Join Us in our Efforts to Advance Racial and Ethnic Diversity in IP Law at DiversityInIPLaw.Org
The FADIPL Board of Trustees Consists of 50 IP Professionals Including Prominent Members Of The Patent Bar
For nearly two decades, the Foundation—originally the American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation—has dedicated itself to the advancement of racial and ethnic diversity in the IP law profession.

- Between 2002 and 2019, the Foundation provided scholarship-based aid to more than 130 racially and ethnically diverse law students interested in exploring careers in IP law through its original Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program.

- Since 2020, the Foundation’s expanded Scholar Program has recognized more than 50 new racially and ethnically diverse STEM-educated Scholars, offering an array of career preparation and career readiness assistance, preparing them for careers in patent law.
Goals And Objectives Of The New Scholar Program

To increase the representation in the patent law profession of individuals who identify as members of currently underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, by fostering their readiness for possible careers in patent law in the United States through—

• Counseling/mentoring to further academic achievement/professional opportunities,
• Building direct connections to the IP bar,
• Assisting in identification of opportunities for patent internships and clerkships, and
• Facilitating taking and passing the patent bar examination.
In 2022, The Foundation Is Providing Scholars Nearly $200,000 In Tuition Grant Awards

The Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program is open to individual seeking admission to law school as fulltime students and is designed to assist Scholars throughout the law school application and admissions process. Tuition grant awards of up to $5,000 per Scholar cover the costs of the admissions process.

In addition, the Foundation currently awards a limited number of $30,000 tuition grant awards to select Scholars, payable over three years. These awards are based on financial need and individual circumstances.
Scholar Program Committees

The Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program is built on the work of dedicated Trustees and volunteer partners, who guide and support the Scholar Program through service on the Foundation’s—

- Scholar Recruitment Committee
- Scholar Mentoring Committee
- Scholar Convocation Committee
- Scholar Clerkship Committee
- Scholar Application Committee
Scholar Recruitment & Law School Admissions Support

Recruitment Efforts Focus On Social Media, LSAC, STEM-Focused, Diverse Organizations, And Direct Law School Contacts.

The Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar Program — The Scholar Program of the Foundation for Advancement of Diversity in IP Law provides financial and other support for racially and ethnically diverse, STEM-education students interested in exploring a career patent law. Scholars receive up to $5,000 in assistance to offset law school admissions-related expenses (e.g., LSAT test prep, LSAC fees, law school application fees, and seat deposit), student IP bar association memberships, summer associate placement assistance, patent bar prep support, and mentoring and other engagement and opportunities with patent law professionals. Scholars are also eligible for consideration to receive an additional three-year tuition grant award of $10,000/year. The deadline for applying is April 1 of the calendar year in which the applicant plans to enroll in law school.
The 1L Year: Foundations of Success

Your 1L year will be a whirlwind - you'll be taking on required classes and adjusting to a new style of teaching, learning, and evaluation, all while seeking a summer internship and planning for your 2L year. The resources below offer advice on how you can succeed and prepare for an IP career.

- Success in your First Year
- How to Prepare for your First-Year Classes
- Forging a Pathway to an IP Career
- Advice From a Former 1L Interested in IP
- Learn about the USPTO Law School Clinic
- Ten Tips for Transitioning to Legal Writing
- Learn to Read, Write, and Think like a Law Student
- Ice Breakers to Use with your Mentor

Educational Enrichment and Networking Programs

- IP Transactions Career Panel (November, 2021)
- How to Best Brand and Market Yourself (July, 2021)
- Summer Internships: Tips & Tricks (April, 2021)

Applying to Law School

- Getting Started with Patent Law
- In Person: A Career in Biotech Patent Law
- Benefits of a Law Degree: 1st Year Associate Salaries
- A Career in Patent Law: At the Cutting Edge of Science, but Not at the Bench
- US News: Best IP Law School Programs
- US News: Best Financial Aid Programs at Private Law Schools
- US News: Best Financial Aid Programs at Public Law Schools

Scholar Mentoring & Related Programming
2022 Scholar Convocation Program
June 14-15

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Fish and Richardson – Federal Circuit Law Clerks Symposium Co-hosted by the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court.

Ahmed Davis, Principal, Fish & Richardson and Co-Chair, Scholar Convocation Committee, Host Pauline Pelletier, Former Clerk to Chief Judge Randall Rader, Symposium Moderator; currently Director at Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox

Panelists:
James Worth, Former clerk to The Honorable Robert R. Chitte, Administrative Petitioner Judge, Patent Trial and Review Board

Trademark Office.
Adi Williams, Former clerk to The Honorable Christopher P. Katzenmeyer, associate with Fish & Richardson P.C.

Alicia Lai, Clerk to The Honorable Kelly A. Norder, Assistant District Attorney, Harris County, Texas

Cunningham. Jan Jancin Awardee

Rupali Singh, Clerk to The Honorable Nock S. Halperin, Associate Register, United States Patent and Trademark Office – Alexandria Headquarters

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Capital Hill – Working Lunches – How Policy Becomes Law – The Role of Congress and Congressional Staff

Vincent Garlock, AIPPA Executive Director, Moderator

Panelists:
Jamie L. Simpson, Chief Counsel, House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property

J. John Lee, Minority Counsel, House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property

Molly Sillen, Counsel Detailee, Senate Judiciary Committee, Intellectual Property Subcommittee

Brad Watts, Chief Counsel (Minority), Senate Judiciary Committee, Intellectual Property

United States Patent and Trademark Office – Alexandria Headquarters

Co-Hosted by the Pauline Newman American Inn of Court

1:30 p.m. – Arrival Welcome and Check-in
Christine Behnke, Pauline Newman American Inn of Court Madison Atrium

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Tour – National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum
Sophia Johnson, NIH Museum Supervisor – Madison Atrium

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. – Walking Tour - Public Search Facility and Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA)
Madison East

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Executive Welcome and Overview of the USPTO
Bismarck Myrick, Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, USPTO GIPA, Madison East

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – Legal Careers at the USPTO, Part I. Patents Business Unit
Robert Bahr, Deputy Commissioner for Patents
Valencia Martin Wallace, Deputy Commissioner for Patents
Remy Yucel, Deputy Commissioner for Patents (Moderator: Alford Kindred, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO)
2021 & 2022 1L/2L Patent Summer Associate Placement Assistance

Successfully Placed 100% Of Interested 2021 1L Scholars In Patent Summer Associate Positions For Summer 2022
Sponsored Attendance At Annual Meetings Of AIPLA, ABA IPL Section, & ACPC
Through a partnership with PLI, all Scholars have no-cost access to PLI’s Patent Office Exam Course. In addition, FADIPL sponsors the full cost of sitting for the USPTO patent agent registration examination. Scholars are encouraged to become qualified as patent agents early in their law school careers.
From the Perspective Of A Sidney B. Williams, Jr. Scholar:

"This program has had such a significant impact on my career, and I have not even begun school. I look forward to seeing what my career will be with the support of this program."

Yasmeen Rose, MPH
2022 1L Scholar
Help Wanted

To sustain the current Scholar Program (25 new 1L Scholars recognized each year), the Foundation needs substantial additional funding, particularly from corporations and law firms.

To grow the current Scholar Program requires more assistance recruiting STEM-educated applicants and increased financial support from both existing and new donors.

To optimize the benefits for Scholars, finding more mentoring volunteers, more patent summer associate opportunities, and additional FADIPL committee members is a critical success factor.

To secure a vital future for the Foundation, new Trustees with an enthusiasm for our mission are continually being recruited.

For More Information On The Foundation, To Volunteer Or To Contribute, Contact Felisha Britton, Program Manager, At FADIPL@DiversityInIPLaw.org