



NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

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The National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Foundation is proud to announce a new partnership with Temple University Beasley School of Law to encourage diversity in prosecution. Temple joins the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law as part of a new partnership with the NBPA to increase the number of Black students introduced to a career in prosecution. Both schools 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.

“Temple Law School’s mission of access and excellence and its proven commitment to diversity in the legal profession make Temple a natural partner for NBPA, and we could not be more excited to welcome them,” says NBPA Foundation President Melba Pearson. “In addition, Temple Law’s outstanding trial advocacy program ensures that students who are interested in prosecution have the skills, training, and discipline to excel. This partnership will help ensure they have the opportunity to do so.”

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 that 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.

In addition to financial support, Temple Law Fellows will have access to networking and mentorship opportunities through the NBPA, including attendance at the Association’s annual conference and career fair.

After learning about the partnership opportunity, the late JoAnne A. Epps, former President of Temple University, expressed she was “a big fan of NPBA and its commitment, among other things, to provide [a] pathway to employment for talented law students.” President Epps began her legal career as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, California, in 1976. She later served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia between 1980 and 1985. The NBPA is excited to continue Epps’ legacy of championing for minorities within the legal

profession through its partnership with Temple University Beasley School of Law.

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

Learn more about the NBPA at www.blackprosecutors.org

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