of diverse attorneys providing legal service
9. **Does the project meet a critical need of the State Bar?**
Yes, this project will increase the number of diverse lawyers in the legal profession aiding students in their preparations for the bar exam.
10. **Are there other State Bar programs currently providing or implementing a similar project or service?**
No, as far as DIP is aware.
11. **Any portion of the funds being requested be deferred to the next budget year?**
Funds being requested may be deferred to the next budget year only if permission to do so is specifically granted by the Texas Bar Foundation Board. However, considering the demand for the small number of past awards, DIP is confident the entire amount will be awarded to diverse 3L students.

12. **Identification of the target group that will benefit from the grant.**
This project will benefit diverse 3L students. Winners will be chosen on the bases of academic achievement, leadership abilities, involvement in the community/extracurricular activities, financial need, and participation in diversity-related student organizations. The impact of this project is only limited by the amount of grant funds and vouchers received.

13. **Confirmation that a copy of the completed application has been forwarded to the Executive Director.**
The final grant application will be forwarded to the Texas Bar Executive Director, Trey Apffel and Mr. Apffel is copied on this letter.

Thanks for your consideration of this request by the Diversity in the Profession Committee. We are passionate about this project and look forward to helping many more diverse 3L students with the expense and burden of bar exam preparation.

Respectfully,

Tracy C. Almanzán

Tracy C. Almanzán
Chair, Diversity in the Profession Committee

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Bar Foundation Grant Application
Diversity in the Profession Committee
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Project Budget: \$0

Project Costs (absorbed by members of the Diversity in the Profession Committee and by the State Bar of Texas Office of Minority Affairs) include staff and committee member time and resources to: plan for the project; solicit and receive commercial bar examination preparation course credits; research, gather information and apply for the Texas Bar Foundation grant; draft the Student bar exam preparation scholarship application; disseminate the scholarship to law schools, law school personnel, and law students; market the scholarship and awards available; receive and consolidate applications; review applications; confer with subcommittee to select award recipients; inform applicants of results; provide credits to the awardees; advertise project, donors and results of the project; etc.



STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Diversity in the Profession Committee Bar Exam Prep Scholarship 2019

Diversity in the Profession Committee History

The Diversity in the Profession Committee is one of twenty-nine committees of the State Bar of Texas. In 1989, then State Bar President Darrell Jordan of Dallas created the Committee, formerly known as the Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession Committee. Its purpose was to increase diversity in the profession, enhance opportunities for diverse individuals in the profession, and increase involvement by diverse attorneys in the bar. Just one year after its inception, the State Bar institutionalized the Committee as a standing committee, and its members successfully worked with the State Bar Board of Directors to initiate an ethnicity survey of bar membership, create a permanent staff position dedicated exclusively to minority affairs, and approve the support for diversity in State Bar grievance committees. The Committee later adopted its current name, the Diversity in the Profession Committee, to reflect the changing demographics of the state of Texas. Not lost, though, was the Committee's continual focus on promoting and pursuing new prospects and opportunities for all diverse attorneys, including women.

Diversity in the Profession Committee Composition

The Diversity in the Profession Committee is composed of twenty-three accomplished attorneys appointed by the President-Elect of the State Bar of Texas. Committee members serve a three-year term on a volunteer basis.

Scholarship Objectives

The Diversity in the Profession Committee aims to strengthen and diversify the pipeline of individuals entering the legal profession and encourage involvement in the State Bar of Texas by familiarizing students with State Bar activities. By helping defray the financial burden of preparing for the Texas Bar Exam, this scholarship facilitates the transition into the legal profession for law students from backgrounds traditionally under-represented in the profession. This year, thanks to generous donations, several scholarships will be awarded in the form of cash awards (stipends) and/or credit toward bar prep course costs.

Eligibility and Scholarship Criteria

Third-year law school students who attend an ABA-accredited Texas law school and who are preparing for the 2020 Texas Bar Exam are eligible for this scholarship. Selection criteria include but are not limited to academic achievement, financial need, involvement in community/extracurricular activities including student organizations and affinity groups, and leadership experience.

TO APPLY:

Email a completed application with “Application for Bar Exam Prep Scholarship” in the subject line to:

Kandace D. Walter
Chair, State Bar of Texas Diversity in the Profession Committee:
kandace@walterlegal.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED NO LATER THAN 11:59PM CST on JANUARY 15, 2020.

Incomplete applications and/or applications emailed after the deadline will not be considered.

Scholarships will be announced to recipients via email on Friday, February 14, 2020.



STATE BAR OF TEXAS
Diversity in the Profession Committee Bar Exam Prep Scholarship 2019

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

II. LAW SCHOOL INFORMATION

LAW SCHOOL NAME: _____

GPA (cumulative): _____ CLASS RANK (if available): _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: _____

III. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AND MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Please provide an employment record for the past two years (or attach a résumé):

Employer	City, State	Dates Employed

Military Experience: ___ Yes ___ No If yes: Branch: _____ Dates of Service: _____

IV. BAR EXAM PREPARATION COURSE INFORMATION

Some of the bar prep company-specific awards under this scholarship are discounts off the full list price of the bar prep courses or monetary credits toward a bar prep course. The Diversity in the Profession Committee is not responsible for determining your arrangement with a bar prep course company nor will it have the flexibility to reallocate awards once they are made. To the extent you have already paid for a bar prep course or have received a discount on a course, the Committee cannot warrant how or whether the company-specific awards will be applied to your account.



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HAVE YOU ALREADY COMMITTED TO TAKING A BAR EXAM PREP COURSE WITH A PARTICULAR COMPANY? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes: With which company? _____

What was the price of your course with that company? _____

What is the balance on your account? _____

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY COMMITTED TO A PARTICULAR BAR EXAM PREP COMPANY, please specify whether you have a preference for a particular company (rank in order of interest: 1st, 2nd, or 0 if you are not interested in being considered for that company's award): _____ BarBri _____ Themis

V. REQUIRED INFORMATION AND ESSAY

Please attach: (1) a résumé; (2) a list of three references including names, email address, and phone number; (3) law school transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable); (4) the attached financial statement itemizing your current income sources, including any financial assistance and scholarships as well as expenses; and (5) a one-page, double spaced, 12-point font typewritten essay discussing (a) why you believe it is important for the legal profession to have lawyers from groups traditionally under-represented in the practice of law, and (b) how your receipt of this scholarship will align with the goals of the Diversity in the Profession Committee.

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 State Bar of Texas Diversity in the Profession Committee reserves the right to investigate all information in this application.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

TO APPLY: Email a completed application with "Application for Bar Exam Prep Scholarship" in the subject line to: Kandace D. Walter, Chair, State Bar of Texas Diversity in the Profession Committee: kandace@walterlegal.com. APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED NO LATER THAN 11:59PM CST on **JANUARY 15, 2020**. *Incomplete applications and/or applications emailed after the deadline will not be considered.*



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Diversity in the Profession Committee Bar Exam Prep Scholarship 2020

Scholarship Applicant Financial Statement

Name: _____

Law School: _____ **Exp. Graduation Year:** _____

INCOME (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

TOTAL (\$)

Job/Internship	
Scholarships	
Grants	
Personal Loans	
Other	
TOTAL (\$)	

EXPENSES (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

TOTAL (\$)

Tuition/Books/Fees	
Living Expenses (Rent, Utilities, Food, Car, Childcare, etc.)	
Credit Cards	
Student Loan Payments	
Extraordinary Expenses	
Other	
TOTAL (\$)	

TOTAL INCOME \$ _____

(minus)

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ _____

AVAILABLE RESOURCES \$ _____