

Deadline: July 16st, 2013

LevelBar 2013 Scholar Application

The mission of LevelBar is to increase opportunity in graduate-level education. We seek to remove the barriers facing low-income degree seekers, from the financial barriers associated with graduate school admission exam preparation, to the lack of access to job creators, educational resources, and voices of influence. A strong preference is granted to applicants whose experiences reflect limited familial exposure to post-collegiate education, career opportunities, mentoring, and social support systems. Additional consideration is given to applicants who have overcome economic and/or educational hardships and challenges, or have come from, or demonstrated leadership experience in, economically or educationally underserved communities.

LevelBar 2013 consists of a full year of programming, providing academic enrichment, law school admissions support, and direct financial aid. Admissions and writing workshops and classes, mentorship, and opportunities to interact with professionals in the field of law are all provided to help ensure an applicant's success in the law school application process and beyond. This intensive curriculum—scheduled on weekends and evenings—is designed to prepare students not just for the LSAT, but also to guide and inculcate scholars into the culture and nuance of the legal industry, an invaluable asset. LevelBar scholars will work with our tutors and volunteers from September 2013 until October/November 2014 while applying to schools.

In June 2013, LevelBar scholars who remain fully invested in the program will be awarded one-time LSAT preparation grants. Grants will cover the cost of test-specific coaching, but most importantly, will also cover living expenses in the months immediately preceding the test date. Top tier law schools heavily favor standardized test scores in their admission criteria, and students who wish to be competitive candidates for admission must invest significant resources in test preparation, including many hours of study. LevelBar is dedicated to ensuring that all graduate school applicants are given an equal opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities on decisive admissions exams regardless of their economic circumstances.

Forward all materials to:

LevelBar Scholarship Application Center
c/o Leah Johnston
P.O. Box 23094
Oakland, CA 94623

*For more information, contact LevelBar
Phone: (510)214-2694; info@levelbar.org*

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**2013
LevelBar Scholar Application**

Please type or print. (Verification of all information may be requested.)

Name _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address _____
Number & Street City State Zip Code

Above address good until (please specify date): _____

Telephone (____) _____ Mobile Phone (____) _____

Permanent Address _____
Number & Street City State Zip Code

Permanent Telephone (____) _____

E-mail address (primary) _____ E-mail address (secondary) _____

Birthplace _____ Date of Birth _____
City State or Country Month/Day/Year

Age _____ Gender _____

Student ID# (If applicable) _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____
Name

Telephone (____) _____

How did you hear about the LevelBar Program?

Family Information

What is the highest level of education attained by each of your parents? Please check only one box for each parent.

Father:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral (e.g., Ph.D., J.D., M.D.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some College (more than 2 years) | <input type="checkbox"/> High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (Grade level: _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some College (less than 2 years) | (Grad/GED) | |

In what country did he obtain his education? _____

Name of College(s) (If applicable) _____

Mother:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral (e.g., Ph.D., J.D., M.D.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some College (more than 2 years) | <input type="checkbox"/> High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (Grade level: _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some College (less than 2 years) | (Grad/GED) | |

In what country did she obtain her education? _____

Name of College(s) (If applicable) _____

What is/was your parents' primary occupation during their working years?

Father: _____

Mother: _____

How much, if any, of your childhood was spent in a single-parent home?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 years or more |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|

If your father is deceased, how old were you when he died? _____

If your mother is deceased, how old were you when she died? _____

Are/were your parents divorced, permanently separated or never married? _____

What was the approximate total income of all the persons living in your parents' household during 2012? If your parents are separated/divorced, provide information for the household where you lived most of the time before college, including any support provided by the absent parent. If your parent(s) is/(are) deceased, or if you have not lived with a parent for the last ten years, please provide information for the last year in which you lived with them.

If the income level indicated above does not represent the approximate income level of your parents' household during your high school years, please explain.

What was the approximate net worth (as opposed to income) of both your parents in 2012? If your parents are separated/divorced, please provide the combined net worth of both parents' households. By "net worth," we mean total assets (including home value, bank savings, retirement funds, stocks and bonds, etc.) minus total liabilities (amount owed on home, car payments, loans and other debts.) If your parent(s) is/(are) deceased, or if you have not lived with a parent for the last ten years, please provide information for the last year in which you lived with them.

Please describe any socio-economic, educational, familial, cultural, or physical hardships or challenges you have overcome. You may attach a separate sheet if you need additional space.

How many brothers and sisters do you have? (Please include the age of each sibling.)

Are you receiving educational financial aid for the 2012-2013 academic year? _____

*****If so, please attach a copy of your financial aid award letter or other equivalent documentation.*****

Academic Information

*****Please attach a copy of all undergraduate transcripts or equivalent documentation, including community college transcripts.*** ******** (Unofficial copies of transcripts are sufficient)

Number of Advanced Placement and/or honors classes taken in high school: _____

Undergraduate major(s): _____

Undergraduate minor(s) or area(s) of concentration: _____

List chronologically (most to least recent) all high schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions attended. Please include the institution you are currently attending and complete as thoroughly as possible.

Name of high school, college or university	Entered Month/Year	Withdrew Month/Year	Units	Cumulative G.P.A.	Degree Conferred and Date Received/Expected

If applicable, please describe any circumstances that negatively affected your academic record.

Please briefly list any academic prizes, distinctions or honors you have received.

Please describe any research projects in which you have participated (Prior research is not required for admission to the program).

Testing and Law School Application Information

****Please note that neither having taken the SAT and/or LSAT nor initiation of the law school application process are requirements for admission to the program.****

Your highest score on the SAT I: _____

The SAT I you took was scored on the:

- ☐ 1600 scale
- ☐ 2400 scale

How did you prepare for the SAT I: _____

Have you taken the Law School Admission Test (LSAT)? _____

If so, please specify when you took the LSAT and the score(s) you received: _____

If you are currently planning to take the LSAT, please indicate your intended test date: _____

Are you currently enrolled in, or have you taken, an LSAT preparatory course? _____

If so, please specify the course date and name of the course provider: _____

Are you currently applying to law school to enroll in 2013? _____

If known, what area(s) of law are you interested in studying or practicing? (An answer to this question is not required for admission to the program).

Public/Community Service, Volunteer and/or Extracurricular Activities

Please describe significant public/community service, volunteer and/or extracurricular activities in which you have been involved, and any related leadership positions you have held.

Employment

Please list significant employment, including dates and number of hours worked per week. Please include a résumé (if available).

Name of Employer	Dates		Hours Per Week	Position
	Begin Month/Year	End Month/Year		

Please check the box that best describes the number of hours you worked for pay during a typical week for each academic year of college:

First Year:	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+
Second Year:	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+
Third Year:	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+
Fourth Year:	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+
Fifth Year:	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+
Sixth Year:	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+

Fluency in Other Languages

Please list all languages, other than English, in which you can speak or write, and indicate your degree of proficiency in each. Please briefly describe how you acquired your knowledge of each language.

Disability

If you wish, please bring to our attention any disability that might bear on our interpretation of your credentials or for which we may need to make accommodations to facilitate your participation in the program.

Personal Statement

Please provide a separate essay not to exceed two double-spaced typed pages. Describe any other matters relevant to your background, attributes, experiences, interests or perspectives that would enable you to make a distinctive contribution to the LevelBar Program, law school, or the legal profession. Examples of matters to address may include any or all of the following: significant hardships or challenges overcome; unusual life experiences; evidence of and potential for leadership; demonstrated commitment to serving underserved communities; etc. For additional guidance, please refer to the description of the program on the cover page attached to this application.

Racial/Ethnic Survey (Optional; to be used for statistical purposes only)

The following information enables LevelBar to gather statistical data on the background of its applicants purely for the purposes of ensuring we are doing broad based outreach. When making decisions about which individuals will be admitted to our program, we do not use race, religion, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin as criteria for admission.

1. Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino?

Includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. In addition, select one or more of the following racial categories as appropriate for you.

- ☐ African American or Black
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White

3. For LevelBar purposes, to help us understand the diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds of our students, which of the following groups best describes your background? Check as many categories as may apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American/Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native | |
| Asian American/Asian | Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuban/Cuban American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese/Chinese American (except Taiwanese) | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin American/Latino |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino/Filipino American | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese/Japanese American | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korean/Korean American | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Hispanic, or of Spanish origin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taiwanese/Taiwanese American | White/Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese/Vietnamese American | <input type="checkbox"/> European/European descent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian/Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern or North African |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other White/Caucasian |

Statement of Authority and Participation; Permissions

I hereby apply for admission to the LevelBar Program and understand that any material submitted will not be returned. I certify that all information provided herein is true and correct. I agree to provide, if requested, any official documentation necessary to verify the information provided. I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation on this form may result in cancellation of acceptance to the LevelBar Program, or if discovered after admission, may be grounds for dismissal from the LevelBar Program which may require repayment of funds disbursed to me.

I authorize representatives from LevelBar to contact the colleges, universities, employers and recommenders indicated in my application and accompanying material to verify the accuracy of anything contained in the application and accompanying material. I understand that missing information may jeopardize the timely processing of my application. The LevelBar Program maintains the information I provide on my application. I have the right, according to the law, to have access to this information.

If accepted to the LevelBar Program, I will participate fully in the program and abide by all the requirements of the program, including attending all, workshops, special presentations and group events.

If accepted to the LevelBar Program, I grant permission to the LevelBar staff to:

(i) access and review my transcripts, Degree Progress Report and other academic documentation for counseling and statistical reporting purposes.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Printed Name

Forward all materials to:
LevelBar Scholarship Application Center
c/o Leah Johnston
P.O. Box 23094
Oakland, CA 94623
OR
info@levelbar.org

The following materials constitute a completed application packet:

- Application
- Financial Aid Award Letter (if applicable)
- Letter of Recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Résumé
- Transcript(s) (unofficial acceptable)

Please retain copies of all material submitted.

Recommendation Form

Applicant's Name

Applicant's College of Attendance

The LevelBar Program introduces individuals with limited exposure to post-collegiate education to graduate-level law career options and basic law-related skills, and prepares students to pursue a J.D. degree.

Probabilities of admission to the program are enhanced by early completion of applications, so please complete your letter and form as soon possible. The LevelBar application reviewers value your candid appraisal of the applicant's ability, academic and otherwise, to study law, including qualities of mind and character, dedication, responsibility, and readiness for the rigors of advanced academic study. Evidence of overcoming adversity, rising to challenges, and achieving beyond expectations are helpful in assessing applicants for admission. You may wish to include how well you know the applicant and in what capacity, and your assessment of the extent to which the applicant will add to the diversity of the LevelBar Program.

****Though you may use the fields below, we strongly encourage you to attach a separate letter to amplify your comments.****

Recommender's Name

Organization

Signature

E-mail Address

Position or Title

Relationship to Applicant

All evaluations will remain confidential.

You or the applicant may submit recommendation materials via E-mail, postal mail, or fax.

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Rarely	Never
How often have you observed the applicant at work?					
At School?					
Socially?					

In comparison to other students or employees, how would you rate the applicant with respect to the following?

	Inadequate Opportunity to Observe	Below Average	Average Middle 50%	Good Top 25%	Excellent Top 10%	Truly Exceptional Top 2%
Intellectual ability						
Maturity						
Leadership						
Motivation/initiative						
Ability to work with others						
Analytical skills						
Sense of humor						
Empathy/compassion						
Respect from peers						
Fulfills commitments						
Written skills						
Oral skills						
Problem-solving skills						
Creativity/imagination						
Self-confidence						

- ☐ I strongly recommend
- ☐ I recommend
- ☐ I recommend with some reservations
- ☐ I do not recommend

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