

ABA
PUBLIC CONTRACT LAW SECTION
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(Approved May 19, 2007)

The ABA Section of Public Contract Law (“Section”) is recognized as an organization, which institutionally promotes and embraces diversity. It recognizes that its strength and success is, in large part, due to the diversity that its membership brings.

The Section is committed to increasing the active participation of lawyers and non-lawyer affiliates in Section activities, regardless of individual or affiliation differences. Two of the most effective means of becoming an active participant in the Section are participating in committee meetings and attending quarterly and Annual Section meetings. While teleconferencing, e-mail, and other advances in technology have made effective participation in committees possible for those outside of the Washington, D.C. area, they do not replace the value of face-to-face participation available at Section meetings. However, the cost of travel to quarterly and Annual Section meetings, and a perceived lack of financial support within both government and private organizations for those not already actively involved in the Section, have been identified as major reasons why, despite a number of outreach efforts, the Section continues to have difficulty increasing the active participation of certain underrepresented groups. In the Fall of 2006, the Section approved a Diversity Plan, which is a written commitment by the Section to assist and encourage the members and leaders of the Section to ensure full and equal participation for lawyers and non-lawyer associates regardless of affiliation or individual differences. In an effort to improve diversity in the active membership of the Section and in implementing its Diversity Plan, the Section hereby adopts the following Scholarship Program.

DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

To address barriers to active participation in the Section by diverse members of the procurement profession by investing in attorneys who will participate actively in, and contribute to, the substantive work of the Section; will grow into future leadership positions within the Section; and will promote the balance of ideas which is the foundation of the Section’s value to its members and the overall procurement community.

I. TARGETED GROUPS

The Section will actively seek participation of lawyers who are underrepresented in the Section, with a particular focus on lawyers of color, young lawyers, and federal, state, and local government lawyers.

II. NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND TERM

Number of Scholarships: Two to three (one to two annually), at the discretion of the selection committee and Council awarding the Scholarships.

Term: Two years

III. BUDGET

Approximately \$4,000 per year per Scholarship Recipient, for a maximum of \$12,000 per year at any given time. The Section shall consider whether some of the cost of the Scholarships can be defrayed through corporate sponsorship.

IV. OBLIGATIONS OF THE SECTION

For the Program to be successful, the Section must commit financial resources and participation opportunities to the Scholarship Recipients. These commitments include the following:

- The reimbursement of travel expenses for attendance at the Fall Section meeting, the Federal Procurement Institute, the Spring Section meeting, and the ABA Annual Meeting. In accordance with the criteria for reimbursement of Council members for travel to quarterly and Annual meetings, the Section will reimburse the Scholarship Recipient up to \$1,000 per meeting (Annual, Fall, Federal Procurement Institute, and Spring). In addition to the expenses for which a Council member may be reimbursed, the Scholarship Recipient may be reimbursed for more than one hotel night, to facilitate the Scholar's ability to attend the educational program associated with the quarterly or Annual meeting. The total reimbursement shall not exceed the \$1,000 per meeting limit. In addition to being reimbursed the foregoing expenses, the registration fee for the educational program shall be waived for the Scholarship Recipient.
- The Scholarship Recipient and the Chair(s) of the committee(s) on which the Scholar participates shall agree as to specific participation opportunities, including speaking and/or writing opportunities, for the Scholar. Those opportunities shall include at least one opportunity annually for the Scholar to

report at a Council meeting on the activities of the committee(s) on which the Scholar is involved.

- The Section shall identify at least one Section member from the leadership of the Section (Council member, Committee Chair, or Committee Vice Chair) to be a mentor for the Scholarship Recipient in order to maximize the opportunity for participation and leadership growth.

V. OBLIGATIONS OF THE DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

A critical feature of the Program is a commitment by those chosen to be a Public Contract Law Scholarship Recipient to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them to become active participants in Section activities. Each Scholarship Recipient shall, to the extent reasonably possible,

- Attend the Annual, Fall, Federal Procurement Institute, and Spring Section Council meetings. The Scholarship Recipient shall increase his or her knowledge of public contract law by attending the educational programs.
- Be actively involved in one or more Section committees, including working on at least one committee project.
- Make at least one substantive presentation annually at a Council meeting.
- Act as a mentor to new Public Contract Law Scholars.

As a part of completing the Scholarship application, the applicants will be asked to identify any other ways in which they would propose contributing to the Section. Any Scholarship applicant shall be responsible for verifying with his or her employer the applicant's eligibility to participate in the program.

VI. SELECTION

The Section Chair will appoint a selection committee to review the Scholarship applications and to make recommendations to the Council for award of Scholarships. The initial selection committee shall develop the Scholarship application for Council approval, consistent with the Program, as set forth above.