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PLSI 3L Bar Support Fellowship Application Guidelines 2025-2026

With the generous support of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), PLSI is offering a bar support scholarship to help with the expenses related to taking a state bar examination. This pilot project is limited to PLSI alumni, and its purpose is to relieve the financial strain of the bar exam and minimize the need to work during this critical time of seeking a professional license. We require that each fellowship recipient provide their bar results, scores, and final transcript with degree posted within the times prescribed. If you cannot commit to providing your final transcript and bar exam scores within the required time frames, **DO NOT APPLY**.

We hope to offer **up to \$5000** per bar examinee depending on expenses per examinee and the number of applications. We will withhold \$500 until you submit your final transcript with your degree posted and your bar exam scores. **Bar review course reimbursements are separate and require a separate application. You can apply for both.**

Please remember that AILC needs to collect data and show the results of this significant amount of funding. Your participation could mean additional funding for PLSI and for non-PLSI Native bar examinees.

Eligible Applicants

Must meet **all** eligibility requirements:

- Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI) alumnus/alumna
- Member of a federally recognized tribe, or 1st descendant of a member
- Graduating in December 2025, May 2026, or December 2026 with a J.D. from an ABA accredited law school
- Scheduled to take a state bar exam within one year of completing law school or a post-graduate law fellowship
- Demonstrated need (not through an FNF or through your financial aid office, but through our application process, see below)

Required Documents – all documents must be in PDF or word format

1. Completed PLSI 3L Bar Support Scholarship Application (Incomplete applications will not be processed. If you have questions regarding the form, contact the AILC before submitting your application.) **Your original signature is required to attest that you will not work during the bar prep period before the exam.**
2. Proof of claimed bar study related expenses for the period engaged in bar study (approximately 2.5 months).

YOU CAN USE EITHER METHOD OF ESTIMATING EXPENSES, 2A OR 2B.

2A. Cost of Living calculator

You can use the cost-of-living calculator at <https://livingwage.mit.edu> for where you will be living (county and state) while studying for the bar. Circle or mark your monthly estimated expenses and provide the total for 2.5 months. Add additional costs specific to the bar examination such as the application fees, laptop registration, travel and accommodations expenses, and character and fitness fees. List the additional costs (a word document is acceptable) and submit supporting documentation in the portal provided in the application. Provide the total in the space provided on the application.

Your expenses will likely go over the total amount that we can provide per student. Please submit the actual amounts and documentation even though you won't receive more than the cap. This will help us to request additional funding for future students!!

OR

2B. Estimated Expenses – requires worksheet provided with these guidelines

If you want to use estimated expenses, gather your receipts and documentation to support your claimed expenses. Use the worksheet provided at the end of the guidelines.

Acceptable expenses include but are not limited to:

- Reasonable rent, lease, or mortgage expenses
- Reasonable utilities
- Reasonable transportation expenses
- Bar exam application and registration fees
- Bar exam laptop registration fees
- Character and fitness application fees and fingerprint fees
- Supported estimates of reasonable costs of travel and accommodations to sit for the bar examination. Supporting documentation should comply with federal per diem rates for the bar examination city.
- Documentation of reasonable day care costs for any dependents requiring day care while you study

- Documentation of the reasonable costs to feed yourself and any dependents during the bar study period (this is not a per diem rate and should not include the cost to eat out)
 - USE THE WORKSHEET at the end of the guidelines.
 - Submit all supporting documents in the portal.
3. Law school transcript from your law school and with you identified as the student. You must submit your official final transcript with your degree posted as soon as it is available. You need your final transcript to sit for the bar examination, so you should be able to send it before the examination. Upload your current transcript in the portal and send your final official transcript when it is available to ailcinfo@law.unm.edu.
 4. Proof of membership in a federally recognized tribe or proof of 1st descendant of a member.
 5. Proof of Bar Exam registration.
 6. Bar Examiner Score Report (with MBE, MEE, and MPT scores) within 30 days of receiving bar exam results. Submit it to ailcinfo@law.unm.edu.

Apply separately for a bar review course reimbursement. Submit a separate application available on the AILC website. Read the guidelines before submitting your application for the bar review course reimbursement. We will reimburse up to \$3000. <https://www.ailc-inc.org/native-american-bar-passage-initiative/>

Applicant Responsibilities

- Applicants must submit all required documents to prove they have financial need.
- Applicants must certify that the application materials accurately demonstrate their need and that they will not work during bar study.
- Applicants must report any other bar scholarships, stipends, and support (not loans) received for the purpose of relieving bar examination financial strain. We will deduct that amount from the final award.
- Applicants who receive a fellowship agree to inform AILC staff of the results and must submit the Bar Examiners Score Report, including, MEE, MBE, and MPT scores, where applicable, within 30 days of receiving the results.
- Applicants who receive a fellowship must submit their final official transcripts with degree posted.
- Anyone who does not take a scheduled bar exam as indicated on the application form must notify AILC staff at the time of exam deferral with the reason for deferral and the rescheduled date of the exam. Withdrawals from an exam, with no deferral, need to be reported to AILC and the fellowship recipient must repay the entire award.

Application Submission

Submit your application and supporting documents by May 15, 2026, to the online portal in the application.

- **You must name your files in the following format so we can find your documents:
last name.first name.document name.pdf**
- **All submitted documents must be in PDF format.**

For more information, email jbrynildsen@ailc-in.org or caveparnell@law.unm.edu.

PLSI 3L BAR SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP WORKSHEET

WORKSHEET FOR 2B method of estimating expenses – submit the worksheet and all supporting documents in the application portal.

<p>List of Reasonable Expenses – remember that we must justify these expenses to BIE, so provide enough detail to explain the expenses and provide supporting documentation or receipts. *Important to note* this scholarship is for reasonable living expenses incurred during the bar prep period.</p> <p>County and State of Bar Study:</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>TOTAL per expense category</p>
<p>a. Reasonable rent, lease, or mortgage expenses (attach documentation) Per month: _____ Explain:</p>	<p>Total rent or mortgage for the bar study period \$</p>
<p>b. Reasonable utilities (attach documentation) Specify each type, and provide cost per month:</p>	<p>Total utilities for the bar study period \$</p>
<p>c. Reasonable local transportation expenses per month _____ Specify the type of transportation and cost below (bus pass? Gas for car to get to the library, daycare?) (attach documentation):</p>	<p>Total transportation expenses for the bar study period \$</p>
<p>d. Bar exam application and registration fees (attach receipts) Itemize the fees:</p>	<p>Total bar exam application and registration fees \$</p>

<p>e. Bar exam laptop registration fees (attach receipts)</p>	<p>Total bar exam laptop registration fees \$</p>
<p>f. Character and fitness application fees and fingerprint fees (attach receipts)</p> <p>(Please indicate if this expense is already included in the bar exam application fees)</p>	<p>Total character and fitness application and fingerprint fees \$</p>
<p>g. Supported estimates of reasonable costs of travel and accommodations to sit for the bar examination. Supporting documentation should comply with federal per diem rates for the bar examination city. (attach documentation)</p> <p>Itemize costs and amounts below:</p>	<p>Total costs of travel and accommodations to sit for the bar examination in _____ (jurisdiction) \$</p>
<p>h. Estimated reasonable costs to live in the location where you are studying for the bar (food, clothing, reasonable miscellaneous necessities) (this is not a per diem rate and should not include the cost to eat out) (attach documentation to support your estimate)</p>	<p>Estimated costs for food and necessary miscellaneous items for the bar study period \$</p>
<p>i. Other expense:</p>	