 **LexScholars by AccessLex™**

**Applicant Consent Form**

LexScholars is a five-year (2020-2024) diversity pipeline study aimed at learning more about effective methods for increasing law school diversity by providing more than 1200 aspiring lawyers from underrepresented backgrounds with resources and guidance to pursue their law school goals. The study is led and sponsored by AccessLex Institute’s Center for Legal Education Excellence, the research arm of a non-profit organization aiming to enhance access to legal education for students from diverse backgrounds, increase the affordability and financing options for students pursuing legal education, and expand the value of legal education.

**The purpose of the study:** LexScholars is designed to explore and develop sustainable models for increasing law school diversity by addressing common disadvantages faced by applicants from underrepresented backgrounds. LexScholars targets prospective law students from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds who possess potential for law school success but may be unlikely to gain admission due to unfavorable LSAT scores and undergraduate grades.

**Requirements for participation:** Overview of the study design, eligibility, and participant selection process are available online at <https://www.accesslex.org/lexscholars> (the “**LexScholars Website**”).By submitting your application, you represent that you have reviewed the study information posted on the LexScholars Website, that you meet the eligibility criteria for at least one of the study’s Cohorts as described on the LexScholars Website, and that, if selected as a study participant, you agree:

1. To execute the Research Participation Agreement and related agreements upon being selected as a participant;
2. To complete the requirements of the study based on the Cohort group to which you may be assigned (*e.g*., Kaplan Online LSAT preparation course and/or 4-week residential summer program in Washington, D.C.);
3. To allow AccessLex researchers to track your law school admission experiences and outcomes and use that information to develop diversity pipeline programs and models that will benefit legal education, the profession, and society. In particular, and without limitation, you may be asked and must be willing to:
	1. submit monthly reports and completing surveys detailing your experiences during the law school admission process;
	2. give AccessLex permission to track your behavior and interactions when using the Kaplan LSAT Online course software; and
	3. give AccessLex permission to contact you via email, telephone, and social media.

**Risks and benefits:** There is a risk that you may find some of the questions about your background, academics, career plans or daily activities, and the ongoing follow-up and tracking by AccessLex, to be sensitive, invasive or uncomfortable. There is a risk that you may experience challenges attending the 4-week summer residential programs or completing the online LSAT preparation course. The benefit of the study is that it provides you with opportunities to improve your odds of getting accepted into law school or into a greater number of law schools, and to improve your reading, writing, and financial knowledge capabilities, among others.

**Compensation:** There will be two cohorts of LexScholars participants: Aspirant Cohort and Prospect Cohort. Please consult the LexScholars Website for a complete description of the Cohorts and the associated selection processes. Participants selected to attend the 4-week residential summer program in Washington, D.C. will receive travel assistance to and from Washington, D.C., along with a living stipend of $800, a meal stipend of $560, and free access to various skill-building courses and workshops. Participants selected to complete the online Kaplan LSAT preparation course will receive free access to the course. Certain members of the Prospect Cohort will also receive ongoing law school admission counseling and financial education.

**Tax Liability:** If applicable, you will be paid monetary compensation as an independent contractor and your payments may be considered taxable income. AccessLex will not withhold any taxes; therefore, you will be solely responsible for payment of federal, state or local withholding taxes, if any.

**Study Duration/Withdrawal from Study:** The anticipated duration of any individual’s participation is approximately one year for the Prospect Cohort and two years for the Aspirant Cohort.Participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time. If at any point you decide to discontinue your participation in the study, you should notify AccessLex immediately. AccessLex reserves the right to end your participation in the study if you (1) violate the code of conduct; (2) fail to follow instructions; (3) miss scheduled meetings; (4) put your safety and welfare at risk; (5) pose a safety or welfare risk to others; or (6) the study is discontinued – determinations that are solely within the discretion of AccessLex.

**Assurance of confidentiality:** The records of this study will be kept private. If AccessLex releases a public report or other materials about the study, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify you, without your express written permission. Research records will be kept in protected files on a secure network and only AccessLex researchers will have access to the records. Records consisting of personally identifiable information will be kept for up to three years beyond the end of the study, which is currently anticipated to conclude in 2025. However, your name and email address will be kept longer than three years so that AccessLex can continue to contact you in accordance with our privacy policy. In addition, anonymized records may be kept for a longer period of time.

**If you have questions:** If you have questions regarding this study, please email AccessLex at Lexscholars@accesslex.org with “LexScholars by AccessLex” in the subject line.

**About AccessLex:** For more information about AccessLex, please visit [www.accesslex.org](http://www.accesslex.org). For more information about our research activities, please visit <https://www.accesslex.org/accesslex-center-legal-education-excellence>.

You will be given a copy of this form for your records.

**SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW**

**Statement of Consent:** I have read the above information and have received answers to any questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.

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Your Email Address and Telephone Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*This consent form will be kept by AccessLex for at least three years beyond the end of the study, which is anticipated to conclude in 2025.*