

# Marshall-Motley

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**LDF<sup>MM</sup>**  
MARSHALL-MOTLEY  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM



# Welcome



## Welcome Prospective Scholars!

Thank you for your interest in the Marshall-Motley Scholars Program (MMSP or Program). We are excited that you are considering joining us in the fight for racial justice and equality. This guide is designed to answer most questions about our application and selection process. It also serves as a step-by-step guide for completing the application. We want you to create an amazing application and we are going to help you do it!

Named in honor of civil rights legends Thurgood Marshall — LDF’s founder and the nation’s first Black Supreme Court Justice — and Constance Baker Motley, former LDF attorney and the first Black woman to become a federal judge, this groundbreaking program will create pathways to leadership, self-sufficiency, and socio-economic progress, while developing

individuals to become ambassadors and advocates for transformational change in Black communities.

During the 1960s, and early ‘70s, LDF invested in the creation of Black and interracial law firms in the South, providing fellowships and start-up costs for the law practices of those who became some of the most celebrated civil rights lawyers in the region, including former LDF Director-Counsel and legendary North Carolina civil rights attorney Julius Chambers. LDF is deepening its longstanding presence in the South to help leverage the talent, passion, and commitment of a new cohort of civil rights attorneys.

Consistent with our history, the MMSP is LDF’s bold and intentional investment in populating, developing, and enriching the field of civil rights lawyers committed to racial justice. LDF has supported and helped develop some of this

nation’s most legendary civil rights lawyers and leaders. LDF lawyers and cooperating attorneys are among the nation’s most well-respected legislators, judges, scholars, and political leaders. We expect that the MMSP Scholars will themselves become exceptional litigators and advocates and follow in these legendary footsteps.

We look forward to receiving your completed application.

In pursuit of justice,

### **JINO P. RAY, J.D.**

*Director, Marshall-Motley Scholars Program  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.*

# About the Program

## More Than a Scholarship

The Marshall-Motley Scholars Program (MMSP) is a revolutionary and groundbreaking commitment to populate the South with a new generation of civil rights lawyers trained to provide legal advocacy of unparalleled excellence. Through scholarship support, legal fellowships, and professional mentoring, the MMSP will equip and prepare these aspiring lawyers to advocate on behalf of communities as they pursue racial justice and equity in the South, a region of the country where the majority of Black Americans live. Over the next two decades, this ambitious and unique program is committed to creating the next generation of racial justice warriors through the development of 50 new civil rights lawyers.

*A Groundbreaking Commitment  
to Seed the South with the Next  
Generation of Civil Rights Lawyers*

**“The MMSP is one of the most important investments an organization could make to help advance racial justice and equality in our nation.”**

JOHN LEGEND, Artist, Activist & LDF Board Member

50  
NEW CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYERS

# Program Benefits

The MMSP will afford participants:

- 1** A full law school scholarship for tuition, room, board, and incidentals to alleviate the debt burden that can prevent future lawyers from pursuing a career in racial justice.
- 2** Summer internships at LDF and other national civil rights organizations with offices in the South to begin their training as civil rights lawyers early in their law school careers.
- 3** A two-year postgraduate fellowship at a national, regional, or local civil rights organization with a racial justice law practice in the South.
- 4** Access to special trainings sponsored by the LDF and the National Academy of Sciences.

In return, the Scholars commit to live in the South<sup>1</sup> and serve as civil rights lawyers<sup>2</sup> engaged in racial justice<sup>3</sup> work for 8 years following the conclusion of their fellowship.

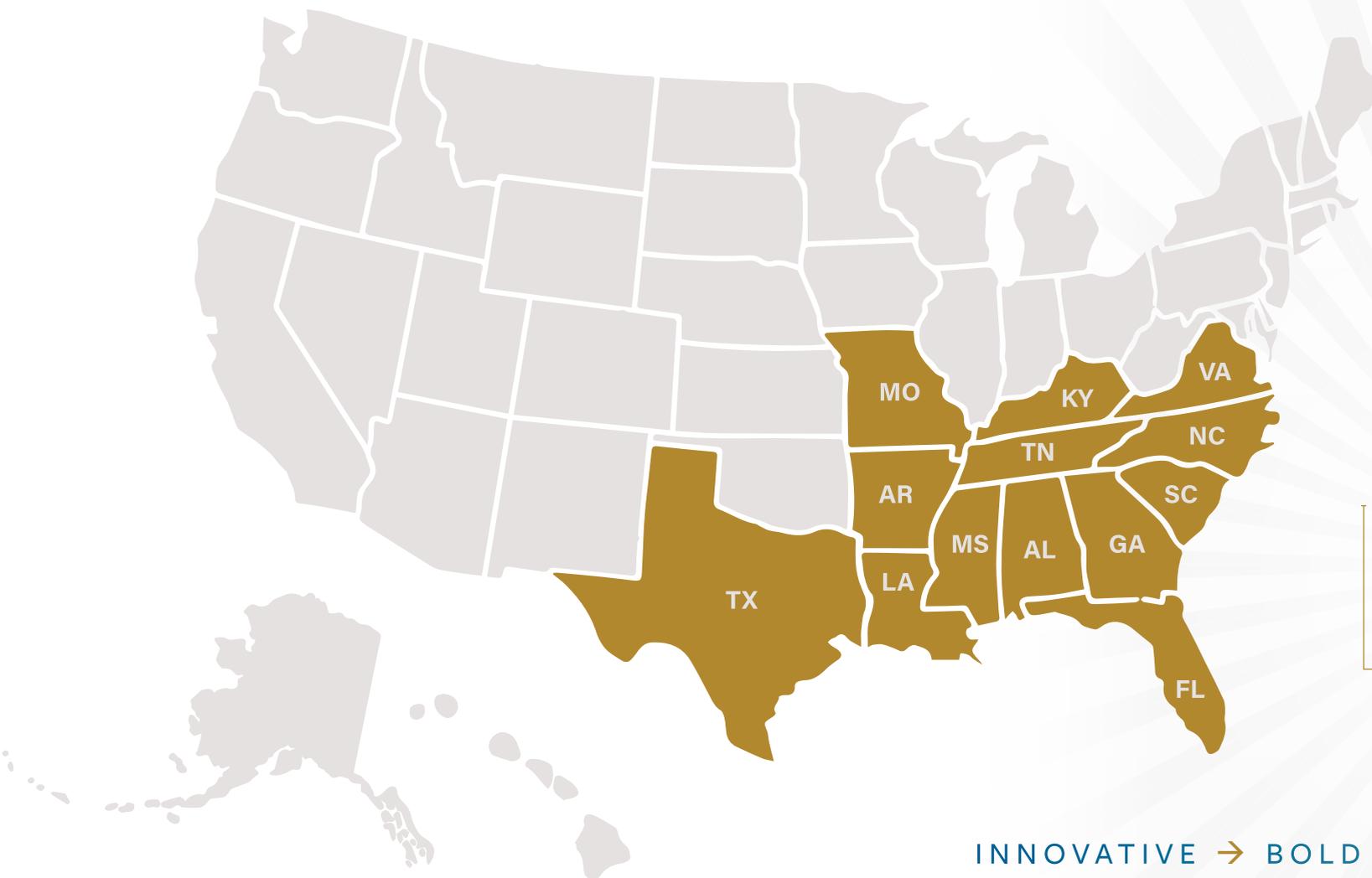
The MMSP will continue to offer support for the newly emerging civil rights lawyers as they develop their practice and form a distinguished regional network of legal practitioners.

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<sup>1</sup> MMSP defines, “the South” or “southern United States” as follows: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of the MMSP, “civil rights lawyers” are defined as lawyers who are engaged in the practice of law with a focus on protecting the civil rights and liberties of Black people afforded by federal and state law. Specifically, MMSP Scholars should have a keen focus on developing a practice centered around ensuring that Black people are treated equally, and equitably, regardless of their race.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of the MMSP, the practice of civil rights law in pursuit of racial justice in the South is defined as follows: (1) law practice at a national, regional, or local civil rights organization with a racial justice law practice in the South (e.g., Advancement Project, ACLU’s Racial Justice Project, Equal Justice Initiative, Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Southern Coalition for Social Justice); (2) law practice at the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division; (3) law practice in the Civil Rights Division of a State Attorney’s General Office where the focus is on issues of racial justice on behalf of African Americans; (4) law practice as a qualifying private law entity, including solo or independent practice in which 75% or more of the caseload involves racial justice advocacy on behalf of African Americans; or (5) other law practice in pursuit of racial justice that the LDF and similar civil rights organizations have pioneered and developed.



Yes,  
**YOU.**  
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INNOVATIVE → BOLD → TRANSFORMATIVE

# Who we are looking for

## Building the Next Generation of Civil Rights Lawyers in the South

This moment in our nation calls for a full complement of highly trained and dedicated civil rights lawyers prepared to meet the challenges we confront and serve our communities with excellence. LDF is committed to identifying and investing in brilliant young minds who are dedicated to pursuing racial justice in the South, and for whom this work is a personal and professional calling.

The aim of the MMSP is to seed the South with a cohort of well-trained and highly dedicated civil rights attorneys to provide superior legal representation to Black communities. Given LDF's history and our ongoing commitment to racial justice, we strongly encourage those who identify as Black/African American, those who have attended a historically Black college or university, and those with strong ties to the communities we seek to serve in the South to apply.

To that end, we seek applicants who are:

**PURPOSEFUL & COMMITTED:** We want to understand why you care deeply about racial justice and why you are committed to pursuing the practice of civil rights law. You should share with us the ways in which you have demonstrated your commitment to racial justice. Be sure to highlight jobs, internships, clubs/organizations, community-based work, and any other meaningful ways you have illustrated your commitment to racial justice.

**RESILIENT:** We want to understand how you foresee challenges, respond to them, and bounce back from them. You should share with us the ways in which you have confronted and overcome significant obstacles. Be careful not to focus too much on the challenge(s), but rather focus on the skills you have developed as a result of confronting various challenges.

**PREPARED TO LEAD:** We want to understand how you are uniquely equipped to take on such a substantial leadership role in the world. Marshall-Motley Scholars will become champions for lasting change in the American

South. You are not simply applying for a scholarship — you are applying to join a fight that has been ongoing for centuries in this country. The decision to make such a commitment is not one that should be taken lightly. You should share with us the ways in which you have demonstrated your ability to lead, particularly in situations that presented considerable challenges.

**CONNECTED:** We want to invite applicants who have a demonstrated commitment to working on issues of racial justice and equality and who have an interest in working to improve the lives of Black people and communities in the South. You should share with us the ways in which you engaged in work that serves Black people and communities. Where possible, you should also share how your work has been centered in the South or where the impact of your efforts has reached the South.

Yes, You.

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BUILDING A  
**LEAGUE OF  
CHAMPIONS**



# Eligibility Criteria

## To be eligible to participate in the Marshall-Motley Scholars Program (MMSP), you must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university no later than September 2022.
2. Be admitted to, or expect to be admitted to, an ABA-accredited law school as a first-year, full-time law student, in a 3-year full time JD program to begin in the fall of 2022.
  - Eligibility is limited to students beginning law school in the fall of 2022. If you have completed one or more semesters of law school or intend to defer enrollment you *are not* eligible.
  - MMSP *does not* accommodate students in joint degree programs. The Program is designed to support the development of aspiring lawyers who are enrolled in a

traditional, 3-year full time JD program. However, please visit the LDF website to learn more about other scholarship opportunities.

- Part-time law students *are not* eligible.
  - You do not need to designate the law school you will be attending at the time of application. Many applicants may not be admitted to law school at the time they submit their MMSP application. However, you are required to demonstrate admission to an ABA-accredited law school to be selected as a MMSP finalist.
3. Be a United States citizen or the holder of a Permanent Resident green card.
  4. Intend to pursue a career in Civil Rights law, and if awarded, you must work full-time in pursuit of racial justice in a southern state for a period of 8 years immediately following the fellowship portion of the MMSP.

5. Describe in your application a sustained personal engagement in Civil Rights and racial justice in one or more of the following areas:

- Work/Internship
- Academic/Coursework
- Campus Organizations
- Community-based Organizations
- Volunteer
- Research



# What to Expect

## The Application and Selection Process

The information in this section is designed to help you prepare and submit your most competitive application. Our hope is that the step-by-step guidance provided will help you quickly gather your application materials, focus your answers to the application questions, and prepare, in advance, for each phase of the selection process.

Yes, You.

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## THE TIMELINE

**NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

**Application Opens**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2022**

**Application Deadline**

(no later than 11:59 pm in the time zone where you are located)

**MARCH 2022**

**Phase 1 Review and Finalists Selected**

**MARCH 2022**

**Phase 2 Finalist Interviews**

Candidates who advance to Phase 2 (Finalists) will be invited to interview. Approximately 20 candidates will advance to Phase 2.

**APRIL 2022**

**Scholars Announced**

Candidates who are selected to become Marshall-Motley Scholars will be notified of their award. Once each scholar has accepted their award, a public announcement will be made via news and social media outlets. Approximately 10 Scholars will be selected.

# The Selection Process

## The Application Process—Phase 1

The selection process begins with the [online application](#). This phase of the process is designed to be simple and straightforward. It is our hope that the guidance below will help you complete your application thoroughly and quickly.

We strongly recommend that you have all your application documents prepared and downloaded on your computer before you begin the online application. This preparation will make the online application experience a smoother one.



**DEADLINE TO APPLY**

February 11, 2022

## Application Materials

A complete application package should be completed online and will include the following components:

- Personal Statement (maximum 1500 words)
- Essay (maximum 1500 words)
- Undergraduate Transcript(s)
- Résumé (maximum 3 pages)
- LSAT/GRE Report
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Video (maximum 3 minutes)
- Short Answer Question (maximum 500 words)
- Demographic Questions (optional)

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Click here for detailed instructions regarding the content and format of application materials and how to apply online.



[MarshallMotleyScholars.org](https://MarshallMotleyScholars.org)