



## 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 the study 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 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:
  - a. submit monthly reports and completing surveys detailing your experiences during the law school admission process;
  - b. give AccessLex permission to track your behavior and interactions when using the Kaplan LSAT Online course software; and
  - c. 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. 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, while helping contribute to the development of sustainable models for increasing law school diversity.

**Compensation:** There will be two groups of LexScholars participants: (1) one group will receive a Kaplan online LSAT course and comprehensive admission counseling; and (2) the other group will receive the

Kaplan online LSAT course only. All program components will be offered to participants at no cost. Participants may also receive cash or gift card payments as incentives for completing monthly surveys.

**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 fifteen months. 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) fail to submit timely responses to monthly surveys and other requests for information; (2) violate program rules; or (3) the study is discontinued – determinations that are solely within the discretion of AccessLex. In the event your program participation ends, all access to program resources will be rescinded.

**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](mailto: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>.

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