



Attendee STRATEGY GUIDE

*Prepare with intention, connect with confidence, ask stronger questions,
take meaningful notes, and leave the Summit with a clear plan for success.*

2026 EDITION

www.hbcuprelawsummit.org

THE NATIONAL HBCU PRE-LAW SUMMIT & LAW EXPO



◆ THE ATTENDEE STRATEGY GUIDE

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Make the Most of This Guide

- ◆ Bring it to every session and the Law Expo.
- ◆ Write in it — questions, names, and next steps.
- ◆ Review your notes and act within 48 hours.



◆ SECTION 01

How to Use This Guide

Welcome to the National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo.

This guide was created to help you approach the Summit with purpose. Use it before, during, and after the event to prepare your questions, identify law schools and speakers you want to meet, take useful notes, and create a clear action plan for your law school journey.

| *This is more than a notebook. It is a strategy tool.*

Before the Summit

Prepare your questions. Research law schools. Review speaker bios. Think carefully about what you want to learn, who you want to meet, and what support you need at this stage of your journey.

During the Summit

Take notes. Ask thoughtful questions. Introduce yourself. Collect contact information. Make meaningful connections. Pay attention to the advice, resources, and opportunities that can help you move forward.

After the Summit

Review your notes. Follow up with the people you met. Organize your next steps. Take specific action that moves you closer to law school admission and long-term legal career success.

Come prepared. Stay open. Take notes. Ask questions. Follow up. Take action.



◆ SECTION 02

Summit Success Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare before you arrive and to stay focused during the Summit.

Before the Summit

- ☐ I reviewed the Summit agenda.
- ☐ I identified the sessions, panels, or activities I most want to attend.
- ☐ I reviewed the list of law schools, programs, organizations, or exhibitors participating in the Law Expo.
- ☐ I selected at least five law schools, programs, or organizations I want to visit.
- ☐ I prepared my top questions about law school admissions.
- ☐ I prepared my top questions about the LSAT.
- ☐ I prepared my top questions about financial aid, scholarships, student loans, and debt management.
- ☐ I prepared my top questions about legal careers.
- ☐ I reviewed speaker, panelist, presenter, or honoree bios.
- ☐ I identified speakers, panelists, presenters, or guests I would like to meet.
- ☐ I prepared or updated my résumé, if I have one.
- ☐ I prepared contact cards, a digital contact card, LinkedIn profile, or other professional contact information.
- ☐ I planned what I will wear so that I feel confident, comfortable, and professional.

During the Summit

- ☐ I introduced myself to at least three new people.
- ☐ I asked at least one thoughtful question.
- ☐ I visited law schools, programs, or organizations I had not previously considered.
- ☐ I took notes during sessions.
- ☐ I wrote down follow-up contacts.
- ☐ I identified at least three action items to complete after the Summit.

After the Summit

- ☐ I reviewed my notes.
- ☐ I sent thank-you or follow-up messages.
- ☐ I connected with key people on LinkedIn.
- ☐ I organized my action items by priority.



☐ I began working on my top three next steps.



◆ SECTION 03

Key Things to Consider Before Attending the Event

Items to Bring

1. Pens

You will likely do a lot of writing during the Summit, so bring a few pens you enjoy using. You may also want to bring a different colored pen specifically for new ideas, important reminders, or action items you want to implement after the event.

One idea, one answer, or one connection can make a meaningful difference in your law school journey. Be ready to write it down.

2. Contact Cards or Digital Contact Information

We encourage active networking throughout the Summit. If possible, bring contact cards to exchange with people you meet. If you are a student, your card can simply include your name, school, major, phone number, email address, and LinkedIn profile.

You may also use a digital business card, LinkedIn profile, or a note saved in your phone with your contact information.

The goal is to make it easy for people to stay connected with you. Avoid relying only on scraps of paper or memory. Be prepared to share your information in a professional way.

3. Résumé

Bring several copies of your résumé if you have one. It does not have to be perfect. Your résumé gives law school representatives, attorneys, mentors, and advisors a quick snapshot of your background, interests, leadership, service, work experience, and goals.

If you do not have a résumé yet, do not let that stop you from attending or participating. Use the Summit as motivation to create or update one after the event.

4. An Open and Inquisitive Mind

Come ready to learn, listen, ask questions, and receive new information.

The Summit is designed to provide important information, inspiration, resources, and connections in a positive and supportive environment. Even if you have already done research, remember that people are powerful resources. You can learn from their experiences, mistakes, strategies, encouragement, and advice.

Approach the Summit with a teachable spirit. Be open to hearing perspectives different from your own. One piece of information can change how you approach the law school admissions process, the LSAT, financial aid, networking, or your career goals.

5. A Positive and Professional Attitude

Come prepared to contribute to a positive, respectful, and supportive environment.



If you are feeling nervous, tired, or overwhelmed, take a moment to breathe, regroup, and return ready to engage. We want every attendee, volunteer, speaker, panelist, law school representative, and guest to be treated with kindness, dignity, warmth, and respect.

You never know who someone is, what they know, or who they may be able to connect you with. Treat everyone with respect. Be friendly. Be professional. Be open to opportunity.

Come determined to make the most of the experience.

With encouragement and support,

Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M.

Founder

National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo



◆ SECTION 04

Questions to Prepare Before the Summit

Think carefully about the questions you want answered during the Summit. The more prepared you are, the more value you will receive.

Please identify your top questions in each category below. You may also email your questions to info@hbcuprelawsummit.org so they can be shared with speakers, panelists, or presenters.

HBCU Law Schools

Questions to consider:

- What makes each HBCU law school unique?
- What type of student thrives at an HBCU law school?
- What should applicants know before applying?

My top questions:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Law School Admissions

Questions to consider:

- What makes a law school application stand out?
- How important are the LSAT and GPA?
- How should I address academic challenges or gaps in my application?

My top questions:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

LSAT Success Strategies

Questions to consider:

- When should I start studying for the LSAT?
- How many times should I take the LSAT?
- What should I do if my score is not where I want it to be?

My top questions:



- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Financial Aid, Scholarships, Student Loans, and Debt Management

Questions to consider:

- How do I compare scholarship offers?
- What questions should I ask before accepting student loans?
- How can I reduce the cost of attending law school?

My top questions:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Career Advice

Questions to consider:

- What can I do now to prepare for a legal career?
- How do I find mentors, internships, and legal work experience?
- What should I know about different legal career paths?

My top questions:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-



◆ SECTION 05

Law Expo Strategy Page

The Law Expo is one of the most important opportunities you will have during the Summit. Use this page to think strategically about the law schools, programs, organizations, and representatives you want to meet.

Do some research before the event so you can ask questions that are not easily answered on a website. Be sure to keep an open mind. Visit schools and organizations you already know, but also make time to speak with representatives from schools, programs, and organizations you have not considered before.

You never know what information, opportunity, scholarship, program, or connection you may discover.

Law Schools, Programs, and Organizations I Want to Visit

# School, Program, or Organization	Why I Want to Visit	Questions I Want to Ask	Follow-Up Contact
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Questions to Ask Law School Representatives

Consider asking:



- 1.** What qualities do you look for in successful applicants?
- 2.** What advice would you give someone preparing to apply to your law school?
- 3.** What scholarships, fellowships, or financial aid opportunities are available?
- 4.** What pipeline, pre-law, summer, or student support programs does your law school offer?
- 5.** What should students know about your law school's culture and student support?
- 6.** How does your law school support first-generation law students?
- 7.** What are common mistakes applicants should avoid?
- 8.** What is the best way to stay connected with your admissions office after the event?



◆ SECTION 06

Speakers, Panelists, and Presenters I Want to Meet

Before attending the Summit, review the bios of the featured speakers, panelists, presenters, honorees, and special guests.

They may have attended a school you are interested in, worked in a legal field you want to enter, overcome challenges similar to your own, or built a career path that inspires you. Learning about them in advance will help you approach them with thoughtful questions and genuine interest.

# Speaker / Panelist / Presenter	Why I Want to Meet Them	Question I Want to Ask
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Simple Introduction You Can Use

Hello, my name is _____. I am a student or graduate of _____, and I am interested in law school because _____. I really appreciated what you shared about _____. May I ask you a quick question?



LinkedIn Follow-Up Reminder

After meeting a speaker, panelist, presenter, attorney, judge, law student, law school representative, or other professional, consider connecting on LinkedIn with a short personal note.

Example:

Thank you for speaking with me at the National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo. I appreciated your advice about _____. I would be honored to stay connected.



◆ SECTION 07

During the Event

Use this guide actively during the Summit. Do not simply listen. Take notes, ask questions, meet people, and identify what you need to do next.

During the Summit, Remember To:

1. Take clear notes during every session you attend.
2. Write down new questions as they come to mind.
3. Do not leave without trying to get your most important questions answered.
4. Participate in networking opportunities with a genuine interest in others.
5. Exchange contact information with people you would like to stay connected with.
6. Focus on meaningful connections, not just collecting names, cards, or social media contacts.
7. Pay attention to advice that challenges, encourages, or redirects you.
8. Identify specific action items you can implement immediately after the event.
9. Be respectful of speakers, volunteers, law school representatives, sponsors, and fellow attendees.
10. Stay open to unexpected opportunities.

Networking Reminder

Making connections is one of the greatest benefits of attending a live event. The people you meet may become mentors, accountability partners, recommenders, classmates, colleagues, employers, or lifelong friends.

Do not approach networking only by asking, “What can this person do for me?”

Instead, focus on building genuine relationships. Listen. Ask thoughtful questions. Follow up. Look for ways to contribute, support, and stay connected.



◆ SECTION 08

Action Items

What have you learned during the Summit that you need to act on right away?

Use this page to identify specific steps that will help you move closer to your goal of gaining admission to law school and building a successful legal career.

Examples:

- Research LSAT preparation options.
- Create or revise my résumé.
- Schedule a meeting with a pre-law advisor.
- Follow up with law school representatives.
- Research scholarship opportunities.
- Join a pre-law organization.
- Build a law school application timeline.
- Connect with a mentor.
- Review admissions requirements for schools of interest.
- Begin drafting my personal statement.

My Action Items

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.
-

My Top Three Priorities

Of the action items above, these are the three I will commit to completing first:



1.

2.

3.

Deadline for Completing These First Three Action Items

Date:



◆ SECTION 09

After the Event

The Summit does not end when the final session ends. The real value comes from what you do with the information, inspiration, and connections you gained.

Within 48 Hours After the Summit

1. Review your notes while the information is still fresh.
2. Type or organize any handwritten notes you want to save.
3. Identify your most important takeaways.
4. Send thank-you messages to people who personally helped, encouraged, advised, or inspired you.
5. Connect with speakers, law school representatives, attorneys, judges, law students, and fellow aspiring lawyers on LinkedIn.
6. Save contact information for people you want to stay connected with.
7. Update your action items and assign deadlines.

Within One Week After the Summit

1. Begin working on your top three action items.
2. Research the law schools, programs, scholarships, or resources you learned about.
3. Schedule meetings with advisors, mentors, professors, or recommenders if needed.
4. Update or create your résumé.
5. Begin or revise your law school application timeline.
6. Follow up with any law school representatives who invited you to stay in touch.
7. Share your Summit experience with other aspiring lawyers who may benefit from attending in the future.

Stay Connected

Make a commitment to stay connected with other future lawyers you met during the Summit. These relationships can become meaningful accountability partnerships, friendships, and professional connections.

Also stay connected with law students, lawyers, judges, professors, admissions professionals, and speakers you met. Build rapport before asking for help. Show genuine interest in their work and journey.

■ *A simple message can open the door to a meaningful relationship.*



Give Back

If the Summit helped you, consider giving back in some way. Share the event with others. Volunteer in the future. Encourage another student. Support the mission with your time, talent, resources, or testimony.

The more we share this opportunity, the more attendees we can reach, encourage, and support.



◆ SECTION 10

Follow-Up Message Templates

Use these templates as a starting point. Personalize each message so it reflects your own voice and the conversation you had.

Thank-You Message to a Speaker or Panelist

Dear _____,

Thank you for sharing your time, insight, and encouragement during the National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo. I especially appreciated what you shared about _____.

Your words helped me think more deeply about _____, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from your experience.

Thank you again for investing in aspiring lawyers like me.

Sincerely,

Follow-Up Message to a Law School Representative

Dear _____,

Thank you for speaking with me during the National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo. I appreciated learning more about _____ Law School and your advice regarding _____.

I plan to continue researching your law school and would be grateful to stay connected as I prepare for the application process.

Thank you again for your time and guidance.

Sincerely,

LinkedIn Connection Message

Hello _____,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo. Thank you for sharing your insight about _____. I would be honored to stay connected.

Best,



◆ SECTION 11

Session Notes

Use this page during individual sessions, panels, workshops, keynote talks, or presentations.

Session Title:

Speaker(s):

Date / Time:

Key Takeaways

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
-

New Questions I Have

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

People, Schools, Programs, or Organizations Mentioned

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Resources Mentioned

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-



Action Steps from This Session

- 1.**
 - 2.**
 - 3.**
-



◆ SECTION 12

Law School Conversation Notes

Use this page after speaking with a law school representative.

Law School:

Representative Name:

Representative Contact Information:

What I Learned About This Law School

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Admissions Advice Shared

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Scholarships, Financial Aid, or Special Programs Mentioned

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Reasons This School May Be a Good Fit for Me

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

Follow-Up Needed

- ☐ Send thank-you message.
 - ☐ Research the school further.
-



- ☐ Join mailing list.
- ☐ Attend an information session.
- ☐ Ask about application fee waivers.
- ☐ Ask about scholarships or fellowships.

Other:



◆ SECTION 13

Speaker, Mentor, or Attorney Conversation Notes

Use this page after speaking with a speaker, panelist, attorney, judge, law student, mentor, or other professional.

Name:

Title / Role:

Organization:

Contact Information:

Advice They Shared

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What Inspired or Challenged Me

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How I Can Follow Up

- ☐ Send a thank-you message.
- ☐ Connect on LinkedIn.
- ☐ Ask one thoughtful follow-up question.
- ☐ Share an update after taking action.

Other:



◆ SECTION 14

Personal Reflection Page

Use this page to reflect on what the Summit taught you about yourself, your goals, and your next steps.

What did I learn about law school?

What did I learn about the legal profession?

What did I learn about myself?

What encouraged me?

What challenged me?



What is one thing I now believe is possible?



◆ SECTION 15

My 30-Day Post-Summit Action Plan

Use this page to turn your Summit experience into measurable progress.

In the Next 7 Days, I Will:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

In the Next 14 Days, I Will:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

In the Next 30 Days, I Will:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-

People I Need to Follow Up With

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
-

Resources I Need to Research

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-



My Accountability Partner or Support Person

Name:

Contact Information:

How we will support each other:



◆ SECTION 16

Additional Notes

Use this space for anything else you want to remember — names, ideas, encouragement, deadlines, or next steps.



◆ SECTION 17

Stay Connected With Us

National HBCU Pre-Law Summit

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Website: www.hbcuprelawsummit.org

Follow us online and stay connected for updates, resources, opportunities, and future events.

**You belong in the rooms where your future is
being discussed.**

*Use this Summit to prepare with intention, connect with
confidence, and take the next right step toward law school
and legal leadership.*



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PREPARE • CONNECT • TAKE ACTION

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