



FROM THE SPORTS ARENA TO THE LEGAL FIELD — TAKE THE LEAP

# Legal Elite Athlete Pipeline (LEAP)

A DLA Piper program for collegiate student-athletes pursuing law

## From athletics to law: A clear path forward

The Legal Elite Athlete Pipeline (LEAP) program is designed for exceptional collegiate student-athletes who aspire to a legal career after graduation. We believe the discipline, focus, resilience, and leadership developed through athletics are the very qualities that make great lawyers. LEAP is about unlocking potential – supporting talented student-athletes who may not have otherwise considered law school.

## The program

Each year, DLA Piper selects a cohort of LEAP Scholars to receive comprehensive, personalized support on their path to law school – including one-on-one attorney mentorship and exclusive programming focused on career exploration and development.

Scholars receive funding to be used for LSAT prep courses, test fees, law school application costs, and tuition. But LEAP is more than funding. It is a launchpad to the legal profession, offering the tools, confidence, and connections to succeed in law school – and beyond.

## What LEAP scholars receive

### Mentoring and a professional network

- One-on-one mentorship from DLA Piper attorneys
- A career discussion with Americas Chair Frank Ryan

### Career support and development

- Access to DLA Piper’s Professional Development, Career Opportunities, and Recruiting teams, who assist with:
  - Law school application personal statements,
  - Resume development, and
  - Interview preparation
- Professional coaching sessions to help you clarify goals, strengthen communication skills, and prepare for the transition to law school.

### Scholarship funds

- \$6,000 to use toward law school expenses, including for an LSAT prep course, application fees, and tuition.
- The first payment of \$1,000 will be delivered at the start of the program, and the second payment of \$5,000 will be delivered once you have enrolled in an American Bar Association (ABA)-accredited law school.

### Virtual seminars

- “What you need to know before law school”
- “Financial aid – the dollars and cents of law school”
- “Artificial intelligence and the future of law”
- “Pro bono work and professional responsibility”
- “Navigating summer employment opportunities”



## The application

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Each candidate will complete an online application that includes a personal statement, academic transcript, and online recommendation.

Applicants will be subject to background checks.

**Applications will be accepted from September 2, 2025 to November 4, 2025.**

## Eligibility

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Candidates must:

- Be 18 years old or the age of majority in their state of residence (whichever is greater)
- Have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies at an accredited United States college or university
- Have participated in an accredited college's or university's competitive intercollegiate athletic program for at least two years
- Have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- Plan to enroll in an LSAT prep course or apply to an ABA-accredited law school within one year of finishing the scholarship program

## Commitment

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- The program lasts one year
- There is a minimum of three mentor calls per year
- The program does not guarantee a position at DLA Piper

## Your next chapter starts here: How to apply

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To apply directly, please go to <http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/dlapiper>. For more information on LEAP, or to recommend a collegiate student-athlete, please email [AshleyHughes.Austin@us.dlapiper.com](mailto:AshleyHughes.Austin@us.dlapiper.com).



## About us

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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 companies with their legal needs around the world.

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