NATIONAL HBCU PRE-LAW SUMMIT & LAW EXPO

YOUR STRATEGIC PRE-LAW SUCCESS ROADMAP

PREPARE WITH PURPOSE. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. FOLLOW THROUGH.

You belong in the profession. Build the preparation, judgment, and community to thrive.

Start where you are. Work backward from your intended law-school entry date; revisit this plan monthly.

01 DEFINE YOUR WHY

START NOW

Identify the people and problems you want to serve. Interview lawyers, observe court, and explore different practice settings. Reflect on the daily work and whether a J.D. fits your goals.

Next move: Write your purpose and choose a target entry year.

02 BUILD ACADEMIC STRENGTH

EVERY TERM

Protect your GPA. Choose a challenging major you enjoy; no specific major is required. Strengthen close reading, reasoning, research, writing, and speaking. Use office hours and seek help early.

Next move: Create a weekly study plan and meet your advisor.

03 BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

START NOW + SUSTAIN

Connect with a pre-law advisor, faculty mentor, law student, lawyer, and accountability partner. Explore pipeline programs. Follow up after events, ask specific questions, report progress, and offer help.

Next move: Turn three new contacts into ongoing conversations.

04 PREPARE FOR THE TEST

MONTHS BEFORE APPLYING

Confirm each school's accepted tests. For the LSAT, take an official LawHub diagnostic, schedule practice, and review mistakes. Check fee waivers and accommodation deadlines. Plan for readiness and a possible retake.

Next move: Set a study schedule and a realistic testing window.

05 BUILD A CREDIBLE RECORD

BEFORE APPLICATION SEASON

Choose sustained service, work, or leadership with real responsibility. Paid work and caregiving count. Track impact and lessons learned. Cultivate recommenders who know your work and can give specific examples.

Next move: Update your résumé and save examples of growth.

06 APPLY WITH INTENTION

YOUR APPLICATION CYCLE

Track school and scholarship deadlines. Arrange transcripts and recommendations through LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS). Write authentic, tailored essays; answer disclosures fully. Follow each school's AI rules. Apply early with polished materials when ready.

Next move: Have an advisor review your complete application.

07 CHOOSE FIT + AFFORDABILITY

BEFORE ANY COMMITMENT

Compare ABA disclosures: admissions, attrition, bar passage, and employment. Assess culture, support, and career access. Calculate full-program net cost; check scholarship renewal and loss rates. Confirm current loan limits and terms.

Next move: Compare written offers and identify any funding gap.

08 PREPARE TO THRIVE

BEFORE ENROLLMENT + BEYOND

Plan housing, finances, health care, and support. Use school-approved preparation and academic resources. Practice asking for help. Protect your integrity, honor commitments, and serve others. Adjust after setbacks and keep moving.

Next move: Build a transition plan and a dependable support team.

YOUR NEXT 30 DAYS

WEEK 1

Meet your advisor. Set goals and dates.

WEEK 2

Audit grades, skills, and test readiness.

WEEK 3

Research schools, costs, and pathways.

WEEK 4

Follow up. Review progress. Reset goals.

TRUSTED RESOURCES LSAC: Apply · LSAT: Official Prep · ABA: School Data · AccessLex: Costs + Aid

Guidance checked September 2026. Verify current requirements with each school, LSAC, and financial aid office.

BELONG. PREPARE. CONNECT. SERVE. RISE.

A resource from Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M., Founder & Director

www.hbcuprelawsummit.org