Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program

The Foundation is pleased to announce applications are being accepted for its Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program. This program assists STEM-educated individuals interested in exploring a career in patent law. Recognition as a Scholar is available to individuals’ seeking admission to an ABA-accredited law school this calendar year or next with an interest in the advancement of racial or ethnic groups that are underrepresented in the patent law profession in the United States. Beginning with the law school application process, Scholars receive financial and mentoring assistance in applying to law schools, as well as access to continued mentoring, counseling and internship opportunities once enrolled. Scholars also qualify for assistance in becoming registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office while still in law school. Scholars are also eligible to be considered for law school tuition grant assistance. The Foundation awards selected Scholars $30,000 direct tuition scholarships that are payable over three years based on satisfactory progress towards a law degree and a continuing demonstrable interest in exploring a career in patent law.

For more information on applying, please visit: https://www.diversityiniplaw.org.

How Do Scholars Benefit?

The objective of the Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program is to increase diversity in IP law by increasing the representation and achievement of students with an interest in the advancement of racial or ethnic groups that are underrepresented in the patent law profession. As candidates for law school admission, Scholar’s benefit from the Foundation law school admission counselors who can guide them through the law school application process. The Foundations financial support can cover the cost of the application process. During law school, Scholars benefit from both counseling during the academic year and internship opportunities for both the 1L and 2L summers. Scholars can advance their patent-career readiness through the Foundations support in preparing for and taking the U.S. Patent and Trademark Offices patent bar examination. In addition, the Foundations Annual Convocation of Scholars in Washington, D.C. connects Scholars to leaders in the patent community, including U.S. Patent and Trademark Office leadership, bar leaders, and patent jurists. Following graduation, Scholars benefit from being part of the network of Society of Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholars.

Mentorship and Counseling to Assist with:

- Navigating the law school admissions process.
- Identifying patent law summer internship and clerkship opportunities.
- Finding suitable employment upon graduation.
- Advancing professionally after graduation.

Financial Assistance with the Costs of:

- The law school application process.
- Preparing and sitting for the patent bar examination.
- Active participation in the American Intellectual Property Law Association or IP Law Section of the ABA.
- Securing summer internships or clerkship in patent law.
- Attendance at the annual Convocation of Scholars.