



Association of Women Attorneys

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS FOUNDATION 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The **ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS** (“AWA”) is currently seeking qualified applicants for AWA Foundation (“AWAF”) scholarships and fellowships to be awarded to deserving second and third year female-identifying law students in Houston, Texas. The applications are attached.

SCHOLARSHIPS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The AWAF Scholarships are intended to:

Recognize law students who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and an aptitude for leadership and philanthropy;

Promote excellence in legal studies by providing assistance to deserving students; and

Advance the purposes of the AWA and the AWAF, which include promoting the welfare and interests of women lawyers, maintaining the honor and integrity of the profession of law, encouraging philanthropy by women lawyers, and informing and educating women lawyers on matters pertaining to their professional interests and status.

AWARDS GIVEN: At least one scholarship of \$2,500 to a current second-year student and at least one scholarship of \$3,500 to a current third-year student will be awarded to deserving women studying at each of the three Houston area law schools (University of Houston, South Texas College of Law Houston, and Thurgood Marshall School of Law). The scholarship recipients will also receive a professional head shot and a membership in the AWA for one year and will be honored at the 11th Annual Premier Women in Law Luncheon on April 11, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY: Any second-year or third-year female-identifying law student currently enrolled at a law school in Houston, Texas who has earned at least 30 credit hours is eligible to apply.

CRITERIA: Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership and philanthropic potential, a strong commitment to the profession, and/or the ability to overcome difficult obstacles. Involvement in programs that highlight advancement or support of women in the legal profession and in the community and participation in community outreach programs will also be considered. Financial need will also be considered.

FELLOWSHIPS (3L APPLICANTS ONLY)

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: This year, the AWAF Pro Bono Fellowship Program will partner with [Houston Volunteer Lawyers](#) (“HVL”) and [Tahirih Justice Center](#) (“Tahirih”) to select at least one third-year fellowship applicant who will serve the community as a Fellow for one year beginning on or after September 1, 2024 (the “Fellowship Start Date”). The AWAF will fund all or part of the salary of each selected Fellow for the one year Fellowship Program.

At HVL, the Fellow will assist with legal matters involving family law, guardianship, estate planning, landlord/tenant disputes, tax disputes with the IRS, homeownership, consumer law, and bankruptcy.

At Tahirih, the Fellow will work on matters such as gender-based asylum, Violence Against Women Act Petitions, T Visas (for survivors of human trafficking), U Visas (for survivors of certain crimes on U.S. soil), and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (for abused, abandoned, or neglected children). Spanish speaking is preferred.

ELIGIBILITY: Any third-year female-identifying law student at one of the accredited Houston-area law schools (*South Texas College of Law – Houston, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and the University of Houston Law Center*) is eligible to apply. If selected, prior to receipt of the Fellowship, the selected applicant will need to have graduated from one of the accredited Houston-area law schools and successfully completed the bar examination with a minimum passing score and completed any other requirements to practice law in Texas prior to the Fellowship Start Date.

CRITERIA: Fellowships will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership and philanthropic potential, a strong commitment to the profession, and/or the ability to overcome difficult obstacles. Involvement in programs that highlight advancement or support of women in the legal profession and in the community and participation in community outreach programs will also be considered.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Emailed applications for either or both of the Scholarships and/or the Fellowships must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, March 8, 2024**.

RECOGNITION DATE: April 11, 2024 at the annual Premier Women in Law Luncheon. All scholarship and fellowship recipients are expected to attend the luncheon as guests of honor.

To learn more about our organization, please visit: <http://www.awahouston.org>

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION AND INCLUDE ATTACHMENTS WHERE NECESSARY, AS INDICATED.

Submit the completed application, resume, and personal statement in **one email** to the email address below. Letters of recommendation may be included in the applicant's email with other documents or may be emailed separately by the party submitting the recommendation. Application submissions and letter(s) of recommendation must include the following identifying information: 2L or 3L, name of law school, and your name. For example:

Application and Letter of Recommendation Email Submissions (example):

Email Subject Line: 2L, Texas Southern/Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Smith, Maria

Additionally, letters of recommendation must include the following reference line:

On Reference Letter (example):

RE: 3L, Texas Southern/Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Smith, Maria

Email applications, supporting documents and reference/recommendation letters to:

awafscholarships@gmail.com

Emailed applications must be received no later than:

5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, March 8, 2024.

Contact for Questions:

AWAF Scholarship Committee and AWAF Fellowship Committee

awafscholarships@gmail.com

2024 SCHOLARSHIP / FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Check One: 2L 3L **Number of Hours Successfully Completed:** _____

Name: _____

Law School: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address:	Permanent Address:

II. SCHOLARSHIP / FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION SELECTION

Please indicate whether you wish to be considered for a Scholarship and/or an AWAFF Pro Bono Fellowship Program by making **one or more** selections below. If you are a 3L, you may apply for **one or both** of a scholarship and/or a fellowship and you may additionally indicate that you would like to be considered for a fellowship with **one or both** organizations listed below. If you apply for a fellowship, the AWAFF will submit a copy of this application on your behalf to each of the organizations you select. For fellowship applicants, you must have signed up for or demonstrate an intent to take the bar examination and complete any other requirements to be licensed to practice law in Texas prior to the Fellowship Start Date.

- 2L or 3L Scholarship**

- Houston Volunteer Lawyers Fellowship (3L Applicants Only)**

- Tahirih Justice Center Fellowship (3L Applicants Only)**

III. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Anticipated Graduation Date (include month and year): _____

Grade Point Average: _____

Class Standing: _____

<u>College/Universities Attended</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Major/Minor</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

A. Other Graduate Degrees:

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B. Honors and Awards: Please list below (or include in an attachment) any academic honors you received during your undergraduate, post-graduate, or law school education.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Description of Honor</u>	<u>Date of Honor</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

C. Extracurricular Activities: Please list below (or include in an attachment) any groups with which you have been involved, the mission of the organization, the length of your involvement with the organization and any leadership roles you currently hold or have held in such groups.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Statement of Purpose</u>	<u>Position Held</u>	<u>Dates</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

IV. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Please list below (or include in an attachment) your involvement in any social, civic, religious, professional or other community groups, including any groups working to support or advance women’s issues. Please include any leadership roles you currently hold or have held in such groups and the dates of your involvement.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Statement of Purpose</u>	<u>Position Held</u>	<u>Dates</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

V. WORK EXPERIENCE

Please list (or include in an attachment) your employment following college graduation (including any legal clerkships). Please also attach your current resume.

<u>Employer Name and Address</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

VI. REFERENCES / RECOMMENDATIONS

Please identify **one** individual who observed your academic, professional, leadership, philanthropic, work experience and/or other involvement in activities that you believe qualify you for this scholarship and provide a letter of recommendation from that individual. You may additionally provide a maximum of one additional letter of recommendation in the same manner. (Letters of recommendation may be attached to this Application or sent separately following the instructions for submission of letters of recommendation). A letter of recommendation is not required for the fellowship application, but will be considered.

<u>Employer Name and Address</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

VII. SCHOLARSHIP PERSONAL STATEMENT

For scholarship applicants, please attach to this application a general statement of your career objectives and your expectations with respect to the practice of law. Please include answers to the following three questions:

- 1) Why did you decide to go to law school?
- 2) What do you plan to do after law school?

- 3) Why should you be awarded this scholarship? (If applicable, please describe obstacles you have overcome which demonstrate your strength of character, determination, maturity, etc.)

The Personal Statement is limited to 450 words allocated among the three questions at your discretion. **Please include a word count for your Personal Statement at the end of the statement.**

VIII. FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT OF INTEREST

For fellowship applicants, please include a short statement about your interest in either or both of the positions in the space provided below. If the space below is insufficient, you may include an additional attachment.

By completing this application, you permit the Houston Association of Women Attorneys (the “AWA”) and the Association of Women Attorneys Foundation (the “AWAF”) to use, edit (in the case of photographs, images and videos), and/or publish your name, likeness, photograph, image, voice, biographical information (including schools attended and other information contained herein) and/or video in the AWA’s and/or AWAF’s announcements and/or promotional materials, without any further consent. This grant is perpetual in duration.

Additionally, for fellowship applicants, you permit the AWAF to provide a copy of this Application to the Fellowship Organization(s) selected above. You further attest that you have successfully completed or will have successfully completed all prerequisites for consideration of your application prior to the anticipated Pro Bono Fellowship Start Date, including graduation from one of the accredited Houston-area law schools and completion of the bar examination with a minimum passing score and taking any other steps as are necessary to practice law in Texas to perform the requirements of the Pro Bono Fellowship, and that the applicable Fellowship Organization reserves the right to withdraw your offer in the event it determines you have not met one or more of the prerequisites. If you are selected and accept the Pro Bono Fellowship, the term of such fellowship will be one year.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE