Financial Aid for Applications and Law School

It is intended that financial hardships should not prohibit a student from the potential of practicing law. There are many scholarships and grants available for LSAT prep courses, LSAT, the application process, and ultimately, law school.

The Law School Admissions Council dedicates funds through its Fee Waiver Program to support law school access for all applicants regardless of their ability to pay for the LSAT and other fees. To be considered for a fee waiver, the applicant must be a U.S. or Canadian citizen, a U.S. national, or a permanent resident alien of the U.S. with an Alien Registration Card. Fee waivers are intended for only the neediest applicants.

The LSAT fee waiver form must be submitted to LSAC by the candidate, together with the registration form and copies of current federal tax or LSAT nonfiler forms. The packet of forms and deadline information can be found at: www.LSAC.org.

Candidates may also apply for a fee waiver through a law school. Law schools are not bound by LSAC fee waiver deadlines or by the financial eligibility restrictions, although they may elect to apply a similar standard to determine eligibility. When requesting a fee waiver from a law school, students must allow ample time for processing and returning the form to meet the registration deadlines in order to avoid paying the late registration fees.

Many law schools also offer waivers for their application fees. Please contact the individual school for more information regarding deadlines and procedures.

According to U.S. NEWS, "while the top three law schools, Harvard, Stanford, and Yale, generally do not offer very significant merit-based aid, other top schools offer valuable grants ranging from about $10,000 a year to full scholarships." The first and most important step in acquiring financial assistance is to fill out and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Most other grants and scholarships are dependent on the information submitted on the FAFSA form. The form can be submitted online at: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/

There are several other websites that offer scholarships and grants: www.finaid.org, www.fastweb.com, www.college-scholarships.com, www.salliemae.com, and www.theoldschool.org, www.collegeboard.com, www.collegenet.com, www.accessgroup.org, www.scholarsite.com, scholarships.fatomei.com, cgsnet.org, gradschool.cornell.edu, fellowships.ssrc.org, gdnet.ucla.edu, sciencecareers.sciencemag.org, lib.msu.edu