



THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL

National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo 2026

ATTENDEE PLANNING GUIDE

September 24–26, 2026 Raleigh–Durham, North Carolina

North Carolina Central University • Select Triangle Venues

hbcuprelawsummit.org [#hbcuprelawsummit](https://twitter.com/hbcuprelawsummit) **Free Event — All Are Welcome**



An Important Note

This Attendee Planning Guide provides general planning information for Summit attendees.

ROLE-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Separate instructions are sent directly to law school representatives, exhibitors, speakers, panelists, moderators, volunteers, pre-law advisors, materials reviewers, introducers, and other confirmed program participants.

WHAT THOSE COMMUNICATIONS COVER

Arrival times, check-in locations, table setup, shipping, parking, room assignments, speaker preparation, volunteer and advising assignments, and other event logistics.

Stay updated hbcuprelawsummit.org • info@hbcuprelawsummit.org

Your Guide at a Glance



The Summit

Dates, locations, schedule & who attends



Speakers

Keynotes, guests, deans & honorees



Stay & Travel

Hotels, roommates, airport & getting around



Campus & Tours

NCCU, law tours, directions & parking



On-Site

Registration, security, Wi-Fi & sessions



Make the Most

Law Expo, networking, prep & packing

WELCOME

Welcome to Raleigh–Durham

Welcome to the 13th Annual National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo 2026 — a gathering that gives HBCU students and alumni, and all aspiring lawyers, the information, exposure, mentorship, and connections to pursue law school and legal careers.

This year is especially meaningful: we return to Durham, where the very first National HBCU Pre-Law Summit was held — spotlighting North Carolina Central University, one of our nation's treasured historically Black institutions.

Whether you're exploring, applying, already admitted, advising students, or supporting the legal pipeline — we're glad you're here.

THE NATIONAL HBCU PRE-LAW SUMMIT



AT A GLANCE

The Summit at a Glance

DATES

Sep 24–26

Thursday–Saturday, 2026

LOCATION

Raleigh–Durham

NCCU & select venues

ADMISSION

Free

Open to all • everyone welcome
VIP + Premium Upgrades Available

AUDIENCE

Aspiring Lawyers

Students, alumni & supporters

PURPOSE

To give aspiring lawyers direct access to law school admissions insight, legal-career exposure, mentorship, and meaningful connections — with practical guidance for every step of the law school journey.

ABOUT

Quick Facts About the Summit

The nation's major pre-law event, created to center HBCU students and alumni interested in law school — while remaining open and welcoming to all aspiring lawyers and supporters.

FROM THE PAST 12 CONVENINGS (2014–2025)

16,971 Total Registrants Nationwide

188+ Participating Law Schools

75 Keynote Speakers

855+ Speakers, Panelists, Moderators, Facilitators & Host Committee Members

223 Special Guest Speakers & Organization Leaders

52 Attorney Networking Small Group Leaders

135 Pre-Law Advisors & Admission Material Reviewers

74 Partners (Bar Associations & Professional Organizations)

75 Honorees

50 Sponsors

Who Should Attend

DESIGNED FOR

- HBCU students & alumni
- College students exploring law
- Recent graduates
- First-generation applicants
- Nontraditional students
- Community college students
- High school students into law
- Pre-law advisors & faculty
- Law school representatives
- Law students
- Attorneys & judges
- Bar association leaders
- Pipeline program leaders
- Parents, mentors & supporters

WHY IT MATTERS

Law school can feel overwhelming — especially without lawyers in your family or direct access to people who understand the process. The Summit closes that gap.

- Understand the admissions process
- Learn what law schools look for
- Explore legal career pathways
- Build relationships with reps
- Get advice from students & lawyers
- Prepare academically & financially
- See yourself as a future lawyer

SCHEDULE

Summit Dates & Locations



THURSDAY • SEP 24

Law School Tour Day

Chapel Hill, Raleigh & Durham

Law school tours • campus visits • optional info sessions • networking



FRIDAY • SEP 25

Summit & Law Expo

NCCU & other locations

Keynotes • admissions programming • Law Expo • special guests • networking



SATURDAY • SEP 26

Summit

NCCU & other locations

Black Law Student panel • pipeline programs • advising • group photo • closing

Important Deadlines

Specific dates will be confirmed by email and posted at hbcuprelawsummit.org — register early to be the first to know.

Registration

Advance registration strongly encouraged

Hotel Booking

Book early; rates not guaranteed after cutoff

Law School Tour Sign-Up

Limited capacity — sign up early

Volunteer / Advisor

Complete any required forms by the deadline

Final Schedule Release

Times, rooms & confirmations to follow



PROGRAM • 01

Speakers & Honorees

Keynote voices • special guests • honored leaders of the legal profession

THE NATIONAL HBCU PRE-LAW SUMMIT



KEYNOTES

Keynote Speakers



Tracy L. Simmons, J.D., M.A.

Associate Dean
Howard University School of Law
Washington, D.C.



Alison Ashe-Card, Esq.

Associate Dean • Past President,
NALP
Duke University School of Law
Durham, NC



**Otto O. Meyers III, J.D.,
M.B.A.**

Attorney, Senior Executive
Consultant & Advisor
Hockley, TX



**H. Timothy Lovelace, Jr.,
Esq., Ph.D.**

John Hope Franklin Research Scholar
Professor of Law, Duke University
Durham, NC



**Salisu "Sal" A. Richardson,
Esq., CLMP**

Managing Partner for Workers
Compensation
Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer,
P.A.
Fort Lauderdale, FL

FEATURED NEXT Sisters Who Rule — a sisterhood of North Carolina judges and NCCU School of Law alumnae.

KEYNOTE SPOTLIGHT

Sisters Who Rule

A powerful sisterhood of North Carolina judges and North Carolina Central University School of Law alumnae.



**Hon. Shamielka LaCher
Rhinehart**

Superior Court Judge
Durham County, NC



Hon. Camille Banks Prince

District Court Judge
Forsyth County, NC



Hon. Keisha Wright Hill

Chief Magistrate Judge
Wake County, NC



**Hon. Teresa R. Robinson
Freeman**

Judge
North Carolina

These voices inspire, inform, and challenge attendees considering law school, legal careers, public service, advocacy, and leadership.



LOGISTICS • 02

Stay & Travel

Hotels • roommates • airport • getting around the Triangle

THE NATIONAL HBCU PRE-LAW SUMMIT



Recommended Hotels in Durham

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Durham City View

 705 South Mangum Street, Durham, NC 27701

Highly recommended — convenient to NCCU and downtown Durham, with easy access to restaurants and transportation.

Aloft Durham Downtown

 345 Blackwell Street, Durham, NC 27701

Near restaurants, entertainment, and local attractions, within a short drive of NCCU.

21c Museum Hotel Durham

 111 North Corcoran Street, Durham, NC 27701

A downtown boutique hotel — a good option for speakers, special guests, reps, or an upscale stay.

All hotels are roughly 5–15 minutes from North Carolina Central University. Book early; compare rates & cancellation policies.

Recommended Hotels in Durham

Unscripted Durham, Part of JdV by Hyatt

 202 North Corcoran Street, Durham, NC 27701

A modern hotel experience near restaurants, local attractions, and transportation downtown.

The Durham Hotel

 315 East Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701

A local boutique hotel with access to downtown dining and attractions.

Durham Marriott City Center

 201 Foster Street, Durham, NC 27701

A larger downtown hotel with traditional conference-style amenities — practical for reps and guests.

Details forthcoming: final group rates, reservation links, and booking deadlines will be shared with registered attendees.

Budget & Lodging Tips



CHOOSING A HOTEL

- Distance to NCCU & tours
- Distance to RDU airport
- Parking & breakfast
- Shuttle & ride-share
- Room-sharing options
- Cancellation policy
- Total cost incl. taxes



ROOMMATES

Sharing a room cuts costs. Larger rooms or suites may fit two, three, or four — depending on hotel rules and comfort level.

If a roommate interest form is offered, the Summit may share submitted information but does not match, screen, or endorse arrangements. Use good judgment and prioritize safety.



AFFORDABLE OPTIONS

- Share a hotel room
- Stay with trusted family/friends
- Hotels outside downtown
- Extended-stay hotels
- Student-friendly travel sites
- Short-term rentals (if safe)
- Hostels / dorm-style stays

Student Sponsorship Suggestions

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF SUPPORT

- Your college or university
- Pre-law / honors program
- Student government
- Academic department
- Career services office
- TRIO / McNair programs
- Alumni association
- Local & Black bar associations
- Law firms
- Church or faith community
- Civic organizations
- Family, mentors & businesses

WHEN YOU ASK

- What the Summit is & why it matters
- How it will help you
- What the funds will cover
- What you'll give in return
- How you'll share & pay it forward

Don't be afraid to ask. A “no” is not the end.

Getting To & From Raleigh–Durham

Raleigh–Durham International Airport (RDU) is the primary airport serving the area. Compare flight prices, arrival times, baggage fees, and the cost of reaching your hotel.



Flights

Compare arrival and departure times and baggage fees.



Trains, Buses & Driving

Carpool or use group / university travel arrangements.



Plan for Thursday Tours

You may need to arrive Wednesday evening or early Thursday.

Shuttles, Ride-Share & the Triangle



LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Contact your hotel directly about airport or local shuttles. Options include:

- Hotel shuttles
- Uber & Lyft
- Taxi service
- Rental cars
- Public transportation
- Carpooling



NAVIGATING THE TRIANGLE

This is a regional area — don't assume event locations are within walking distance. Before you travel, review:

- Hotel location & distance to NCCU
- Distance to tour locations
- Parking & traffic conditions
- Ride-share costs
- Walking distance & safety
- Weather



HOST CAMPUS • 03

Campus & Tours

[North Carolina Central University](#) · [directions](#) · [parking](#) · [area law schools](#)

HOST CAMPUS

North Carolina Central University

A treasured HBCU and a major anchor institution in Durham, North Carolina.

The 2026 Summit is especially meaningful — programming takes place at NCCU, and Durham hosted the very first National HBCU Pre-Law Summit.

Check the official Summit schedule for building names, room assignments, check-in locations, parking instructions, and campus access.

NCCU School of Law has a proud legacy of preparing lawyers to serve, lead, and advance justice — take full advantage of the chance to learn about it.

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Directions & Parking at NCCU



DIRECTIONS

Directions depend on your starting point, hotel, and travel method. Before the event, review:

- Official campus address for your building
- Parking & drop-off locations
- Walking & accessibility routes
- Ride-share drop-off points
- Traffic conditions

Details forthcoming: building addresses & maps will be added once confirmed.



PARKING

All NCCU visitors must purchase a valid NCCU parking permit to park in any university-owned lot.

Alternative — Latham Parking Deck

On Lawson Street • **\$1.50 per hour**

Don't park in restricted lots unless instructed — vehicles may be ticketed or towed. Allow extra time to park and walk to check-in.

THURSDAY • SEP 24

Law School Tours

Tours and campus visits will take place Thursday and will include all four area law schools:



NCCU School of Law

Durham, NC



Duke University School of Law

Durham, NC



UNC School of Law

Chapel Hill, NC



**Campbell University School of
Law**

Raleigh, NC

Space is limited — sign up early. Final tour times, meeting locations, transportation, and capacity details will be shared once confirmed.



AT THE EVENT • 04

On-Site Info

Registration • security • help • sessions • Wi-Fi • Law Expo

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Registration & What You'll Receive



AT REGISTRATION

Register in advance. At check-in you may be asked for:

- Name & registration confirmation
- Email address
- School or organization
- Ticket type / attendee category

Arrive early on your first day — lines are longer at peak times.



ITEMS TO PICK UP

- Name badge
- Program guide
- Schedule
- Law Expo materials
- Resource handouts
- Sponsor materials
- Strategy booklet
- Access credential

Keep your name badge visible during the event if required.

Security, Emergencies & Questions



SECURITY

- Follow venue & staff instructions
- Keep belongings with you
- Don't leave valuables unattended
- Respect restricted areas
- Report concerns immediately



EMERGENCIES

- For emergencies, call 911
- Follow venue & campus police
- Non-urgent? Go to check-in
- Help desk & lost and found
- Medical & accessibility support



QUESTIONS

- Visit registration / check-in
- Ask any event volunteer
- Room & session locations
- Law Expo information
- General event support

Sessions & Guest Wi-Fi



LOCATION OF SESSIONS

Session locations appear in the final schedule. Check the program guide, website, and emails for:

- Room assignments & session times
- Speaker updates & changes
- Check-in & Law Expo locations
- Advising session locations

Allow time to move between sessions.



GUEST WI-FI

Wi-Fi instructions will be provided if available. Don't assume access is guaranteed — plan ahead:

- Charge devices in advance
- Download documents before arrival
- Save schedules offline
- Bring a portable charger
- Keep key contacts accessible



MAXIMIZE • 05

Make the Most

Law Expo • preparation • networking • business cards • LinkedIn

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OPPORTUNITY

The Law Expo

Connect directly with law school representatives and legal education organizations — one of the most important opportunities to build relationships with law schools.

COME PREPARED TO

- Introduce yourself professionally
- Ask about admissions & scholarships
- Ask about student life & academic support
- Learn about clinics, journals & externships
- Collect contact information & follow up



Questions to Ask Law Schools

ADMISSIONS

What makes a strong applicant?
How are applications reviewed?
Advice for first-gen & HBCU applicants?

SCHOLARSHIPS & AID

What merit & need-based aid exists?
When to apply for max consideration?
Are scholarships renewable?

STUDENT SUPPORT

1L & bar prep support?
Wellness & mentoring?
Active BLSA chapter?

LIFE & BELONGING

What's the student culture like?
How do students build community?
Connecting with alumni?

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Clinics, externships & moot court?
Career services support?
Where do graduates work?

FIT

Who thrives here?
What makes this school different?
What do applicants overlook?

Prepare & Pack



HOW TO PREPARE

- Review the website & emails
- Research participating schools
- Pick sessions to attend
- Update your resume
- Build / refresh LinkedIn
- Prepare questions
- Set three goals for the Summit
- Confirm hotel & travel



WHAT TO BRING

- Photo ID & confirmation
- Phone & portable charger
- Notebook or tablet & pens
- Updated resume copies
- Business / contact cards
- Professional folder
- Comfortable shoes & layers
- Water, snacks & medication

CONNECT

Relationships Matter

The Summit isn't only about information — it's about relationships. A connection made here may become guidance, encouragement, or opportunity later.



Connect Widely

Representatives, attorneys, judges, law students, advisors & fellow attendees.



Bring Cards & Resumes

People still exchange cards — include your LinkedIn URL; keep your resume current.



Work Your LinkedIn

Professional photo, headline, education & interests — connect right after meeting.



Photos, Resources & Dress Code



GROUP KEEPSAKE PHOTO

A group photo may be taken during the Summit. Listen for the time and location announcement. Your image may appear in event materials, social media, and archives.



FREE RESOURCES

Attendees may receive pre-law guides, admissions and scholarship resources, application checklists, speaker handouts, and partner materials — before, during, or after.



DRESS CODE

Business professional or business casual, with comfortable shoes and layers. You may meet admissions reps, attorneys, and judges. Aim to look neat and polished.

EXPLORE

Raleigh–Durham Sites of Interest

Consider exploring sites of African American, civil rights, legal, and cultural significance across the area:

- North Carolina Central University
- Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice
- Historic Black Wall Street / Parrish Street
- Hayti Heritage Center
- Stagville State Historic Site
- North Carolina Museum of History
- North Carolina Museum of Art
- North Carolina State Capitol area
- Duke University campus
- UNC at Chapel Hill campus

Check hours, ticket requirements, transportation, and accessibility before visiting.

GET INVOLVED

Supporting the Summit

The Summit is free thanks to sponsors, partners, volunteers, law schools, and community members. Ways to support:



Spread the Word

Share with students & alumni; encourage them to register.



Volunteer or Advise

Serve as a speaker, advisor, or volunteer.



Sponsor or Partner

Sponsor student participation or become a partner.



Connect Us

Introduce law schools, firms, bar associations & organizations.

Thank you for helping us continue this work.

BEFORE YOU GO

Final Reminders

CHECKLIST

- Register in advance
- Book travel & hotel early
- Review the final schedule
- Prepare questions for schools
- Bring resumes / contact cards
- Update your LinkedIn
- Dress professionally
- Arrive early & keep an open mind
- Introduce yourself & take notes
- Follow up after the event



CONTACT

hbcuprelawsummit.org
info@hbcuprelawsummit.org
[#hbcuprelawsummit](https://twitter.com/hbcuprelawsummit)

Check your email regularly for updates after registering.



Thank You

AND SEE YOU SOON

The 13th Annual National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo 2026 — the nation's major national pre-law event centering the issues, challenges, and ambitions of HBCU students and alumni aspiring to attend law school and become lawyers.

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