



NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

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The National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Foundation is proud to announce a new partnership with Boston University School of Law (BU Law) encourage diversity in prosecution. BU Law joins the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law and Temple University as part of a new partnership with the NBPA Foundation to increase the number of Black students introduced to a career in prosecution. Each school will be funding fellowships for Black law students enrolled at their schools to intern at a prosecutor's office over the summer – positions that are traditionally unpaid.

“We are thrilled that Boston University will be joining us as a law school fellowship partner. Now more than ever, as prosecutors' offices struggle with hiring and retaining prosecutors of color, we need to double down on efforts to create a pipeline of future diverse prosecutors,” says NBPA Foundation President Melba Pearson. “BU Law has answered the call, and we look forward to working with them to achieve this goal.”

Founded in 1983, the NBPA is the only organization dedicated to the hiring, retention, and promotion of Black prosecutors at all levels of government. Since 2016, the NBPA Foundation has provided scholarships to Black students who demonstrate an interest in prosecution. In 2021, the NBPA Foundation launched a fellowship program, providing funding and placement to students who desire to secure an unpaid summer internship at state prosecutors' offices. “The fellowship provides funding to students who would otherwise be unpaid interns. For many students of color, unpaid work is not an option - which can deny them the opportunity to explore a career in prosecution and receive valuable experience,” says Pearson.

“We are proud to partner with NBPA in encouraging more Black law students to explore careers as prosecutors and supporting them with fellowship opportunities. Prosecutors play such an important role in the criminal justice system, and yet the number of Black lawyers serving as prosecutors nationally is fewer than 6%. The NBPA fellowship program provides an important introduction to this career path for Black students who may have otherwise not considered it.” says Mandie LeBeau, Assistant Dean for Career Development and Public Service at BU Law.

In addition to financial support, BU Law Fellows will have access to networking and mentorship opportunities through the NBPA, including

attendance at the Association's annual conference and career fair, which is scheduled for August 3 - 10, 2024, in Boston.

For media inquiries, please contact Melba Pearson at melbapearsonesq@gmail.com.

Learn more about the NBPA at www.blackprosecutors.org

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