

## 2023 SAIL Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

### **About the Scholarship:**

Q What kind of scholarship is this?

*The SAIL Scholarship program provides a grant of \$7,500, payable in two annual installments, to one or more rising second-year law students to help fund their educational expenses. First awarded in 2020, SAIL Scholarships are intended to support law students who demonstrate outstanding professional promise and leadership potential. The scholarship is administered with the assistance of the NAPABA Law Foundation (NLF).*

Q: What makes this scholarship program unique?

*The SAIL Scholarship provides not only financial support\* for law school, but also includes an on-going program of mentoring, networking, support and leadership development for its recipients. SAIL Scholars have the opportunity to receive regular mentoring sessions with the program sponsors during their time in law school; network with other SAIL Scholars and other leaders in NAPABA; and benefit from support and leadership development later in their careers.*

*\*For those interested in the mentoring, networking, support and leadership development portion of the scholarship, but have the capability to finance their law school tuition and expenses, please consider ‘paying it forward’ by declining the monetary portion, if selected as a SAIL Scholar.*

Q: Is this a “public interest” scholarship?

*Yes and no. SAIL Scholars have a strong interest in and commitment to public service. Some or even many of them may become full-time public interest lawyers, but others may choose to pursue careers primarily in the private sector or in government. The key attributes of SAIL Scholars and the SAIL Scholarship program are leadership and the concept of “giving back” to the legal profession and to the community. SAIL Scholars are encouraged to use their talents and gifts to “pay it forward.”*

Q: Who is eligible, and how often is it awarded?

*At the time they apply, applicants must be first year law students enrolled full or part-time in an ABA-accredited J.D. program in the United States. Applicants typically apply during the end of the spring semester of their first year; selections are made annually during the summer between an applicant’s first and second years of law school. NLF and the SAIL Scholarship Selection Committee may decline to award any scholarships in any given year.*

Q. What is the application deadline and process?

*The application deadline for 2023 SAIL Scholarships is **June 30, 2023**. Applicants must submit all application materials online via the NLF website by the deadline. Detailed instructions and a list of required materials appear on the application portal.*

Q: When and how will applicants be notified whether they have been awarded a SAIL Scholarship?

*The SAIL awardee(s) will be notified with a phone call and follow-up email on or about August 1<sup>st</sup>. All other applicants will be notified via email as close to the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline as possible.*

Q. What does it mean to “pay it forward”?

*“Paying it forward” in the context of the SAIL Scholarship program means that just as others give of their time, effort and resources to develop and help our SAIL Scholars, so too SAIL Scholars should commit to reach back and help others coming along behind them and those around them. We all benefit when we give to each other. Giving can take many forms – mentoring and coaching others, sharing job or other opportunities or simply being a sounding board or trusted listener – there is no one formula for paying it forward. If a SAIL Scholar wishes to express gratitude by making it possible for the program to continue to benefit future SAIL Scholars, “paying it forward” could include mentoring future SAIL Scholars as well as contributing financially to the SAIL program (or any other similar charitable cause). But such contributions are not expected.*

#### **About the Application Process:**

Q: How do I submit an application?

*Please visit the SAIL Scholarship application portal at the NLF website and upload each of the required items by the June 30, 2023 deadline. These items will include your undergraduate, first-year law school and any other graduate school transcripts; your resume or c.v.; two letters of recommendation; and a personal essay of no more than 500 words. If your recommendation letters are being submitted directly by your recommenders, please check the status of your application to ensure all your application materials have been submitted on time.*

Q: What kinds of recommendations are most helpful?

*We suggest that your two letters of recommendation come from two individuals who know you well, at least one of whom can write about your legal academic abilities and potential. As a result, at least one of your two recommenders should preferably be one of your law school professors. Another recommender may be someone who has worked with you in a job or other workplace setting. Recommendations from an undergraduate professor can be helpful as a second reference, but only if the professor has worked with you closely and for more than a year or two. What is important is that your letters of recommendation speak, as a whole, to your intellectual abilities, academic achievements, leadership experience and potential, commitment to community service, personal qualities and professional promise.*

Q: What should the personal essay be about?

*Be authentic. Give us a view into the person you are today, and perhaps where you'd like to go in the future. Share your struggles and triumphs. Share the lessons you've learned. What is your life purpose, and how did you come to that purpose? Again, be authentic. We want to hear your voice.*

**Other:**

Q: Who are Sharon and Ivan? Why did they establish the SAIL Program? Why is it structured as a leadership program?

*Sharon and Ivan grew up with modest means. Sharon vividly recalls arriving in the States as a 5-year-old "fresh off the boat." She and her family arrived from the Philippines on a freighter ship and eventually settled in a rural area of upstate New York. While still in elementary school, she delivered newspapers after school, mowed lawns, and, during summer months, sold made-to-order egg rolls and wontons. As a scholarship student, Sharon attended a private boarding school in high school; a challenging, yet growing, experience for her. It was during college that she met Ivan.*

*Ivan is the son of immigrant parents who settled in the Washington, DC suburbs to raise a family. Because his parents are both scientists, and because he liked math and science in high school, he naturally gravitated toward engineering in college. Inspired by the suggestion of a favorite college professor, Ivan applied to law school, even though he was already on a path toward a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Law school and the legal profession was totally foreign to him; he knew no lawyers growing up, and to this day, no one in his extended family is a lawyer.*

*During Sharon and Ivan's career journeys, there were very few APIA role models at higher levels; their families, as immigrants, also didn't have an established network of friends and peers who could be a source of wisdom and advice, particularly in the field of law.*

*More than anything, Sharon and Ivan believe sincerely that they have been blessed with much, not the least of which is each other, their daughters and their partners, their 4-legged companions, and close friends spread across the US and world. Throughout their adult lives, Sharon and Ivan have been active volunteers — Ivan on a more national level, Sharon on a local, community one. They have a deep faith that they have been called to their work, and they continually return to their guiding principle "to whom much is given, much is expected."*

*Recognizing that they had few APIA role models or mentors when they were young, Sharon and Ivan established the SAIL Program as more than a financial contribution to a Scholar's law school tuition. It is a leadership program to help a SAIL Scholar's upward trajectory. Just as a boat's sails need wind to propel it forward, the SAIL Program is the "wind" behind a SAIL Scholar, the jump start needed early on and, as the program grows, a network of peers supporting each other and becoming the "wind" behind others in need of support.*

Q: May I contact prior SAIL Scholars to learn more?

*Yes! You may contact the 2020, 2021 and 2022 SAIL Scholars via LinkedIn. The SAIL Scholars are listed on the NLF website.*