

2022 SAIL Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

About the Scholarship:

Q What kind of scholarship is this?

The SAIL Scholarship program provides a grant of \$7,500, payable in two annual installments, to one or more rising second-year law students to help fund their educational expenses. First awarded in 2020, SAIL Scholarships are intended to support law students who demonstrate outstanding professional promise and leadership potential. The scholarship is administered with the assistance of the NAPABA Law Foundation (NLF).

Q: What makes this scholarship program unique?

The SAIL Scholarship provides not only financial support for law school, but also includes an on-going program of mentoring, networking, support and leadership development for its recipients. SAIL Scholars have the opportunity to receive regular mentoring sessions with the program sponsors during their time in law school; network with other SAIL Scholars and other leaders in NAPABA; and benefit from support and leadership development later in their careers.

Q: Is this a “public interest” scholarship?

Yes and no. SAIL Scholars have a strong interest in and commitment to public service. Some or even many of them may become full-time public interest lawyers, but others may choose to pursue careers primarily in the private sector or in government. The key attributes of SAIL Scholars and the SAIL Scholarship program are leadership and the concept of “giving back” to the legal profession and to the community. SAIL Scholars are encouraged to use their talents and gifts to “pay it forward.”

Q: Who is eligible, and how often is it awarded?

At the time they apply, applicants must be first year law students enrolled full or part-time in an ABA-accredited J.D. program in the United States. Applicants typically apply during the end of the spring semester of their first year; selections are made annually during the summer between an applicant’s first and second years of law school. NLF and the SAIL Scholarship Selection Committee may decline to award any scholarships in any given year.

Q. What is the application deadline and process?

*The application deadline for 2022 SAIL Scholarships is **June 30, 2022**. Applicants must submit all application materials through the NLF web portal by the deadline to be considered. Detailed instructions and a list of required materials appear on the application portal.*

Q: When and how will applicants be notified whether they have been awarded a SAIL Scholarship?

The SAIL awardee(s) will be notified with a phone call and follow-up email on or around August 1st. All other applicants will be notified via email as close to the August 1st deadline as possible.

Q: What does it mean to “pay it forward”?

“Paying it forward” in the context of the SAIL Scholarship program means that just as others give of their time, effort and resources to develop and help our SAIL Scholars, so too SAIL Scholars should commit to reach back and help others coming along behind them and those around them. We all benefit when we give to each other. Giving can take many forms – mentoring and coaching others, sharing job or other opportunities or simply being a sounding board or trusted listener – there is no one formula for paying it forward. If a SAIL Scholar wishes to express gratitude by making it possible for the program to continue to benefit future SAIL Scholars, “paying it forward” could include mentoring future SAIL Scholars as well as contributing financially to the SAIL program (or any other similar charitable cause). But such contributions are neither expected nor necessary.

About the Application Process:

Q: How do I submit an application?

Please visit the SAIL Scholarship application portal on the NLF website and upload each of the required items by the June 30, 2022 deadline. These items will include your undergraduate, first-year law school and any other graduate school transcripts; your resume or c.v.; two letters of recommendation; and a personal essay of no more than 500 words. If your recommendation letters are being submitted directly by your recommenders, please check the status of your application to ensure all your application materials have been submitted on time.

Q: What kinds of recommendations are most helpful?

We suggest that your letters of recommendation come from two individuals who know you well, at least one of whom can write about your legal academic abilities and potential. As a result, at least one of your two recommenders should preferably be one of your law school professors. Another recommender may be someone who has worked with you in a job or other workplace setting. Recommendations from an undergraduate professor can be less helpful as a second reference, unless the professor has worked with you closely and for more than a year or two. What is important is that your letters of recommendation speak, as a whole, to your intellectual abilities, academic achievements, leadership experience and potential, commitment to community service, personal qualities and professional promise.

Q: What should the personal essay be about?

Be authentic. Give us a view into the person you are today, and perhaps where you’d like to go in the future. Share your struggles and triumphs. Share the lessons you’ve learned. What is your life purpose, and how did you come to that purpose? Again, be authentic. We want to hear your voice.

Other:

Q: Who are Sharon and Ivan? Why did they establish the SAIL Program? Why is it structured as a leadership program?

Sharon and Ivan grew up with modest means. Sharon vividly recalls arriving in the States as a 5-year-old “fresh off the boat.” She and her family arrived from the Philippines on a freighter ship and eventually settled in a rural area of upstate New York. While still in elementary school, she delivered newspapers after school, mowed lawns, and sold made-to-order egg rolls and wontons once a week in the summer. As a scholarship student, Sharon attended a private boarding school in high school; a challenging, yet growing, experience for her. It was during college that she met Ivan.

Ivan is the son of immigrant parents who settled in what was then also a rural part of the Washington, DC suburbs. Because his parents are both scientists, and because he liked math and science in high school, he naturally gravitated toward engineering in college. Although he was already on a path toward a Ph.D. in chemical engineering, he applied to law school at the suggestion of a favorite college professor. Law school and the legal profession were totally foreign to him; he knew no lawyers growing up, and to this day, no one in his extended family is a lawyer.

Ultimately, Sharon and Ivan believe that they have been blessed with much, not the least of which is each other, their daughters and their partners and close friends spread across the US and world. Throughout their adult lives, Sharon and Ivan have also been active volunteers. They have a deep faith that they have been called to their work, and they continually return to their guiding principle, “to whom much is given, much is expected.”

During Sharon and Ivan’s career journeys, there were very few AAPI role models at higher levels. Their families, as immigrants, also did not have an established network of friends and peers who could be a source of wisdom and advice, particularly in the field of law. Sensing a need among similarly situated AAPI law students and emerging lawyers, and given their upbringing and values, Sharon and Ivan established the SAIL Scholarship program as more than a financial contribution to a Scholar’s legal education. It is a leadership program to help a SAIL Scholar’s upward trajectory. Just as a sailboat needs wind and energy to propel it forward, the SAIL Scholarship program provides a boost of “wind” behind the SAIL Scholars, helping them “launch” their careers and, as the program grows, providing them with a network of other scholars and opportunities to lift those coming behind them.

Q: May I contact prior SAIL Scholars to learn more?

Yes! You may contact the SAIL Scholars via LinkedIn. Brief bios follow:

2020

***Eura Chang** is a 2L at the University of Minnesota Law School. She is a Robina Public Interest Scholar, Co-President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, incoming Note and Comment Editor of the Minnesota Law Review, and incoming Student Director of the Immigration & Human Rights Clinic. Outside of school, Eura serves as a legal research intern for Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) and works part-time as a clerk for Lockridge*

Grindal Nauen. This summer, Eura will return to Lockridge Grindal Nauen for a second summer and continue representation of her asylum clients through her clinic. Before law school, she taught English in Senegal on a Fulbright grant and worked in education organizing in Denver, Colorado. Eura received her B.A. in educational studies and political science cum laude from Macalester College, where she won the George Stanley Prize for Civil Engagement and was founder and president of Students for Educational Equity.

Soohyun Stephanie Hahn is a J.D. candidate at The George Washington University Law School and is the first Asian Pacific American Editor-in-Chief to serve on The George Washington Law Review. She has interned for judges on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and will be externing with the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Legal Adviser this coming fall. Stephanie is interested in exploring litigation and white-collar investigations and will be spending her summer at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher's New York office as a summer associate. Stephanie earned her B.A. cum laude in Growth and Structure of Cities with an Environmental Studies minor from Bryn Mawr College while playing NCAA Division III Varsity Volleyball and serving as president of the Bi-Co (Bryn Mawr and Haverford) Korean Student Association.

Natalie Saing is a student at the University of New Mexico School of Law (Class of 2022). They are the Bluebook Editor for Volume 52 of the NEW MEXICO LAW REVIEW, vice president of the Lambda Law Student Association, and a W.K. Kellogg Child & Family Justice Advocate. In the community, they serve as a board member for both the ACLU of New Mexico and the New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC). Originally from Portland, Oregon, they relocated to New Mexico in July 2017 to join NMAFC as the Ending Gender-Based Violence Coordinator. In this work, they advocated on behalf of limited English proficient, extremely low income, immigrant and refugee survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in pan-Asian communities. Nat also has an M.A. with distinction in Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Studies from the University of New Mexico College of Education. During the summer of 2022, they will be externing at the New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Jaylia Yan is a second-year J.D./M.P.P. student at Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government, where she serves as president of the Harvard Kennedy & Harvard Law Joint Degree Law Students Association. Jaylia is a submissions and associate editor of the Harvard International Law Journal and the Kennedy School Review, as well as a co-conference chair of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. She currently is interning for the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia and will be a summer associate at Akin Gump's DC office. Jaylia graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University, where she was a Flinn Scholar. Outside of school, Jaylia is the Director of Volunteer Outreach with Dear Future Colleague, a non-profit that facilitates free law admissions mentorship for underrepresented applicants. Her past employment includes the Delaware Dept. of Justice, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the London School of Economics.

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Rebecca DiPietro is a second-year J.D. candidate at the Georgetown University Law Center, where she is a Global Law Scholar, a staff member of The Georgetown Law Journal, vice president of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and a Legal Practice Law Fellow. She earned her B.A. magna cum laude in Government and Chinese at Georgetown University, where she won the Chinese department award for her honors thesis, was inducted

into Phi Beta Kappa and studied abroad in Beijing, China. Prior to law school, Becca worked on the international team of the National Governors Association, and as an undergraduate, she interned with former U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski.

Madeleine Matsui *is a second-year law student at Harvard Law School. She is the incoming Political Chair of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, a content editor with the Harvard Journal of Law & Gender and the Director of Community Development at the Harvard Law Entrepreneurship Project. Prior to law school, Madeleine worked in San Francisco for three years, first at a public interest law firm and then on the legal team of a technology company. Madeleine grew up in Hong Kong and received her B.A. magna cum laude in International Relations and Urban Studies from Brown University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.*

Shao Zhao *is a second-year J.D. scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where she is an associate editor of the California Law Review and a judicial extern for the Honorable Chief Judge Miranda Du of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada. Before and during law school, she worked as a law clerk for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, assisting low-income monolingual Chinese-speaking individuals with housing, government benefits, family law, immigration and employment matters. Shao received her B.A. cum laude in Social Studies from Harvard College, where she received the Harvard Asian American Reflections Award for outstanding contributions to the Harvard Asian American community.*