



The ABAS Law Foundation
Asian Bar Association of Sacramento Law Foundation
A 501(c)(3) Educational and Charitable Corporation
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THE ABAS LAW FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2026

Thank you for your interest in the ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship Program. This document provides all of the information an applicant needs about the scholarship program, how to apply, and how to seek additional information if necessary.

The deadline for applications submission is **Friday, January 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The ABAS Law Foundation has been awarding law scholarships since soon after it was established in 1997 as an Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) educational and charitable nonprofit organization. The Foundation awards scholarships to recognize law students and recent law school graduates who possess extraordinary skills, desire, and potential to serve and lead the greater Sacramento area Asian Pacific Islander community.

The Foundation funds its scholarship program through its annual fall Golf Tournament, some of the educational programs in its Speaker Series, and generous giving from community leaders.

The Foundation anticipates awarding between \$15,000 and \$25,000 in scholarships each year depending on the number of awardees. The Foundation typically presents the scholarship awards at a reception and posts information about the recipients on its website. Some of the scholarships awarded by the Foundation seek to recognize individuals committed to specific areas of legal practice or issues impacting the Asian-Pacific Islander (“API”) community. These scholarships include:

- The Araki-Isenberg Scholarship for individuals dedicated to API activism and with demonstrated financial need.
- Alexandria Jo Award by Chuck Pacheco for individuals committed to criminal justice.
- Yoshinori H. Toso Himel Scholarship for Social Justice for individuals committed to social and economic justice within the API community.

Other scholarships will also be awarded recognizing those who have demonstrated a commitment to serve and lead the API community.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for a scholarship, you must either:

- (i) be currently enrolled and in good standing at a Sacramento area law school (Lincoln, McGeorge or UC Davis); or
- (ii) currently reside in the Sacramento area and have recently graduated from law school in 2025.

All students are welcome to apply regardless of race, gender, or other protected characteristics.

CRITERIA

The Foundation awards scholarships based on the following criteria:

- (i) potential for community service and leadership in the API community;
- (ii) academic achievement; and
- (iii) financial need.

Generally, community service and leadership potential are accorded great weight and can be shown in various ways, including past activities serving API or other communities and current involvement with API organizations. But some scholarships are more heavily weighted on terms of financial need than others. You can show financial need in various ways, such as your academic year budget, eligibility for financial aid from your school, or lack of other financial support for school-related expenses.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

You must submit all of the following information and materials **in a single PDF file** labeled with your name and the year of the scholarship (e.g. “Katee Lee 2026 ABASLF scholarship”):

- a. Eligibility evidence. A copy of your current law school registration or law school diploma, as applicable, will suffice.
- b. A personal statement, not to exceed three double-spaced pages in length. This statement must include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number. You must sign and date your statement. Your statement may contain any relevant information to give context to your application. Generally, the Foundation's Scholarship Committee is most interested in employment experience and ambitions, community and campus activities, and life experiences. If you feel you have overcome any form of hardship (financial, educational, physical, etc.), you are encouraged to discuss the experience in your statement. Feel free to be creative and innovative in your approach to the personal statement.
- c. Current résumé.

- d. Current law school transcripts (either official or unofficial).
- e. If you believe that you are in financial need: Financial information, including, at minimum, an itemization of financial resources (including other scholarships received) and expenses for the nine-month academic period.
- f. One or more references, including each reference's name and contact information, and a brief description of your relationship with each reference.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

The Scholarship Committee will evaluate each scholarship application package and select the scholarship recipients in its sole discretion, bound only by the purposes of the scholarship program and scholarship criteria. To facilitate the decision-making process, the Scholarship Committee may, in its discretion, require a personal interview with any or all scholarship applicants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please submit your application materials via e-mail no later than **Friday, January 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** to scholarships@abaslawfoundation.org. Application materials submitted after the deadline may be considered at the discretion of the Scholarship Chair(s).

QUESTIONS

All questions may be sent to the ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair, Tim Yeung, at scholarships@abaslawfoundation.org. You must include a reference to the 2026 ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship in the title of the e-mail message. To ensure fairness to all applicants, a copy of your question (without identifying you as the source), together with the Scholarship Chair's written response, may be disseminated to all scholarship applicants.

Again, thank you for your interest in the ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship Program. We look forward to receiving your application and learning more about you.

