



### **Minnesota Lavender Bar Association 2017-2018 Greater Minnesota Fellowship Application**

The mission of the Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (MLBA) is to promote equality and justice in the legal profession and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in Minnesota. The MLBA envisions a Minnesota where LGBT attorneys, clients and community members are treated equally and without discrimination.

Toward that end, the MLBA is proud to sponsor the MLBA Greater Minnesota Fellowship, which is intended to support LGBT attorneys who office and practice outside the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region. The amount of the Fellowship is \$5,000, and it will be awarded in \$2,500 increments.

The primary goal of the Fellowship is to increase LGBT attorney visibility in Greater Minnesota. In turn, it is hoped that the MLBA Fellow will serve to welcome LGBT clients and community members, thus increasing access to legal services and serving community needs.

We invite all eligible applicants to apply for the MLBA Greater Minnesota Fellowship.

#### Eligibility

Attorneys who are licensed in Minnesota and who at the time of the Fellowship award increments are not the subject of discipline or a disciplinary investigation by the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility are eligible to apply for the Fellowship.

Current law students are also eligible, and distribution of the fellowship funds will be contingent upon proof of licensure and active eligible employment outside the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region.

At the time of both award increments, the MLBA Fellow must practice law and primarily conduct regular legal business in greater Minnesota (i.e., at a location outside the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region). Note: this does not preclude the MLBA Fellow from handling occasional legal matters in the Twin Cities. Eligible employment includes, but is not limited to, private practice, nonprofit or governmental positions (including prosecutors, public defenders, and administrative agency staff), or other positions that make substantial use of legal skills, for example, by requiring passage of the bar or otherwise drawing heavily on law school training.

Applicants must be “out” and publicly identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. The applicant’s status as “out” (e.g. publicly acknowledging their LGBT status) must be verified by two references.

Applicants cannot be a current MLBA board member, or a spouse or partner of a current MLBA board member.

## Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee will evaluate:

- The applicant's commitment to representing LGBT clients in greater Minnesota;
- Evidence of the applicant serving, leading and working for diversity and inclusion of LGBT people, including where the applicant has served as a role model, mentor and/or advisor; and
- The applicant's intent to take on such roles in the future. However, no applicant will be eliminated from consideration for lack of such a leadership role.

## Total Award: \$5,000

The award will be payable in two installments of \$2,500. The award also includes admission to 2018 MLBA conference and special recognition at the conference.

With your completed application form, please include a current resume, law school transcript (unofficial copy accepted), two letters of reference confirming your "out" status, and your answers to the following questions. These answers should be typed (maximum of three pages) and should contemplate the criteria listed above.

1. Please describe your involvement in LGBT communities; the extracurricular, community, school, activism, work activities; and/or personal experience(s) of which you are proudest. How do they reflect your passions? Please talk about times you took initiative and/or a major leadership role.
2. Please briefly describe your professional practice, both substantively and geographically.
3. Please describe how you will use the fellowship award funds to establish or expand your practice and/or your LGBT-related outreach in greater Minnesota.

All documents received by the Selection Committee are considered confidential. However, some material is selected from this application form and other materials submitted to prepare introductions to the recipients at an awards presentation ceremony. Inclusion of this information will be verified with the applicant prior to such use.

Fellowship award winners will be recognized by name on the MLBA website and in other published materials. MLBA will use the Fellow's name and other information to promote the fellowship through various media outlets and to fellowship fund donors.

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**Please submit completed application and all supplemental materials to [info@mnlavbar.org](mailto:info@mnlavbar.org).**

*Please complete the following fields, to the extent the information is not already included in your other materials.*

Name:

Birth Date:

Email Address:

Permanent Street Address:

Current Street Address:

Telephone:

Educational History:

Sexual Orientation:

Gender Identity:

Race/Ethnicity (Optional):

Disability Status (Optional):

Verification of Information

By signing your name on the line below, you are confirming the following statements:

- I verify that the information I have provided is accurate and true.
- If chosen as award winner, I authorize the use of my name, LGBT identity, practice area and other personal information in reference to this fellowship award.

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Applicant Signature

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Date