THE NATIONAL BLACK PRE-LAW CONFERENCE & LAW FAIR

22nd Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair

Schedule of Events: November 12 to 14, 2026

Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts. All times Eastern.
Tentative schedule. Subject to change. Revised November 2, 2026.

Schedule at a Glance

Day 1: Thursday, November 12, 2026 — See It: Exposure + Inspiration Day		
8:30 - 9:00 AM	Tour Participant Gathering & Check-In (Optional)	Suffolk University Law School; meeting point to be confirmed
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Suffolk University Law School Tour (Optional)	Suffolk University Law School
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Walk & Transition to New England Law | Boston	Downtown Boston
10:30 - 11:30 AM	New England Law | Boston Tour (Pending) (Optional)	New England Law | Boston
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch on Your Own	Nearby dining options
12:30 - 1:15 PM	Travel to Northeastern & Check-In	Boston
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Northeastern University School of Law Tour (Optional)	Northeastern University School of Law
2:15 - 3:30 PM	Travel to Boston College Law School	Boston College Law School, Newton Campus
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Boston College Law School Tour (Optional)	Boston College Law School, Newton Campus
5:00 - 7:00 PM	Welcome to Boston Networking Meet and Greet	Boston College Law School, Newton Campus
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Your First Circle — Thursday Coffee or Dessert Connections (Optional) (VIP & Platinum)	Newton Centre — meet near Newton Centre Plaza, Centre Street & Beacon Street; group spots to be announced

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 — Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive		
7:30 - 8:00 AM	Harvard Tour Participant Gathering & Check-In (Optional)	Harvard Law School; designated meeting point
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Harvard Law School Tour (Optional)	Harvard Law School
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Classroom Access & Seating	Harvard Law School
9:15 - 10:15 AM	Mock Law School Class with Professor Ronald Sullivan (Optional)	Harvard Law School
10:15 - 10:40 AM	Travel to HGSE, Check-In & Seating	Harvard Law School to Harvard GSE
9:30 - 10:40 AM	General Conference Registration	Harvard University Graduate School of Education
10:40 AM - 12:45 PM	Welcoming Ceremony and Opening Plenary Session	Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education
12:45 - 12:55 PM	Group Photo	Harvard University Graduate School of Education
12:55 - 1:05 PM	Break	Harvard University Graduate School of Education
1:05 - 2:05 PM	Your Story, Your Strategy: Building a Compelling Law School Application	Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education
2:05 - 3:05 PM	Lunch on Your Own at HGSE or Harvard Square	Rebecca's Café, Gutman Library, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, or Harvard Square
2:05 - 3:05 PM	VIP & Platinum Networking Lunch Buddy Assignments	HGSE or Harvard Square
2:05 - 3:05 PM	One-on-One Pre-Law Advising During Lunch (Optional)	Eliot Lyman Room, Harvard University Graduate School of Education
3:05 - 4:05 PM	The Real Cost of Becoming a Lawyer: Funding Law School and Evaluating Your Investment	Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Achieving LSAT and GRE Excellence: Strategies, Preparation, and Lessons from Successful Test Takers	Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education
5:15 - 5:30 PM	Walk to the Law Fair & Check In	Lesley University, Washburn Auditorium and Washburn Lounge, South Campus, 16 Phillips Place, Cambridge, MA 02138
5:30 - 7:30 PM	Law School Recruitment Fair	Lesley University, Washburn Auditorium and Washburn Lounge, South Campus, 16 Phillips Place, Cambridge, MA 02138
7:30 - 8:00 PM	Break	Near the Law Fair venue
8:00 - 10:30 PM	Black Legal and Education-Trained Filmmakers - Film Screenings & Question and Answer Sessions + Receptions - FREE. OPEN TO ALL.	To be announced

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 — Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession		
8:30 - 10:00 AM	Registration & Check-In	Boston University School of Law; room to be announced
8:30 - 10:00 AM	Continental Breakfast with Coffee and Tea	Boston University School of Law; location to be announced
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Platinum Strategy Lab & Hot Seat Mentorship Session (Optional)	Law Café, Boston University School of Law
9:00 - 9:40 AM	Optional Boston University School of Law Tour	Boston University School of Law; meeting location to be announced
9:40 - 10:00 AM	Tour Return, Break & Seating	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Opening Plenary Session	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Conference Group Photo	Boston University School of Law; location to be announced
11:45 - 11:55 AM	Break	
11:55 AM - 12:55 PM	Cold Calls & Community: What Black Law Students Want You to Know about Surviving and Thriving in Law School	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
12:55 - 1:55 PM	Complimentary Box Lunches Provided by Boston University School of Law	Boston University School of Law; location to be announced
12:55 - 1:55 PM	One-on-One Pre-Law Advising During Lunch (Optional)	Rooms 416–419, Boston University School of Law
1:55 - 2:55 PM	From Aspiring Lawyer to Licensed Attorney: Preparing for the Bar and Beyond	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
2:55 - 3:05 PM	Break	
3:05 - 4:05 PM	Your JD, Your Possibilities: Exploring Legal Career Paths	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
4:05 - 4:15 PM	Break	
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Building a Firm, Creating a Legacy: Black Lawyers on Ownership and Entrepreneurship	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
5:15 - 5:30 PM	Break & Ceremony Preparation	
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Closing Plenary & Aspiring Lawyers Pinning Ceremony	Auditorium, Boston University School of Law
7:00 - 7:15 PM	Break & Transition to Reception	
7:15 - 8:15 PM	Closing Reception (VIP & Platinum)	Boston University School of Law; room to be announced
8:15 - 9:00 PM	Travel to Harvard Epworth (VIP & Platinum)	Boston University School of Law to Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church
9:00 - 10:30 PM	Slices, S’mores and Support Circles (VIP & Platinum)	Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church

Day 1: Thursday, November 12, 2026

See It: Exposure + Inspiration Day

Boston-Area Law School Tours and Test Planning at Boston College Law

Thursday tour participants gather at Suffolk University Law School from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.; the meeting point is to be confirmed. All tours are optional, subject to school confirmation and capacity. Sign up through the Registrant Hub. Participants pay their own subway (T) and rideshare costs. There is no Harvard GSE evening check-in on Thursday.

Hosted at Boston-area law schools (tours) and Boston College Law School, Newton Campus (evening reception)

Thursday has no Harvard GSE evening check-in and no panel session. Daytime tours take place at the listed law schools. The evening Welcome to Boston Networking Meet and Greet at Boston College Law School's Newton Campus is confirmed for all registrants, with or without a panel and whatever the daytime tour arrangements end up being. Tour times, rooms, speakers, and volunteers remain subject to school confirmation.

8:30 - 9:00 AM

Tour Participant Gathering & Check-In (Optional)

Gather for the optional Suffolk tour. The meeting point will be confirmed before the conference.

Location: Suffolk University Law School; meeting point to be confirmed

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Suffolk University Law School Tour (Optional)

Tour Suffolk Law in downtown Boston. Subject to school confirmation and capacity.

Location: Suffolk University Law School

10:00 - 10:30 AM

Walk & Transition to New England Law | Boston

Allow 30 minutes to exit Suffolk, gather, walk, and check in at New England Law | Boston.

Location: Downtown Boston

10:30 - 11:30 AM

New England Law | Boston Tour (Pending) (Optional)

Explore the law school. Subject to school confirmation and capacity.

Location: New England Law | Boston

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Lunch on Your Own

Enjoy nearby dining options before traveling to Northeastern.

Location: Nearby dining options

Day 1: Thursday, November 12, 2026 (continued)

See It: Exposure + Inspiration Day

12:30 - 1:15 PM

Travel to Northeastern & Check-In

Travel to Northeastern University School of Law and gather for the tour. Attendees pay their own transportation costs.

Location: Boston

1:15 - 2:15 PM

Northeastern University School of Law Tour (Optional)

Proposed earlier tour time, subject to school approval and capacity. The previously confirmed slot was 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Location: Northeastern University School of Law

2:15 - 3:30 PM

Travel to Boston College Law School

Travel to BC Law's Newton Campus, not Boston College's main Chestnut Hill campus. Allow time for traffic; attendees pay their own rideshare or transit costs.

Location: Boston College Law School, Newton Campus

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Boston College Law School Tour (Optional)

Explore BC Law's Newton Campus. This proposed earlier tour time requires school approval and is subject to capacity.

Location: Boston College Law School, Newton Campus

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Welcome to Boston Networking Meet and Greet

An evening light reception open to all attendees, with refreshments served.

Close Thursday with a relaxed light reception at Boston College Law School's Newton Campus. Connect with fellow attendees, student leaders, speakers, and conference organizers over refreshments before the main program begins on Friday. Join right after the Boston College tour, or come straight to BC Law if you skipped the daytime tours.

Confirmed and open to all registrants. Refreshments served; refreshments are not a meal, so plan dinner on your own before or after. This event concludes Thursday's official program; return to Cambridge or your lodging on your own afterward.

Location: Boston College Law School, Newton Campus

Day 1: Thursday, November 12, 2026 (continued)

See It: Exposure + Inspiration Day

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Your First Circle — Thursday Coffee or Dessert Connections (Optional) (VIP & Platinum)

Your First Circle connects you with an assigned small group of fellow VIP and Platinum registrants for an optional, self-organized coffee or dessert meetup on Thursday from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on your own. Meet in Newton Centre, about a 10-minute walk from Boston College Law School's Newton Campus, where cafés, bakeries, and restaurants surround the plaza. Share your law-school goals and get to know your group. Everyone purchases their own refreshments; no gift cards are included. To earn raffle entries, complete your group meetup, complete the networking assignment, provide a group photo.

The official Thursday program ends at 7:00 p.m. at Boston College Law School's Newton Campus. Newton Centre is about a 10-minute walk from there, or a short rideshare, so your group can start on time; join within the 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. window, subject to shop hours. Meeting point: Newton Centre Plaza, Centre Street & Beacon Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459. Browse cafés and shops beforehand in the City of Newton-supported Newton Centre business directory at https://www.allovernewton.com/newton-centre-plaza. Group assignments, meeting spots, the networking assignment, photo submission instructions, and raffle prizes will be announced through the Registrant Hub; the drawing takes place at Saturday's Slices, S'mores and Support Circles. Only share photos with everyone's permission; public posting is not required. Raffle entries are not a guaranteed prize.

Location: Newton Centre — meet near Newton Centre Plaza, Centre Street & Beacon Street; group spots to be announced

Thursday's official program concludes with the Welcome to Boston Networking Meet and Greet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Boston College Law School's Newton Campus, open to all registrants with refreshments served. Optional Your First Circle — VIP & Platinum coffee or dessert connections — run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on your own in Newton Centre, about a 10-minute walk from BC Law's Newton Campus: complete your group meetup and networking assignment and provide a group photo to earn raffle entries. Refreshments on your own; group details and raffle instructions will be announced through the Registrant Hub; the raffle drawing takes place at Saturday's Slices, S'mores and Support Circles. One-on-one advising takes place Friday afternoon.

Day 1: Thursday, November 12, 2026 (continued)

See It: Exposure + Inspiration Day

Travel planning

Getting Between Law Schools

Thursday begins at Suffolk University Law School, not Harvard Law School. The Suffolk meeting point will be confirmed. Plan for walking time, transit waits, and traffic.

Suffolk University Law School to New England Law | Boston:
Allow 30 minutes (10:00–10:30 a.m.) to exit Suffolk, gather, walk, and check in. Travel through downtown Boston to New England Law | Boston at 154 Stuart Street.

New England Law | Boston to Northeastern University School of Law:
After lunch, allow 12:30–1:15 p.m. for travel and check-in. Public transit or rideshare may be used; arrival instructions will be confirmed.

Northeastern University School of Law to Boston College Law School:
Allow 2:15–3:30 p.m. for travel to BC Law's Newton Campus, separate from the main Chestnut Hill campus. Earlier Northeastern and Boston College tour times require school approval.

Boston College Law School evening program:
After the tour at BC Law, stay at the Newton Campus for the Welcome to Boston Networking Meet and Greet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (refreshments served), which concludes Thursday's official program. Return to Cambridge or your lodging on your own afterward. VIP and Platinum registrants may then walk about 10 minutes to Newton Centre for optional Your First Circle — a small assigned group over coffee or dessert — from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on your own, meeting near Newton Centre Plaza at Centre Street and Beacon Street. Refreshments are at your own expense; group details will be shared in the Registrant Hub.

Participants are responsible for all transportation costs, including subway (T) and rideshare fares; the conference cannot cover these costs. All times Eastern and tentative. Confirmed meeting points and travel instructions will be shared before the event.

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

Harvard Law Experience, Admissions Strategy, and Law Fair

Hosted at Harvard Graduate School of Education — Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall

Friday's main conference sessions take place in Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education. The morning tour and mock class take place at Harvard Law School. The Welcoming Ceremony and Opening Plenary Session runs from 10:40 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., followed by the group photo from 12:45 to 12:55 p.m., a break from 12:55 to 1:05 p.m., and Your Story, Your Strategy from 1:05 to 2:05 p.m. Lunch on your own runs from 2:05 to 3:05 p.m.; attendees may purchase lunch at Rebecca's Café at Gutman Library, walk to Harvard Square for lunch, or bring their own, subject to confirmed conference-day hours and service. One-on-one pre-law advising runs from 2:05 to 3:05 p.m. in Eliot Lyman Room at Harvard GSE during the lunch hour. The Real Cost of Becoming a Lawyer funding session runs from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. at Harvard GSE. The Achieving LSAT and GRE Excellence panel runs from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. at Harvard GSE, with time afterward to walk to the Law Fair. Walk to the Law Fair and check in begins at 5:15 p.m.; the fair is about a five-minute walk away at Lesley University. The Law School Recruitment Fair runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Lesley University's Washburn Auditorium and Washburn Lounge, with complimentary light refreshments provided. The Black Legal and Education-Trained Filmmakers - Film Screenings & Question and Answer Sessions + Receptions - FREE. OPEN TO ALL. run from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m., with refreshments available. Saturday remains at Boston University School of Law. VIP and Platinum registrants receive Networking Lunch Buddy Assignments for Friday's lunch period, 2:05 to 3:05 p.m. Lunch is on your own and at your own expense. Early Entry for VIP and Platinum Registrants: 5:30 to 5:45 PM. Everyone else: 5:45 to 7:30 PM. VIP and Platinum registrants may remain until the fair closes at 7:30 PM. All arrangements remain subject to confirmation.

13 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138

Law Fair at Lesley University

Following the main conference sessions at Harvard Graduate School of Education, participants make the short walk to Lesley University for the Law Fair. The venues are approximately a five-minute walk apart, and both are within walking distance of Harvard Square. Volunteers help guide participants between locations.

Washburn Auditorium and Washburn Lounge, South Campus, 16 Phillips Place, Cambridge, MA 02138

Walking directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&origin=Longfellow+Hall,+13+Appian+Way,+Cambridge,+MA+02138&destination=Washburn+Hall,+Lesley+University,+16+Phillips+Place,+Cambridge,+MA+02138&travelmode=walking

7:30 - 8:00 AM

Harvard Tour Participant Gathering & Check-In (Optional)

Gather at the designated meeting point before the optional tour; arrival instructions will be confirmed.

Location: Harvard Law School; designated meeting point

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Harvard Law School Tour (Optional)

Explore Harvard Law School. Subject to school confirmation and capacity.

Location: Harvard Law School

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 (continued)

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

9:00 - 9:15 AM

Classroom Access & Seating

Enter the classroom and take your seat for the mock class.

Location: Harvard Law School

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Mock Law School Class with Professor Ronald Sullivan (Optional)

Experience a mock law school class with Professor Ronald Sullivan, subject to confirmation.

Location: Harvard Law School

10:15 - 10:40 AM

Travel to HGSE, Check-In & Seating

Travel from Harvard Law School to Harvard Graduate School of Education, check in, and take your seat.

Location: Harvard Law School to Harvard GSE

9:30 - 10:40 AM

General Conference Registration

Separately staffed registration for attendees not participating in the Harvard tour or mock class. This runs concurrently with the morning Harvard Law experience.

Location: Harvard University Graduate School of Education

10:40 AM - 12:45 PM

Welcoming Ceremony and Opening Plenary Session

Remarks and keynote addresses from The Honorable Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor of Cambridge; Mark C. Fleming, Esq., President of the Boston Bar Association; Araba Adjei-Koranteng; Eboni Nelson, Esq.; Kimberly Guerrero; Ifeanyi Ruth Umunna; Professor Dehlia Umunna; Shumika Sookdeo; and Christopher E. Bruce, Esq. Featuring bar association leaders, student leaders, special guests, and keynote speakers. The morning program opens the conference with remarks from the Mayor of Cambridge, student leaders, and distinguished guests, followed by keynote addresses from members of the 2026 speaker lineup.

Location: Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education

12:45 - 12:55 PM

Group Photo

Gather for the Friday conference group photo after the opening keynote.

Location: Harvard University Graduate School of Education

12:55 - 1:05 PM

Break

Take a short break before the application strategy session.

Location: Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 (continued)

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

1:05 - 2:05 PM

Your Story, Your Strategy: Building a Compelling Law School Application

What admissions committees really look for, and how to show them who you are
How do you turn your academic record, experiences, and aspirations into an application that helps a law school understand who you are and what you could contribute? This candid conversation explores how admissions professionals evaluate applicants and how to approach each part of the application with purpose. Learn how to develop a thoughtful school list, select recommenders, craft meaningful written materials, and present your experiences clearly and authentically. Whether you are applying directly from college, changing careers, or returning to school with an established academic record, discover how to build a strategy grounded in your starting point and goals.

Topics include:

- How admissions committees read and evaluate an application.
- Writing a personal statement with substance and direction.
- Presenting work, leadership, service, family responsibilities, and life experience.
- Choosing recommenders who can speak meaningfully about your readiness.
- Writing about identity and lived experience authentically.
- When and how to use an addendum, including character and fitness disclosures.
- Building a strategic school list and application timeline.
- Common mistakes that weaken promising applications.

Location: Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education

2:05 - 3:05 PM

Lunch on Your Own at HGSE or Harvard Square

Purchase lunch at Rebecca's Café at Gutman Library, walk to Harvard Square for a wider selection of restaurants, or bring your own lunch. Please return by 3:05 p.m. for the funding session.

VIP and Platinum registrants receive Networking Lunch Buddy Assignments for Friday's lunch period, 2:05 to 3:05 p.m. Lunch is on your own and at your own expense. Conference-day café hours and service remain subject to confirmation.

Location: Rebecca's Café, Gutman Library, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, or Harvard Square

2:05 - 3:05 PM

VIP & Platinum Networking Lunch Buddy Assignments

VIP and Platinum registrants receive Networking Lunch Buddy Assignments for Friday's lunch period, 2:05 to 3:05 p.m. Lunch is on your own and at your own expense.

Location: HGSE or Harvard Square

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 (continued)

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

2:05 - 3:05 PM

One-on-One Pre-Law Advising During Lunch (Optional)

15-minute one-on-one pre-law advising appointments for registered attendees, held during the lunch period. Advance appointment signup is recommended, and availability is limited.

Advising runs from 2:05 to 3:05 p.m. so participants are back in time for the 3:05 p.m. funding session. Grab lunch before or after your appointment, or bring your own.

Location: Eliot Lyman Room, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

3:05 - 4:05 PM

The Real Cost of Becoming a Lawyer: Funding Law School and Evaluating Your Investment

Paying for law school, comparing offers, and borrowing wisely under the new federal loan rules

A law school acceptance opens a door. Understanding the financial commitment helps you decide whether and how to walk through it. This practical conversation looks beyond tuition to examine the full cost of legal education, how to compare scholarship and financial aid offers, and how borrowing decisions can shape life after graduation. Explore the relationship between school costs, employment outcomes, career goals, and personal responsibilities. Leave better prepared to ask informed questions, evaluate your options, and build a financial plan that supports your ambitions.

Topics include:

- The full cost of attendance: tuition, living expenses, fees, and hidden costs.
- New federal loan limits and how to plan for the funding gap.
- Private loans, cosigners, and building your credit before law school.
- Comparing scholarship offers and understanding renewal conditions.
- Requesting scholarship reconsideration.
- Weighing employment outcomes against anticipated debt.
- Public interest careers, loan forgiveness, and loan repayment assistance programs.
- Financing the transition from graduation through the bar exam to your first paycheck.

Location: Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 (continued)

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Achieving LSAT and GRE Excellence: Strategies, Preparation, and Lessons from Successful Test Takers

Insights from the test makers and successful test takers

Choosing an admissions test and preparing for it can feel overwhelming, especially when you are balancing school, work, family, and application deadlines. This conversation will help you understand how the LSAT and GRE may fit into your law school plans, how to research each school's testing requirements, and how to develop a realistic preparation schedule. Explore ways to assess your starting point, evaluate preparation resources, monitor progress, and make thoughtful decisions about when to test. The goal is to help you approach preparation with a clear plan and greater confidence.

Topics include:

• Choosing between the LSAT and GRE, and confirming which tests your schools accept.
• Using a diagnostic test to set your starting point and goals.
• Free official resources, fee waivers, and choosing prep that fits your budget.
• Building a sustainable study schedule around school, work, and family.
• Reviewing missed questions, improving timing, and breaking through plateaus.
• Testing accommodations and managing test-day anxiety.
• Planning test dates around application deadlines.
• Knowing when to retake or adjust your timeline.

Ends in time for the five-minute walk to the Law School Recruitment Fair. Please note: Test acceptance policies vary by law school. Applicants should verify current requirements directly with each school.

Location: Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education

5:15 - 5:30 PM

Walk to the Law Fair & Check In

Head over to check in. VIP and Platinum early entry begins at 5:30 PM; everyone else enters at 5:45 PM. The walk from Harvard GSE to Lesley University's South Campus is a five-minute walk, with volunteers on hand to guide participants. Walking directions from Longfellow Hall to 16 Phillips Place are linked in the Law Fair venue card above.

Location: Lesley University, Washburn Auditorium and Washburn Lounge, South Campus, 16 Phillips Place, Cambridge, MA 02138

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 (continued)

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Law School Recruitment Fair

Meet law school admissions representatives and law-related organizations, ask questions, and explore programs, admissions requirements, and opportunities. Use what you have learned during the conference to have informed conversations about your next steps. Complimentary light refreshments are provided.

Early Entry for VIP and Platinum Registrants: 5:30 to 5:45 PM. Everyone else: 5:45 to 7:30 PM. VIP and Platinum registrants may remain until the fair closes at 7:30 PM. One-on-one pre-law advising takes place separately during lunch on Friday (2:05–3:05 p.m., Eliot Lyman Room) and Saturday (12:55–1:55 p.m., BU Law); advance appointment signup is recommended, and availability is limited.

Location: Lesley University, Washburn Auditorium and Washburn Lounge, South Campus, 16 Phillips Place, Cambridge, MA 02138

7:30 - 8:00 PM

Break

Take a break after the fair before the film screenings begin.

Location: Near the Law Fair venue

8:00 - 10:30 PM

Black Legal and Education-Trained Filmmakers - Film Screenings & Question and Answer Sessions + Receptions - FREE. OPEN TO ALL.

Film screenings, question and answer sessions, and receptions with Black legal and education-trained filmmakers. FREE. OPEN TO ALL.

Join Black legal and education-trained filmmakers for film screenings, question and answer sessions, and receptions. FREE. OPEN TO ALL. Refreshments are available.

Featured films:

• Mr. Advocate, directed by Stacie McClam, J.D., M.Ed. — When a new teacher restores recess and launches a student AI showcase at a test-obsessed school, his clash with the principal sparks a community-wide debate about the true purpose of learning.

• Becoming Black Lawyers, directed by Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M. — When five Black lawyers set out to earn a professional legal education, they face battles even more challenging than the rigors of learning the law, and discover the paradox of studying in an institution that idealistically represents “justice” for all.

• Bar Daddy, directed by Jay Gerren, M.F.A. — Since 1976, Attorney Al Jenkins has dedicated his life to tutoring more than 3,000 Black law school graduates to pass the California Bar Exam, free of charge.

Location: To be announced

Day 2: Friday, November 13, 2026 (continued)

Understand It: Law School Strategy Intensive

Not an in-person time slot

Separate Opportunity: Remote Application Materials Review

Receive thoughtful feedback on your written law school application materials through a separate remote review opportunity. This service is designed to give reviewers time to consider your writing and offer suggestions that help you strengthen your materials while preserving your voice.

The Remote Application Materials Review is distinct from the conference's 15-minute in-person pre-law advising appointments, which focus on conversation, questions, and advice.

You must attend the conference to take advantage of this service. Participation requirements, eligible materials, submission instructions, deadlines, and review timelines will be sent to attendees after the event.

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

Hosted at Boston University School of Law — Auditorium

Proposed Saturday schedule. Times, speaker arrangements, and room assignments are subject to confirmation by Boston University School of Law. Saturday daytime programming at Boston University School of Law is open to all registrants. Main conference sessions take place in the BU Law Auditorium, and one-on-one pre-law advising takes place in Rooms 416–419; other room details will be announced. The Closing Reception is for VIP and Platinum registrants only, and VIP and Platinum registrants also receive reserved seating at the closing plenary. The separate VIP & Platinum evening social takes place at Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church. 765 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Registration & Check-In

Registration continues during the optional tour. Tour participants should check in by 9:00 a.m.

Location: Boston University School of Law; room to be announced

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Continental Breakfast with Coffee and Tea

Enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast with coffee and tea, served during registration and check-in and before the opening plenary. Please be seated by 10:00 a.m. for the Opening Plenary Session.

Location: Boston University School of Law; location to be announced

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Platinum Strategy Lab & Hot Seat Mentorship Session (Optional)

A working session for Platinum registrants only: small-group strategy work and live hot seat mentorship to sharpen your application plan. Pick up your complimentary continental breakfast at check-in and bring it into the session.

Topics include:

- Building a strong, well-organized application.
- Communicating your experiences, identity, and goals.
- Selecting schools that fit your goals and priorities.
- Navigating setbacks, including low scores, retakes, gaps, and rejections.
- Balancing applications with school, work, and family responsibilities.
- Preparing for the transition to law school.

Platinum registrants only. Ends at 9:30 a.m., leaving time to be seated for the 10:00 a.m. Opening Plenary Session. Runs at the same time as the optional BU Law tour.

Location: Law Café, Boston University School of Law

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 (continued)

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

9:00 - 9:40 AM

Optional Boston University School of Law Tour

Explore BU Law's facilities and get a closer look at the environment where law students learn and connect. Subject to confirmation by BU Law. Advance signup, capacity, meeting location, and accessibility details will be provided through the Registrant Hub once confirmed. Tour participants should check in by 9:00 a.m.

Location: Boston University School of Law; meeting location to be announced

9:40 - 10:00 AM

Tour Return, Break & Seating

Time for tour participants to return, take a break, and take their seats.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Opening Plenary Session

A BU Law BLSA co-president provides a student welcome and introduces Dean Angela Onwuachi-Willig.

Dean Angela Onwuachi-Willig offers 10 to 15 minutes of welcome remarks, with a proposed speaking window of approximately 10:05 to 10:20 a.m. Keynote speakers, 20 minutes each: Kourtney James, Esq.; Reginald “Reggie” McGahee, Esq.; and The Honorable William “Mo” Cowan. Mayor Michelle Wu offers 5 to 7 minutes of greetings if attending; her participation is not confirmed. The session includes the conference welcome, brief introductions, and transitions. Please remain for the group photo immediately afterward.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

11:30 - 11:45 AM

Conference Group Photo

Join fellow attendees, speakers, and student leaders for the conference group photo immediately after the opening plenary. Location and gathering instructions will be announced. Accessible participation will be accommodated, including the option to remain seated.

Location: Boston University School of Law; location to be announced

11:45 - 11:55 AM

Break

Take a short break before the next session.

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 (continued)

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

11:55 AM - 12:55 PM

Cold Calls & Community: What Black Law Students Want You to Know about Surviving and Thriving in Law School

Part I: Inside the Classroom | Part II: Community, Identity, and Belonging
Current law students discuss academic expectations, community, belonging, support systems, and navigating law school. A BU Law BLSA co-president will join the discussion. The full hour is retained, including audience questions.
Topics include:

- The transition into the first year of law school.
- Cold calls, classroom participation, and the reading load.
- Study strategies, exams, and responding to feedback.
- Finding community and the role of Black Law Students Associations.
- Experiences at historically Black and predominantly white law schools.
- Navigating self-doubt, racial isolation, and assumptions.
- Balancing leadership with coursework and protecting your well-being.
- Questions to ask when choosing a law school.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

12:55 - 1:55 PM

Complimentary Box Lunches Provided by Boston University School of Law

Boston University School of Law will provide complimentary box lunches for all conference attendees. Enjoy a meal and connect with fellow participants before afternoon programming resumes at 1:55 p.m. Specific dining location and service details will be announced.

Location: Boston University School of Law; location to be announced

12:55 - 1:55 PM

One-on-One Pre-Law Advising During Lunch (Optional)

A second round of 15-minute one-on-one pre-law advising appointments for registered attendees, held during the lunch period. Pick up your box lunch before or after your appointment. Advance appointment signup is recommended, and availability is limited.

Location: Rooms 416–419, Boston University School of Law

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 (continued)

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

1:55 - 2:55 PM

From Aspiring Lawyer to Licensed Attorney: Preparing for the Bar and Beyond

Why your bar exam journey starts before law school

Getting into law school is an important milestone. Understanding the path to becoming a licensed attorney helps you prepare for what comes next. This conversation introduces prospective law students to the bar exam, the broader admissions process for legal practice, and the academic, financial, and personal preparation that the journey requires. Learn what questions to ask law schools about student support and bar preparation, which habits to develop early, and how to plan with confidence and realistic expectations.

Topics include:

- What it takes to become a licensed attorney: the bar exam, the MPRE, and character and fitness.
- The NextGen bar exam and researching jurisdiction requirements.
- Building writing, analytical, and study habits that support bar success.
- Using academic support resources early and often.
- What bar study looks like.
- Planning for the costs of bar study and the transition to employment.
- Evaluating law schools' bar passage outcomes and support programs.
- What licensure makes possible.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

2:55 - 3:05 PM

Break

Take a short break before the next session.

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 (continued)

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

3:05 - 4:05 PM

Your JD, Your Possibilities: Exploring Legal Career Paths

From the courtroom to the boardroom, sports and entertainment, public service, and beyond: attorneys share their paths and how AI is changing legal work

What could your future in law look like? Hear from attorneys whose experiences reveal the possibilities across law firms, government, public interest, business, and other professional settings. Through candid stories about their choices, transitions, and unexpected opportunities, panelists will explore the daily realities of their work, the skills their roles demand, and how mentorship and relationships shaped their paths. The conversation will also examine artificial intelligence and the future of law, including how emerging tools are changing legal work, what employers may expect of new lawyers, and why sound judgment, strong writing, ethical responsibility, and human connection remain essential. Leave with a broader understanding of your options and practical questions to guide your next steps.

Topics include:

- What lawyers actually do across firms, courts, government, public interest, and international service.
- How attorneys found their paths and navigated career transitions.
- Comparing practice settings: mission, compensation, lifestyle, and growth.
- Building relationships and finding mentors and sponsors.
- Navigating opportunity and advancement as a Black attorney.
- How AI is changing legal work and professional expectations.
- Developing skills for a changing legal profession.

Format: Moderated panel with audience Q&A.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

4:05 - 4:15 PM

Break

Take a short break before the next session.

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 (continued)

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Building a Firm, Creating a Legacy: Black Lawyers on Ownership and Entrepreneurship

The risks, rewards, and realities of building practices that last

What does it take to put your name on the door and build a practice that lasts? Black law firm owners share the decisions, risks, setbacks, and successes behind their entrepreneurial journeys. Explore how lawyers attract their first clients, earn trust, finance operations, set fees, build teams, and balance excellent legal work with the demands of running a business. Panelists will also discuss how they evaluate technology and artificial intelligence for their practices, including potential benefits, costs, client confidentiality, accuracy, and the need for attorney oversight. This candid conversation will explore the opportunities and barriers Black legal entrepreneurs encounter, the communities they serve, and the legacies they hope to build.

Topics include:

- Deciding to build a firm, and when.
- Choosing a practice focus and attracting your first clients.
- Managing finances, fees, staffing, and growth.
- Responding to risk and setbacks.
- Evaluating AI and other tools responsibly.
- Creating opportunities for others through ownership and leadership.
- Preparing for ownership while in college and law school.

Format: Moderated panel with audience Q&A.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

5:15 - 5:30 PM

Break & Ceremony Preparation

Take a short break and return for the closing plenary. Participating attorneys receive pinning instructions and prepare for the ceremony.

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Closing Plenary & Aspiring Lawyers Pinning Ceremony

Major keynote address from Bryan Fair, Esq., with special guest remarks from Theresa Wilson, Esq.; Cherina D. Wright, Esq., M.B.A.; Marsha Ross-Jackson, Esq., MPA; and The Honorable J. Machelle Sweeting.

Conclude the conference's formal programming with keynote and special guest remarks, the Aspiring Lawyers Success Pledge, and the pinning of eagle pins by current lawyers. Closing remarks and presiding over the Aspiring Lawyers Pinning Ceremony. Participation instructions will be provided. Reserved seating is available for VIP and Platinum registrants.

Location: Auditorium, Boston University School of Law

Day 3: Saturday, November 14, 2026 (continued)

Prepare for It: Your Path Into the Profession

7:00 - 7:15 PM

Break & Transition to Reception

Take a short break following the closing plenary and pinning ceremony. VIP and Platinum registrants may make their way to the Closing Reception, which begins at 7:15 p.m.

7:15 - 8:15 PM

Closing Reception (VIP & Platinum)

A light networking reception for VIP and Platinum registrants only. Close out conference weekend with conversation, connection, and opportunities to build lasting professional relationships. Refreshments only will be provided; this reception is not a meal. Please plan your evening meal separately. Specific room and reservation instructions will be announced. The reception concludes at 8:15 p.m.

Location: Boston University School of Law; room to be announced

8:15 - 9:00 PM

Travel to Harvard Epworth (VIP & Platinum)

VIP and Platinum registrants travel from BU Law to Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church for the evening social. Allow time for transit waits and traffic; attendees arrange and pay for their own transportation.

Location: Boston University School of Law to Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church

9:00 - 10:30 PM

Slices, S'mores and Support Circles (VIP & Platinum)

Pizza, s'mores, new accountability partners, and a circle of support you did not have before you came.

Continue the connections made throughout conference weekend over pizza slices and s'mores. This separate evening social follows the VIP & Platinum Closing Reception at BU Law and brings together VIP and Platinum registrants and the conference's speakers, panelists, and contributors. You leave with new accountability partners and a circle of support you did not have before you came: pairs and small circles are made before the evening ends so the conversations started this weekend turn into check-ins, deadlines, and follow-through. The Your First Circle raffle drawing takes place at this social.

Location: Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church

Saturday main conference sessions take place in the Auditorium at Boston University School of Law, and one-on-one pre-law advising takes place in Rooms 416–419. Other room assignments, revised service times, and speaker placements remain subject to confirmation. The closing plenary ends at 7:00 p.m. The Closing Reception from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. is for VIP and Platinum registrants only, and VIP and Platinum registrants also receive reserved seating at the closing plenary. General Admission registrants' Saturday programming concludes with the closing plenary and pinning ceremony. VIP and Platinum registrants, along with conference speakers, panelists, and contributors, then travel to Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church for the Slices, S'mores and Support Circles from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m.