



2026 JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

The Justice Thurgood Marshall Fellowship is a program of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation. The fellowship was founded by the former Keystone Bar Association, which was first organized as the Harrisburg Black Attorneys Association.

Requirements & Eligibility.

The Thurgood Marshall Fellowship is open to recent graduates of any ABA Accredited Law School who have secured employment located in Dauphin County in a law firm, government agency, legal non-profit, or other public interest employment related to the legal profession AND who also are members of an under-represented racial or ethnic group in the legal profession. Recipients must be members of the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Fellowships will be awarded based on the recipient's potential for making a contribution to society and the legal profession through current or anticipated legal efforts. An essay of up to 1,000 words that articulates how the applicant meets these criteria is required.

Award.

One fellowship is awarded each year, and each fellowship is disbursed in up to three, \$1000 installments:

- At the start of employment, after the recipient's selection;
- After 12 months of continued employment, with verification from a supervising attorney, hiring manager, or equivalent.
- After 24 months of continued employment, with verification from supervising attorney, hiring manager, or equivalent.

Each fellowship concludes 24 months after the initial disbursement.

Submission.

Submit the completed application form, final law school transcript (unofficial), resume, and required essay by U.S. Mail or email on or before **October 30, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Mail or email to:

Dauphin County Bar Foundation
Thurgood Fellowship Committee
213 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
ThurgoodFellowship@gmail.com

Please direct all questions about the application or the application process to:

Patrice Merzanis, Executive Director
Dauphin County Bar Association
ph: 717-232-7536, ext. 101
patrice@dcba-pa.org

2025 JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

All sections to be completed by applicant; if handwritten, use ink

1. Name _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

2. Address _____
(Street) (City) (State, Zip)

3. Mobile phone _____ **Email** _____

4. Law School _____
(Name of Law School)

(City and State of Law School) (Graduation Date)

5. Prospective Employer _____

Employer Contact _____
(Name) (Email)

6. Under-Represented Racial or Ethnic Group in the Legal Profession

Please describe the under-represented racial or ethnic group in the legal profession of which you are a member: _____

7. Attach a personal essay (up to 1,000 words) explaining why you should be a recipient of the Thurgood Marshall Fellowship. Include your potential for contributing to society and the legal profession through either current or anticipated efforts.

8. I certify that the information included in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I meet the eligibility requirements for the Thurgood Marshall Fellowship.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Application deadline: October 30, 2026