



DFP

DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

EMBRACING DIVERSITY & CLOSING THE GAP IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Frequently Asked Questions by Law Students

1. What is the purpose of the program?

The main purpose of the program is to increase diversity in the legal community by giving students a leg up on the competition. The students in the program begin to learn skills that are beneficial for working in the legal field and build a network of contacts that will help them in the future. Law firms, corporate legal departments, and public sector agencies get an opportunity to work with someone that comes from a diverse background and can bring a diverse perspective which can enhance the quality of legal services and better reflect the diversity of clients they serve.

2. Can any law student apply?

The program is offered to first year or part-time second year law students enrolled in an American Bar Association (ABA)-accredited law school in good academic standing with a diverse background.

3. What does it mean to have a diverse background?

Diverse includes all underrepresented classes including, but not limited to, ethnicity, gender, physical disability, Veteran service or relationship, family and socioeconomic background, and sexual orientation.

4. Is this a part-time or full-time position?

The fellowship positions are full-time positions.

5. How much will I get paid?

Employers must pay the fellows minimum of \$20/hour. *

6. Is there a set start date for that I would begin working at my firm/corporate legal department/public sector agency?

No. The program lasts 8 – 10 weeks during the summer. The start and end dates are set between the employer and the student to make sure that the dates work with everyone's schedule.

7. Will I be able to meet the employer before I am placed with their firm?

Yes. We hold a reception before placements are made. At the reception, the employers that attend have an opportunity to meet the candidates for the program. At the end of the reception, we ask the employers to give their input on students that they connected with. We take this into consideration when placing students.

*City/County employers pay \$19.79/hr



Frequently Asked Questions by Law Students - continued

8. How do I apply?

Complete the on-line application at www.sdcba.org/diversityfellowship and submit all requested documents.

9. Do I need to redact my school name from the application material?

Yes. You need to make sure that your application material, including the resume, personal statement, and letters of recommendation does not disclose which law school you are attending. This is important because the Director of the program and the selection committee stays blind to this information during the selection process. The only place in the application where your law school need to be disclosed is in the application where we specifically ask you to list it. This information will be used internally to ensure that we can check with your school about your academic standing but it will not be given to the selection committee.

10. What if I have additional questions?

Contact Bhashini Weerasinghe, Director of the program, at bw@bhashinilaw.com or 619-352-0519. When emailing, remember to use an email account that is not your law school email and be sure to refrain from referencing which law school you are attending.