

2018 Diversity Scholarship

Vedder Price recognizes the importance of diversity and inclusion at our firm. Our Diversity Committee ensures that efforts to promote and enhance diversity and a culture of inclusiveness at Vedder Price are a top priority. We established the Vedder Price Diversity Scholarship in 2005 to further our commitment to recruiting talented diverse students. This Scholarship provides a \$5,000 monetary award for law school-related expenses and a guaranteed summer associate position in our Summer Associate Program after the scholarship recipient's first year of law school.

The Scholarship has been traditionally offered in our Chicago office, and we are pleased to announce that we are adding a Scholarship position in our New York office for the Summer of 2018.

To be eligible, you must be a first-year law student who is a student of color, LGBT, a person with a disability or a person whose background or experience would otherwise contribute to the diversity of Vedder Price and the legal profession.

Chicago Scholarship: Applicants for our Chicago position must be enrolled in one of the following law schools: Chicago-Kent, Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame or Washington University in St. Louis. The recipient will have the opportunity to work in our Corporate, Litigation and Labor & Employment practice areas.

New York Scholarship: Applicants for our New York position must be enrolled in one of the following law schools: American, Brooklyn, Cardozo, Columbia, Cornell, Fordham, George Washington, Georgetown, Howard, NYU or St. John's. Please note the 2018 New York position will be Corporate-focused, specifically working with our Global Transportation Finance group.

For more information, please visit vedderprice.com/diversity. Applications will first be accepted in December 2017. We look forward to meeting this year's applicants!



"The experiences offered through Vedder Price's Diversity Scholarship program are invaluable. As a 1L summer associate, I was able to work on a range of projects in various practice areas. Not only did that help me crystallize the concepts I learned throughout my 1L year, but it also allowed me to get a better idea of the substantive content of each department's work. Thanks to my experience at Vedder, I now know which practice area I want to specialize in in the future.

More importantly, as a law student from a diverse background, one of the biggest things I look for in a firm is an open and encouraging atmosphere so that I can improve and grow my legal skillset without feeling encumbered by a need to "win over" a group. The main reason I am returning to Vedder for my 2L summer is because the partners and associates truly project an environment of friendliness, openness and mentorship. With so many summer associate events planned throughout the summer, meeting and building relationships with your colleagues is easy and enjoyable, which makes working and learning from them all the better."

– **Nicholas Vera**, 2017 Diversity Scholar & 2017/2018 Summer Associate, University of Chicago Law School, Class of 2019

Our Summer Associate Program

The Diversity Scholars will participate in the 2018 Summer Associate Program. As a summer associate at Vedder Price, you can expect rapid integration into our firm's practice through substantive work assignments, observation opportunities and training sessions. Our summer associates work alongside senior associates and shareholders, and are quickly immersed in active matters and client meetings. We are looking for students with executive presence and maturity who are ready to jump in!

With a variety of activities, ranging from office-wide events to small-group outings planned by associates, there are plenty of opportunities to get you out of the office and enjoying your summer.



"As a summer associate, I worked on real cases, interacted with clients, built relationships with partners and associates, and gained a deeper understanding of what would be expected of me as a full-time attorney. I was challenged to tackle difficult legal issues and enhance my writing skills. As a result, I became a better student and legal writer. The mentorship I received and the relationships I built made the experience even more worthwhile. I am excited to return

to Vedder Price full-time, and I look forward to growing as a lawyer under the mentors who helped me each summer."

– **Jani Mikel**, 2016 Diversity Scholar & 2016/2017 Summer Associate, University of Illinois College of Law, Class of 2018



"I thoroughly enjoyed my experience as a Diversity Scholar. From the time I met with shareholders during my interview until the time the summer program concluded, I felt welcomed and supported by the firm. I was able to work on meaningful projects and receive direct feedback on my performance. I was also able to get to know my entire summer class, talk to junior and senior associates and work directly with shareholders. The experience overall meant a lot to my development as a future attorney and a member of the Vedder Price family."

– **J. Sterling Williams, IV**, 2014 Diversity Scholar & 2014/2015 Summer Associate, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Class of 2016



"Our goal is to select diverse, bright and talented students for our Summer Associate Program who we believe can be a successful part of our team, not just for 10 weeks in the summer, but long-term. Our program is designed to give summer associates a true sense of life at the Firm, through mentoring and shadowing opportunities, training sessions, social and community experiences, and substantive assignments that are similar to those given to

junior associates, so that by the end of the summer, each summer associate can determine whether Vedder Price is the right place to pursue his or her legal career."

– **Michael Waters**, Vedder Price Shareholder and Associate Hiring Committee Chair

As part of our efforts to promote diversity in the legal profession, we have proudly supported the following organizations and events:

Apna Ghar

American Bar Association Commission on Women

Asian American Bar Association

Association of Corporate Counsel Foundation

Association of Muslim American Lawyers

Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms

Chinese American Bar Association

Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law

Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund

Gotham Cares

Hispanic Lawyers Scholarship Fund of Illinois

Illinois Diversity Council

Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession

International Aviation Women's Association

Korean American Bar Association

Lambda Legal

Licensing Executives Society (LES) Women in Licensing Committee

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Northwestern University Global Village

Project Fierce

South Asian Bar Association

University of Illinois Black Law Students Association

University of Illinois Latino/Latina Law Students Association

Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia

Women's Bar Association of Illinois

Women's Bar Association Foundation

Women Employed

YMCA of San Francisco