



ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
*of the Greater Bay Area*

## **2026 AABA Law Foundation and The Justice Harry W. Low Fellowship**

The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area (“AABA”) Law Foundation is pleased to offer the 2026 Justice Harry W. Low Fellowship. This Fellowship awards \$10,000 to assist a qualified graduating student to work for public/government agencies or non-profit organizations (“Public Service”). Public Service broadly includes federal, state, city, and county agencies and organizations that are community-based direct legal services providers, that are involved with public policy, advocacy, and impact litigation, and that provide infrastructure support to the legal aid field. Prior awardees have worked for the Policing Project, API Legal Outreach, Legal Aid at Work, and The Lawfare Institute.

Applicants (1) must have accepted an offer to work in Public Service or (2) have prior history of Public Service and are committed to pursuing a full-time Public Service position. Applicants from all backgrounds are welcome to apply; however, preference will be given to candidates (a)(i) who have accepted an offer to work in Public Service or (ii) who have prior history of Public Service and are committed to pursuing a full-time Public Service position, and (b) that Public Service position provides representation and advocacy for communities that include Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

### **About Justice Harry W. Low**

The Low family and the AABA Law Foundation have funded this Fellowship in memory of Justice Harry W. Low. Justice Low was a pioneer Asian American attorney, judge, and community leader whose life and career have inspired AABA members for decades. Justice Low’s parents were immigrants from China and operated a laundry in the Central Valley town of Oakdale, where he was born in 1931. Justice Low graduated from UC Berkeley in 1952 and Berkeley Law School in 1955. He served in the California Attorney General's Office from 1956 to 1966. In 1967, Justice Low became the first Asian American judge in San Francisco when he was named to the Municipal Court. He was appointed as a Superior Court judge in 1974 and, in 1982, as a Justice on the First District Court of Appeal, where he became presiding justice in 1983. He retired from the bench in 1992 and joined JAMS, where he served for many years as a much sought after arbitrator and mediator. His post-judicial career also included the presidency of the San Francisco Police Commission, leadership of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and from 2000-2003, a term as the California Insurance Commissioner. He founded the bilingual Chinese American International School and was named “San Franciscan of the Year” by the San Francisco Forum in 2007. He remained actively working until his passing in December 2021 at age 90. His sons Larry Low and Allan Low are AABA members.

## **Eligibility/Requirements**

To be eligible for this fellowship, you must be a graduating 3L law student fulfilling one of the following eligibility requirements:

(a) graduating from a San Francisco Bay Area school (Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Law SF, University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University, or McGeorge School of Law) who has accepted an offer for a full-time position in Public Service or has a prior history of Public Service and is committed to pursuing a full-time Public Service position, or

(b) graduating from any law school who has accepted an offer for a full-time position in Public Service in the San Francisco Bay Area, or has a prior history of Public Service and is committed to pursuing a full-time Public Service position in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Applicants from all backgrounds are welcome to apply; however, preference will be given to candidates (a)(i) who have accepted an offer to work in Public Service or (ii) who have prior history of Public Service and are committed to pursuing a full-time Public Service position, and (b) that Public Service position provides representation, advocacy, and support for communities that include Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

## **Other Applicant Selection Criteria (application attached)**

- Demonstrated financial need
- A strong academic record and/or other indicators of future career success
- In-person acceptance of the Fellowship at the AABA Summer Diversity Reception in San Francisco on **Thursday, June 25, 2026** is expected/encouraged.
- Submission of resume, personal statement and essay. (Refer to instructions attached)

The deadline to submit applications is **May 15, 2026 at midnight (Pacific)**. Please email your application to [aaba.bayarea@gmail.com](mailto:aaba.bayarea@gmail.com) with “2026 Harry Low Fellowship Application [your name]” in the subject line. Please submit all materials in one PDF file.

## **Selection**

After receipt of applications, the selection committee will convene and interview the top candidates on **May 30, 2026** (the interviews to be held by video conference). AABA will award the Fellowship at AABA’s Annual Summer Diversity Reception, June 25, 2026.

The AABA Law Foundation also strongly encourages all Fellowship recipients to:

- Become a Law Student Member of AABA; and
- Become a Lawyer Member of AABA upon graduation from law school.

## **Key Dates**

- May 15, 2026 Applications due at midnight Pacific time
- May 30, 2026 Interviews of finalists by video conference between 9 am - noon
- Early June 2026 Recipient to be notified of Fellowship
- June 25, 2026 Recipient recognized at the AABA Summer Diversity Reception in San Francisco at UC Law SF.



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**2026 Justice Harry W. Low Fellowship Application and Instructions**

**DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026**

**Please email your complete application to [aaba.bayarea@gmail.com](mailto:aaba.bayarea@gmail.com)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of AABA?  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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Undergraduate School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Honors and Activities:

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Graduate School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Fluency: \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Education Level of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid Information:

**Law School Financial Aid Information**

Loans (Federal and Private): \_\_\_\_\_

Grants: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Job or Work/Study Earnings: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOW FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION**

**In addition to the previous two pages, please submit the following:**

**1. Submit a personal statement, no more than 3 pages, double-spaced, that includes the following:**

- (a) A description of the type of Public Service work that you will pursue;
- (b) A description of your qualifications;
- (c) The name of the Public Service entity with whom you will be working and a reference contact and telephone number; or describe your history of Public Service and your efforts to secure a full-time Public Service position.
- (d) A description of any other grants, compensation, or financial aid you will receive while working for the Public Service entity; and
- (e) Additional information beyond what is reflected in your resume regarding your past, present and future community service or public interest work.

**2. Submit an essay of no more than 3 pages, double-spaced, discussing:**

- (a) Why you have chosen to do Public Service; and/or
- (b) 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?

**3. Law school statement:**

If you are not a law student at or a graduate of a San Francisco Bay Area law school (Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Law SF, University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University, or McGeorge School of Law), please explain in a separate statement (no more than one page), your commitment to Public Service in the Bay Area.

**4. Submit a resume with the application.**