



LEAP: Legal Elite Athlete Pipeline

From the Sports Arena to the Legal Field

The Goal

DLA Piper is seeking exceptional student athletes wishing to pursue a career in the legal profession after college graduation. We believe that student athletes have what it takes to succeed in law school and as lawyers – focus, drive, ambition, grit, and a team mindset. The firm’s goal is to support the next generation of successful lawyers, with an emphasis on improving the diversity of our profession and providing opportunities to students who might otherwise not have considered a career in law. Through the Legal Elite Athlete Pipeline, DLA Piper is helping student athletes take the leap from athletics to law.

The Program

Each year, DLA Piper will select collegiate student athletes who are interested in attending law school. Students selected for LEAP will receive ready access to top legal professionals who can advise on the students’ career path and the opportunity to forge connections with legal mentors.

The Application

Candidates must submit the following for consideration: resume and personal statement, an unofficial school transcript, and two letters of recommendation.

In the statement, the candidate is encouraged to focus on any personal growth experiences or lessons that the candidate has learned as a result of the candidate’s background, upbringing, experiences, socioeconomic status, or inclusion in an underrepresented community.

Candidates who meet the application requirements will be invited to answer a series of questions via recorded video. Once all video responses are reviewed, the top candidates will be notified to schedule a live video interview. Applicants will be subject to background checks.

Applications will be accepted starting October 1, 2024.

The application window will close on December 2, 2024.

Only complete submissions will be reviewed. Scholarships will be awarded late March 2025.



Program Details

FINANCIAL

- \$1,000 intended for undergraduate or law school tuition, fee or course-related expenses
- \$5,000 law school scholarship to an ABA-accredited law school (paid in two installments)

MENTORING

- Annual conference call with Americas Chair Frank Ryan
- Semi-annual calls or virtual meetings with senior partners of DLA Piper
- Semi-annual calls or virtual meetings with Associate mentor
- Registration in Legal Mentor Network
- Access to DLA Piper Professional Development and Recruiting Teams to assist with:
 - Law school personal statements
 - Application assistance
 - Resume building

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

- What you need to know before going to law school
- Name, image, likeness (NIL)

- Artificial Intelligence
- Pro Bono
- What employers are looking for
- Navigating summer employment opportunities

Networking

- Shadow Day in a local office
- Invitations to Legal Mentor Network events

EXPECTATIONS

Year One

- Completion of LSAT prep
- Applications submitted to an ABA-accredited law school

Years Two – Four

- Enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school
- Maintain a 3.0 average GPA

COMMITMENT

- Minimum one year commitment
- Minimum three mentor calls a year
- Program does not guarantee a position at DLA Piper

To apply

To recommend a collegiate student athlete for LEAP, or to apply directly, please contact Rachael Pepper at LEAP@us.dlapiper.com.

About us

DLA Piper is a global law firm with lawyers located in more than 40 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific, positioning us to help clients with their legal needs around the world.

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT NECESSARY. Must be at least 18 years old or the age of majority in state of residence (whichever is greater), enrolled as 3rd+ year of undergraduate studies at accredited college or university, have min. 3.2 GPA, and have participated in at least 2 years of a competitive intercollegiate athletic program offered by an accredited college or university to participate. To participate, complete and submit the online form, resume, personal statement, unofficial school transcript and 2 letters of recommendation between 10/1/2024 and 12/2/2024. Ten recipients will each receive a \$1000 undergraduate scholarship, a \$5000 law school scholarship towards a law school of the applicant's choosing, and up to 4 years of mentoring (ARV \$6000). Odds of being selected for a scholarship depend on the number of eligible submissions received. Sponsor: DLA Piper LLP (US). Full terms available at <https://www.dlapiper.com/en-us/about-us/legal-elite-athlete-pipeline/leap-terms-page>. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

The LEAP Scholarship Program is a continuing scholarship program sponsored by DLA Piper LLP (US), which is not an athletic association, team, or organization that conducts athletics. DLA Piper LLP (US) has no direct connection or affiliation with any particular university or college. Scholarship Recipients are free to select any ABA-accredited US law school. Scholarships are not awarded based upon, nor contingent upon, the applicant's or Scholarship Recipient's athletic performance or abilities.