



2026 AABA/BALIF Joint Scholarship

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (AABA)/AABA Law Foundation and the BALIF Foundation (Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom)¹ are pleased to announce the 2026 AABA/BALIF Joint Scholarship.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific time) on May 15, 2026, and finalist interviews will be conducted on May 30, 2026.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The AABA/BALIF Joint Scholarship is available to an outstanding candidate who has a commitment to and demonstrated service and work in legal and social issues facing the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI)/LGBTQI communities. The scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$5,000.

All current law students are eligible to apply, but preference is given to law students at a San Francisco Bay Area ABA-accredited school (Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Law San Francisco, University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University, or McGeorge School of Law).

Selection criteria include demonstrated community service or public interest work for the AANHPI and LGBTQI communities; demonstrated leadership in the AANHPI and LGBTQI communities; demonstrated financial need; and demonstrated commitment to the Bay Area. Membership and involvement in AABA and BALIF will also be considered.

¹ Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) is the nation's oldest and largest association of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQI) persons in the field of law. Founded in 1980, BALIF represents its members' interests in the wider San Francisco Bay Area. BALIF members and supporters include San Francisco Bay Area judges, lawyers, law students and legal workers.

The BALIF Foundation was created to serve as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for BALIF and is dedicated to increasing the number of LGBTQI judges on the bench through educational programming, supporting LGBTQI community organizations, and providing scholarships, summer stipends, and fellowships for LGBTQI law students and young attorneys seeking to help the LGBTQI community through legal work.

Finalists will interview with a joint AABA/BALIF panel on **May 30, 2026**, via videoconference. The scholarship recipient also will be required to attend the AABA Summer Diversity Reception on June 25, 2026 for recognition of the scholarship award.

Key Dates

May 15, 2026	Scholarship applications due by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time
May 30, 2026	Interviews of finalists
June 25, 2026	Recipient recognition at the AABA Summer Diversity Reception in SF

**2026 AABA/BALIF Joint Scholarship
Instructions and Application**

INSTRUCTIONS:

A complete Application consists of the following: a completed Application Form, a resume that includes all law-related employment up to date of application, and a personal statement of no more than three pages, double-spaced, discussing any one or a combination of the following topics:

1. What do you see as a pressing intersectional issue or concern facing both the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community **and** the LGBTQI community, and what role do you see yourself playing in advocating for or engaging in such an issue?

and/or

2. What has been your experience in overcoming economic, discriminatory, or other barriers, and what role do you see yourself playing in advocating for others faced with economic, discriminatory, or other barriers?

Please submit your complete Application in a single PDF file. Please submit all Applications by **May 15, 2026 at midnight (Pacific)** via e-mail to aaba.bayarea@gmail.com, with “2026 AABA/BALIF Scholarship Application – [your name]” in the subject line.

Finalists will be notified if they are selected for an interview **by May 23, 2026**.

Interviews will be held via videoconference **on Saturday, May 30, 2026. This is a firm date.**

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the AABA Summer Diversity Reception in San Francisco on **Thursday, June 25, 2026**.

APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Alternate Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Are you a member of AABA? Yes No

Are you a member of BALIF? Yes No

Law School: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend law school in the United States?

Yes No

Law School GPA: _____

Law School Honors and Activities:

Please describe your present and future commitment to the San Francisco Bay Area:

Undergraduate School: _____

Degree and Graduation Date: _____

Major: _____

Undergraduate Honors and Activities:

Graduate School (if applicable): _____

Degree and Graduation Date: _____

Field of Study: _____

Languages Spoken and Degree of Fluency:

Education Level of Father: _____

Occupation of Father: _____

Education Level of Mother: _____

Occupation of Mother: _____

Financial Aid/Need Information:

Law School Financial Aid Information

Loans (Federal and Private): _____

Grants: _____

Scholarships: _____

Campus Job or Work/Study Earnings: _____

Have you received any incentive payments for work that has not been performed yet, such as a signing bonus for a future position? If so, indicate amount: _____

Total Law School Debt as of date of application: _____

Total Projected Law School Debt in Entirety: _____

Undergraduate Loan Debt: _____

Non-Law School Graduate Loan Debt (if applicable): _____

Optional Statement of Financial Circumstances (attach additional page if needed):
