



Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Summit Scholarship

Overview

The Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Summit Scholarship fosters inclusiveness in the legal profession by providing financial assistance to deserving Colorado LGBTQ identified law students who have shown strong academic promise and community engagement. Each scholarship provides supplemental funding for law students who have a demonstrated ability in and commitment to affecting change in the LGBTQ communities through their commitment to working and being educated in the legal profession.

By providing scholarships to LGBT law students, the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation recognizes these students' past achievements and provides much needed support for their future pursuits. Through these awards, we forge links between professional and emerging leaders. In doing so, the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation helps to facilitate the growth and advancement of not only these individuals – but of our communities as well.

The Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation awards these scholarships through its own fundraising efforts. Two or more students – committed to affecting change in the LGBTQ community through their education and work in the legal profession – will be selected for the scholarships and shall be known as Summit Scholars.

Visibility

All awardees must be "out," as members of the LGBTQ community, as well as to their non-LGBTQ peers within the educational system and profession for which they are seeking scholarship assistance. By applying for this scholarship, applicants consent to the use of their name and/or likeness in Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation publications and promotional materials.

Guidelines and Terms of Awards

Academic scholarships are the primary component of this program. This is a competitive application process. Consideration will include academic performance; honors; personal/financial hardship; and, especially, service to the LGBTQ community. All applications must strictly adhere to published application instructions and guidelines. **Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.**

- Scholarships are educational in nature and can be applied to tuition, books, fees, or personal expenses.
- The scholarship funds are paid directly to the applicant. Consult your tax advisor to determine individual tax liability. If the applicant's school requires reporting of financial awards, please report awarded funds to the appropriate department.
- Awards are valid only for the academic year in which the application is received. Awards are distributed in one disbursement – December. The Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation reserves the right to verify enrollment and academic standing prior to disbursement of funds.
- The Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Summit Scholarship Fund is a onetime funding opportunity, and those selected as Summit Scholars are ineligible to reapply to the organization.
- Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Board of Directors and Officers, selection committee members, major donors, and the family members of these groups are ineligible.

Application FAQs and Eligibility Requirements

The Colorado LGBT Bar Association Foundation considers many factors when assessing scholarship applicants, including:

- A proven track record of leadership and community involvement
- Strong academic achievement
- Working for the betterment of the LGBTQ community
- Financial need

Eligible applicants also:

- Must be enrolled as a rising 2L or 3L at an accredited law school based in Colorado by August 8th of the application year
- Must be enrolled full-time for the full academic year
- Must be “out” as a person who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ community

[If selected, how much will I receive as a Summit Scholar?](#)

The scholarship amount varies by year based on the budget of the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation. However, scholarship winners can expect a minimum award of \$5,000.

[Is there an age limit to apply to become a Summit Scholar?](#)

No, there is no age limit to be eligible to become a Summit Scholar.

[If my career goals are not exclusively focused on the LGBTQ community may I still apply?](#)

Yes, the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation selects scholars whom it believes have made a contribution to the LGBTQ community and who will continue to do so in the future. Some scholars will choose a legal career that focuses on the LGBTQ community, and others will use their skills and influence in other ways while not working full time on LGBTQ issues. Talent and a drive to contribute to society are key characteristics of a Summit Scholar. We welcome accomplished scholars intending to practice law in all fields.

[I am not sure that I qualify \(or identify\) as either financially disadvantaged or marginalized, but I am confident that I have many of the other strengths \(history of leadership, dedication to the legal field, etc.\). Should I still apply?](#)

Yes, you may qualify and should apply. Our selection committee weighs all facets of each person's application. The Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation supports scholars who have a variety of needs and who demonstrate a record of accomplishment and high achievement.

[Does the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation provide scholarships to undocumented students?](#)

Yes, our application process is open to all LGBTQ Colorado law students regardless of citizenship. Undocumented students are eligible and will be reviewed as international students.

[If I apply and am not selected, may I reapply?](#)

Yes, applicants may reapply the following year. Each returning applicant should submit the most current and competitive information possible, and not recycle their previous application.

[Should I send my application early?](#)

Early scholarship applications are always appreciated and early submission also increases the likelihood of early notification of whether an applicant has advanced to the semifinalist round; allowing for more time to gather the required semifinalist supplementary materials.

However, each and every scholarship application that is submitted by the deadline of **11:59 p.m. MST on the last day of eligibility (August 8th)** will be evaluated equally.

How will I know if you received my scholarship application?

We will send each applicant a confirmation email when their scholarship application is received. Scholarship applicants who are selected as semifinalists will be notified by **August 25th** at the latest. Scholarship applicants who are not selected to move forward will not receive any further email notifications. **If it is early September and you have not received any notification from us, it is safe to assume that you were not selected as a semifinalist.**

How will the judging take place?

A Selection Committee made up of members of the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Board of Directors will review completed applications. The review of applications is strictly confidential. The decision to award scholarships is final and binding in all respects. No justifications or critique will be provided to any third-party or to applicants regarding evaluation of rejected applications. The Selection Committee may schedule telephone interviews with the finalists to discuss their applications.

APPLICANT SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

July 28: Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Scholarship Application opens.

August 18: Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Scholarship Application closes.

August 25: Semi-Finalists are notified by e-mail and provided with additional application materials and then have until **September 1** to submit additional materials.

September 8: Scholarship winners are notified via phone call and e-mail.

September 22: Scholarship winners will be honored at LGBT Bar Foundation Annual Dinner.



Directions: Fill out the application completely. E-Mail one (1) copy of all materials in one (1) e-mail to Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Scholarship Committee at colgbtfoundationsscholar@gmail.com. **All materials must be received by 11:59 pm MST on August 18.** No mailed or hand delivered applications will be accepted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name:	Preferred Pronouns:
Mailing Address:	Telephone: ()
City, State, Zip Code	
E-mail Address:	
Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you eligible for Financial Aid? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Enrollment Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time <input type="checkbox"/> At Least Half-Time	

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Name of Law School:	Name of Undergraduate College or University: Date of Graduation: Undergraduate Degree:
Law School Mailing Address:	Telephone: ()
City, State, Zip Code	
Current Year in Law School:	
Expected Graduation Date:	Current Grade Point Average on four-point scale:

ACTIVISM/ADVOCACY

IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW, please describe your current and past involvement in activism and advocacy of LGBTQ issues through your law school or community engagement. (NOTE: If you substitute this page in your application packet, limit your response to one page, double spaced, and a minimum 12 point font size.)

PERSONAL ESSAY

In no more than two (2) pages, double spaced, 1” margins, 12 point font, please write a short essay addressing the following topic: **Describe adversity you have faced in your life and how it has shaped your worldview and informed your decision to go to law school.**

ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION

Submit one (1) copy of the following items:

- A complete, signed application
- Personal Essay
- Current Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Current law school transcript (official or unofficial transcripts will be accepted)
- Completed and signed Publication Release
- Completed Demographic Data form*

*Response to the Demographic Data form is voluntary and used solely for program development. It is not used in the determination of scholarship recipients.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information will result in disqualification from the scholarship program and may be reported to the applicant’s law school.

I have fully reviewed and agree to comply with the terms and qualifications outlined in the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation Summit Scholarship Application.

Applicant’s Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



Publication Release

I, _____, hereby assign and grant to the Colorado LGBT Bar Association Foundation the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings made of and submitted by me, and I hereby release the Colorado LGBT Bar Association Foundation from any and all liability from such use and publication. I understand that if I am selected to receive an award, I will provide the Colorado LGBT Bar Association Foundation with a high quality, digital photograph (professional attire required).

I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage and/or distribution of said photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Colorado LGBT Bar Association Foundation and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing. I understand that failure to execute this release will result in my application being ineligible for award consideration. Additionally, if I fail to provide the aforementioned photograph within 30 days of award notification, my award offer will be rescinded.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____

Phone number: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Demographic Information Form

Response to the following information is voluntary. A response or lack of response will not be used to approve or deny any scholarship applicant. The information collected below is designed to provide the organization with demographic data on all applicants and to improve outreach.

Demographic data will NOT be utilized in the selection process:

Race/Ethnicity (Check all that Apply):	Sexual Orientation/Identity:
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino/Latina	<input type="checkbox"/> Queer
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian	How "out" are you?
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Totally
	<input type="checkbox"/> In Some Places
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Gender Identity:	Age:
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	How did you hear about us?
<input type="checkbox"/> M to F Transgender	
<input type="checkbox"/> F to M Transgender	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Queer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

SEMIFINALIST REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

If selected as a semi-finalist, applicant will be asked to provide the following information:

1. **One letter of recommendation:** The Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation asks for one letter of recommendation as part of the semifinalist round of the application process. Through this letter, we hope to learn more about you, your academic abilities, and your leadership experience. Please select a writer whose recommendation will provide us with a comprehensive picture of you as a candidate. Please refer to the requirements below for further information.

a. At least one (1) and no more than three (3) letters of recommendation will be accepted for each semifinalist. At least one (1) letter must be from someone academically affiliated with the applicant (i.e. teacher, professor, dean, advisor). The other letters may also be academic references, or from the supervisor(s) of the applicant's extracurricular/leadership activities.

b. All letters must include the recommender's email and phone number. Letters on formal letterhead are preferred. Letters should be e-mailed directly from the author to colgbtfoundationsscholar@gmail.com.

2. Educational Budget Statement

Budget (Current Academic Year):

Tuition & Fees	\$
Books & Materials	\$
Room & Board	\$

Total Expenses: \$ _____

Financial Aid Award (if any): \$ _____

Student's current total legal education indebtedness (include all debt, all years): _____

3. Open-Ended Response Questions:

a. In 35 words or less, describe yourself without restating your activities or accomplishments.

b. Discuss a time when you received significant support from an individual, group, organization, or other source, how that experience impacted your life, and the lasting effect it had on your commitment to the source of that support. (200 words or less)

Responses should be e-mailed directly to colgbtfoundationsscholar@gmail.com.