

**EQUAL PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE
MISSION STATEMENT**

OUR MISSION:

EPOC works to advance the goal of equal professional opportunity in the practice of law; it seeks to increase the numbers of minority lawyers who practice in our community through meaningful and practical programs that open doors, lower barriers, and increase acceptance.

OUR STRATEGIES:

EPOC sponsors a job fair that specifically encourages minority law students and area law firms to engage in active evaluation of employment opportunities, beginning with in-depth summer internships.

EPOC provides periodic law firm training in the matter of sensitivity toward diversity in hiring and management of their organizations.

EPOC facilitates lateral hiring opportunities for minority lawyers.

EPOC maintains important links between minority professional groups and the majority bar association.

EPOC seeks to take *the next step*, in making a meaningful impact on providing professional opportunities for minority lawyers, by encouraging client-based participation to influence law firm behavior concerning diversity.