



JUST THE BEGINNING – A Pipeline Organization

Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization 13th National Conference Scholarships

Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization's ("JTB") 13th National Conference will engage hundreds of federal and state judges, lawyers, and students who are committed to expanding access to the legal profession, higher education, and the workforce while promoting equal access to the U.S. justice system and the fair administration of justice.

In support of JTB's core values of Exposure, Education, and Connection, JTB will offer four scholarships to Houston law students.

Joshua and Dorothy Williams Memorial Legal Education Scholarship

Joshua and Dorothy Williams, beloved parents of The Honorable Ann Claire Williams, were staunch believers in education, pursuing dreams and aspirations, and opening doors for those who are following behind. They nurtured and taught old fashioned values with love and humility. One incoming law student from a Houston law school will receive this award.

Criteria

The nominee must

- Be an incoming 1L student for the fall 2026 school year;
- Be accepted at a Houston law school; and
- Have an undergraduate grade point average of at least a 3.2 overall, based on a 4.0 scale.

13th National Conference – Law School Scholarships

Named in honor of three trailblazing judges who worked towards expanding access to the legal profession, we are excited to support three law school students working towards their goals. The scholarships are named in honor of the following judges:

- Hon. Vanessa Gilmore, U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas (Ret.)
- Hon. Wallace B. Jefferson, Supreme Court of Texas (Ret.)
- Hon. Ruby Kless Sondock, Supreme Court of Texas (Ret.)

Criteria

The nominees must

- Be a current 1L or 2L (as of fall 2025);
- Be enrolled at Houston law school; and
- Have a law school grade point average of at least a 3.2 overall, based on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants

Applicants should be enrolled at one of the following law schools.

- University of Houston Law Center
- South Texas College of Law Houston
- Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Award

Just the Beginning will award four law school students each a \$5,000 scholarship at the Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization 13th National Conference Gala on Saturday, September 18, 2026. Only one awardee per school will be selected.

Application Materials

The application is available [here](#). To complete the application, you will need the following materials:

- Essay discussing the importance of diversity in viewpoints in the legal field.
- Law school or Undergraduate transcript
- A letter of recommendation (Must be a professor)
- Proof of Acceptance at Houston Law School (for the Joshua and Dorothy Williams Only)
- Resume highlighting any previous participation in JTB programming and/or work towards diversity and inclusion

Please note the **deadline** on the application link.

Note

Scholarships will be awarded at Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization 13th National Conference Gala on September 18, 2026. Each awardee will be given two tickets to the event, but transportation/hotel will not be included. Attendance at the gala is not required to receive the award.