



MABA Judicial Externship Program: Summer 2026

Program Overview:

In 2013, the Mexican American Bar Association (“MABA”) launched its Judicial Externship Program (“JEP”) for law students. JEP’s mission is to increase access to highly sought-after judicial externship positions for students intending to practice in Los Angeles after their graduation.

For Summer 2026, MABA will select up to nine (9) students to serve as judicial externs for eight weeks in the chambers of one of the judges listed below.

Training & Programming: Selected students are required to attend a pre-externship training. During their externships, students are required to participate in a series of lunchtime discussions and programs hosted by participating judges, law firms, non-profits, and government organizations. JEP provides a \$2,500 scholarship to each student.

Participating Judges:

Honorable Jesus G. Bernal, United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable Fernando M. Olguin, United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable André Birotte Jr., United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable Hernán D. Vera, United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable Mónica Ramírez Almadani, United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable Serena R. Murillo, United States District Court for the Central District of California
Honorable Pedro V. Castillo, United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District of California
Honorable Gonzalo C. Martinez, Presiding Justice, California Second District Court of Appeal

Students Selected: Up to nine (9) students

Funding: Each selected student will receive a \$2,500 scholarship

Term: Students must participate for a minimum of eight weeks with a full-time schedule (i.e. 40 hours per week). All externships are expected to begin on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and end at the completion of eight weeks (unless other dates specified or agreed upon by participating chambers). Daily work schedules and exact start date will be determined by the chambers of the participating judge.

SELECTION PROCESS: IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

November 18, 2025:	First date applications are accepted.
January 5, 2026:	Deadline to submit the completed application and materials. Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on January 5, 2026. Late applications will not be considered.
January 2026:	During the first two weeks of January 2026, the Selection Committee interviews select applicants and chooses a limited number of finalists to be considered by participating judges.
January 31, 2026:	Finalists are selected for placement in chambers of participating judges.
February 2026:	MABA announces and recognizes the selected students at its Installation Awards Dinner.
May 2026:	Start dates may vary by chambers, but selected students should be available to start work at their placement by May 26, 2026

PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants who are residents of the Greater Los Angeles area (encompassing Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange counties) will be considered. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their ties to Los Angeles and its surrounding communities and their intent to practice in this region after graduation.
- All applicants must be a MABA member at the time of application or must have submitted a MABA student membership application. MABA law student membership is free of charge. [Click here for membership application.](#)
- Selected students must reside in the Greater Los Angeles area during the Summer 2026 externship.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated interest in a federal and/or appellate externship
- Demonstrated commitment to community service and the potential to succeed
- 1L or 2L in good academic standing
- Ties to the Greater Los Angeles area and an intention to practice there after graduation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the application, interview, and selection process work?

After the application deadline, the Selection Committee reviews the submitted applications of eligible applicants and selects a group of students to interview with the Selection Committee via a virtual platform. After the interviews, the Selection Committee selects a smaller slate of finalists whose applications are forwarded to participating chambers for consideration. Participating judges and their clerks then engage in their own independent review process and indicate their preferences to the Selection Committee. Selected students are then made an offer to participate in the Program and have 48 hours to accept an offer to participate.

Do I need to be a member of MABA in order to participate in the Program?

Yes. Membership of MABA is required for all scholarship recipients. To apply for membership, please visit www.mabaattorneys.com. Membership for law students is free, but requires submission of an application and approval by the MABA Board. All applicants for the Program must submit a MABA student membership application on or before January 6, 2026, midnight PST.

May I choose the judge for whom I work?

No. Students who apply to the Program agree to be placed in the chambers of any of the participating judges. Exceptions to this are for students who cannot work in chambers in Riverside (Hon. Jesus G. Bernal) or Santa Ana (Hon. Mónica Ramírez Almadani). *Students apply to the Program, not to a particular judge.*

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, beginning November 18, 2025. Students are encouraged to submit their applications well in advance of the January 5, 2026 midnight PST deadline. Applications submitted after the deadline, as well as incomplete applications, will not be considered. Applications must also be submitted in the requested form. **All completed applications will be evaluated after the deadline.**

What if I have not yet received my fall semester grades when I submit my application?

An applicant should submit the fullest transcript available at the time of the transmission of his or her application, and can supplement the application with a complete transcript as soon as it becomes available.

How will interviews be conducted?

Interviews will be conducted virtually.

Do I need to submit an official transcript?

No. It is not necessary to submit an official transcript with your application, but you may be required to submit your official transcript at a later date.

Should I submit my undergraduate or other graduate school transcripts?

Students are strongly encouraged to submit their undergraduate transcripts. While not required, it may be helpful to submit undergraduate transcripts to demonstrate a student's ability to succeed in an academic setting.

What type of writing sample should I submit?

Writing samples should demonstrate your own legal research and analysis abilities. Legal research memoranda, law review articles, and motions that reflect a student's original research and legal analysis may be submitted.

May I "split" my summer or work part-time in chambers?

No. The purpose of the program is to provide an immersive summer experience to our scholarship recipients. Program participants must commit to working a full eight weeks, unless otherwise specified by chambers. Students

may not “split” their summer (e.g. work half of the summer in chambers and the other half in another position), nor may students work part-time.

If I am selected for the Program, is it necessary to attend the pre-externship training?

Yes. The pre-externship training is mandatory for Program participants. After the Summer 2026 Program participants have been chosen, a Selection Committee member will contact selected students to schedule the training.

Is the additional summer programming mandatory?

Yes. Attendance at the additional summer programs is mandatory. The programming provides unique professional development and networking opportunities for externs. Dates for the additional programming will be announced at the beginning of the summer.

When are scholarship funds disbursed?

Scholarship funds are disbursed once the student accepts a scholarship offer. Scholarship funds are typically disbursed before students begin their summer externship via the California Community Foundation.

Do I have to submit to a background check and Live Scan?

Yes. A requirement of working in either the California Court of Appeal or the Federal Court is that a summer extern must submit to a pre-externship background check and Live Scan. Participating chambers provide the specific instructions and deadlines for Program students to complete the background check and Live Scan.

Are externships virtual for Summer 2026? Do I have to be able to appear in chambers in-person?

It depends. Each participating judge has different attendance requirements. Most externships are fully in-person, while others may be conducted as a hybrid with some virtual attendance accepted. Because your presence will be requested in chambers, we do require that you reside in the Greater Los Angeles area during Summer 2026 (unless otherwise applicable, please see below).

Where will I be working?

Students selected to work for the following judges will work out of Downtown Los Angeles: Hons. Fernando Olguin, André Birotte Jr., Fernando Aenlle-Rocha, Hernán D. Vera, and Pedro Castillo. The student selected to work for the Hon. Jesus Bernal will work out of the Federal Courthouse in Riverside and the student selected to work for the Hon. Mónica Ramirez Almadani will work out of the Federal Courthouse in Santa Ana. There are specific questions in the application that inquire regarding an applicant’s ability to work out of Riverside and Santa Ana. We ask that you respond to these questions as honestly as possible.

QUESTIONS

Any questions about the program may be directed to Program Chair Rosio Flores Arriaga by email at rosiofloresm@gmail.com.



MABA Judicial Externship Program, Summer 2026

Application: *Application Instructions*

Thank you for your interest in the Mexican American Bar Association's Judicial Externship Program. Please read these directions carefully, as only applications that comply with the following guidelines will be considered:

- This form is intended to help inform you on what material you must gather and submit at the link provided below.
- **All applications must be submitted through the following link:**
<https://californiacommunityfoundation.my.site.com/scholarship/s/login/> **no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on January 5, 2026, to be considered.**
- Application materials, Resume; Transcript(s); Student Statement; Supplemental Statement; and Legal Writing Sample, must be submitted in a **single PDF** file at the link provided above. The order of the materials should be as follows:
- The PDF should be named "Applicant First Name Applicant Last Name: MABA Externship 2026 Application-Law School attending" (e.g. Jane Roe MABA Externship 2026 Application-UCLA Law).
- Please **do not** include this instruction page with your application or pages 1- 4 of the information application packet.
- The Legal Writing Sample should not exceed ten (10) pages and must have page numbers.

MABA Board members and their family members are not eligible to apply for this program.

Application Checklist (please do not include this checklist in your application materials):

- ☐ Application Sections One through Seven (submitted via the form at the link above)
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Transcript(s)
- ☐ Student Statement
- ☐ Supplemental Statement
- ☐ Legal Writing Sample

Section One: Student Information

[This form is being provided to inform you of what information you will need to gather and respond to in the electronic form.]

Name: _____

First	Middle Initial	Last
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Pronouns (Optional): _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Current Address: _____

Street Name and Number	Apartment Number
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City	State	Zip Code
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Telephone Number(s): _____

Section Two: Educational Information

Law School: _____

Year in Law School: _____ **Graduation Date:** _____

Undergraduate Institution(s): _____

Undergraduate Degree(s): _____ **Dates Attended:** _____

(If Applicable) Advanced Degree Institution: _____

Advanced Degree in: _____ **Dates Attended:** _____

Are you a current MABA Law Student Member (please indicate yes or no): _____

Section Three: Course Credit Information

Do you expect to receive academic/course credit for the externship? _____

Does your law school allow students to receive public interest or other school sponsored funding for completing a summer judicial externship? _____

Section Four

Please describe in no more than three to four sentences your ties to Los Angeles, as well as your intention to practice in Los Angeles after graduation.

Section Five: Additional Information

You may refer to your resume if it addresses the items below. Responses should be provided in chronological order.

Honors received (in or outside an academic setting):

Legal Experience: Please include the position title, dates of employment/volunteer activity, and name and contact information of a supervisor with whom we may speak as a reference. Please note that legal experience is **not** a prerequisite for participation in the program.

Section Five: Additional Information (Continued)

Community Service: Please include the name of the activity/organization, any applicable positions, and dates of participation.

Section Six: Placement Availability

Students who apply to the Program, agree to be placed in the chambers of **any** of the participating judges for a minimum of eight weeks. Most of the participating judges' chambers are located in downtown Los Angeles. One participating judge is located in Riverside (the Hon. Jesus G. Bernal) and one in Santa Ana (the Hon. Mónica Ramirez Almadani). Please indicate below if you are able to be placed in chambers in Riverside and Santa Ana.

I am able to commit to completing an externship in Riverside, California (please indicate yes or no): _____

I am able to commit to completing an externship in Santa Ana, California (please indicate yes or no): _____

I am able to commit to a full-time externship for a minimum of eight weeks, without splitting summers (indicate yes or no): _____

Section Seven: Two References

Below, please include all the requested information for your two listed references. We encourage students to list academic or professional references only, and submit at least one academic reference.

Reference One:

Name: _____ **Current Position:** _____

Current Email: _____ **Current Phone:** _____

Brief Description of how reference knows applicant: _____

Reference Two:

Name: _____ **Current Position:** _____

Current Email: _____ **Current Phone:** _____

Brief Description of how reference knows applicant: _____

Additional Application Materials

1. Resume

- 2. Transcript(s).** Non-official law school and undergraduate transcripts are accepted. However, we may require an official transcript before extending an offer. If your school does not follow the standard “A/B/C” grading model, please include your school’s explanation of how grades are issued. *Transcripts are reviewed for the purpose of ensuring a student is in good academic standing.*
- 3. Student Statement.** In 500 words or less, please explain why you should be awarded a MABA Judicial Externship Program Scholarship. You should include information regarding your background, reasons for pursuing further education, challenges you face outside of school, legal field of interest, career goals, any special circumstances, and why you are interested in this Program in particular. *The word limit is strictly enforced. The student statement should include your name at the top, be double-spaced, and be typed in Times New Roman font, size 12. Students are strongly encouraged to proofread their writing samples.*
- 4. Supplemental Statement.** In 250 words or less, please explain your interest in a federal or appellate externship. To the extent you are interested in a federal or appellate clerkship after law school, please explain why. Your Supplemental Statement should follow the same style format described in the Student Statement section.
- 5. Legal Writing Sample.** Please submit one legal writing sample. The sample may be, but is not limited to, legal research memoranda, persuasive briefs, or law review articles. Writing samples must be the applicant’s original work and may not exceed ten (10) pages. The applicant’s original writing sample may be shortened to comply with the ten-page requirement.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MABA JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM & SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

This guide provides you with instructions on how to register for the scholarships portal at the California Community Foundation, how to confirm your registration, and provides helpful tips on filling out the application. A preview of the scholarship application is provided at the end of this guide, should you prefer to prepare your answers offline and then copy/paste them into the online application.

In short, here is a summary of the application process:

1. Register as an applicant in the scholarships portal
2. Confirm registration in your email
3. Navigate to the scholarship application in the portal
4. Fill out the application and submit

If you have questions or experience difficulties, please contact scholarships@calfund.org.

REGISTER yourself as an applicant here:

<https://californiacommunityfoundation.my.site.com/scholarship/s/login/SelfRegister>. The registration page looks like this:

California COMMUNITY Foundation

Sign Up for an Account

Create an account to access funding opportunities and track submitted applications.

Enter your contact information and if you are applying for grant applicant access, select your Organization.

You can search for organization by name, EIN, or street address.

* First Name * Last name

* Email

What type of access are you requesting?

☐ Grant Applicant ☐ Scholarship Applicant ☐ Application Reviewer

Access Level

Are you requesting Organizational Admin Access?

--None--

- You will be prompted to create a profile, including your first name, last name, and email address. Your email address should be one that you check often, as award information will be communicated via email.
- For **What type of access are you requesting?**, select Scholarship Applicant.
- Under Access Level, select “no.”

Once you register, you’ll receive this message:



Sign Up for an Account

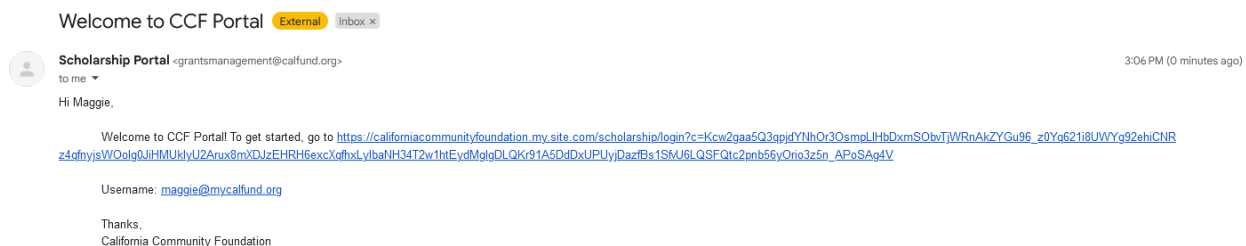
Create an account to access funding opportunities and track submitted applications.

Thank you for registering to our portal.
Please check your email for the confirmation and to set your password.

Done

Already have an account?

Navigate to the email you provided. You will receive the following email from Scholarship Portal (grantsmanagement@calfund.org). If the email is not in your inbox, be sure to check the SPAM folder and add grantsmanager@calfund.org and scholarships@calfund.org as a contact.



The link in the email will prompt you to create a password:

salesforce

Change Your Password

Enter a new password for **grantsmanager@mycalfund.org**.
Make sure to include at least:

- ☐ 8 characters
- ☐ 1 letter
- ☐ 1 number

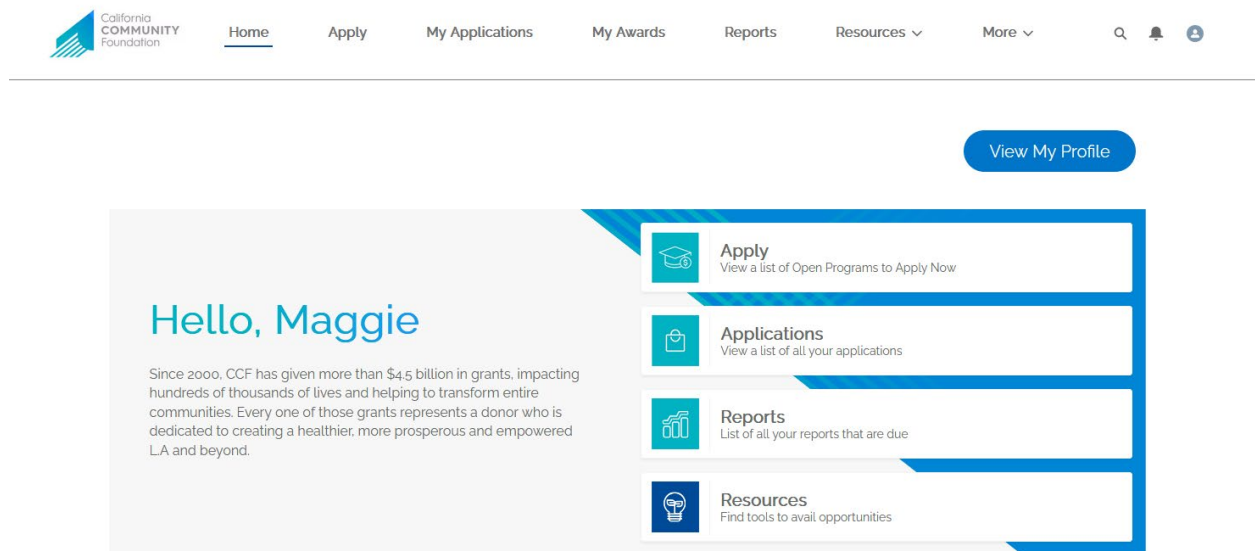
* New Password

* Confirm New Password

Change Password

Password was last changed on 2/5/2025, 3:06 PM.

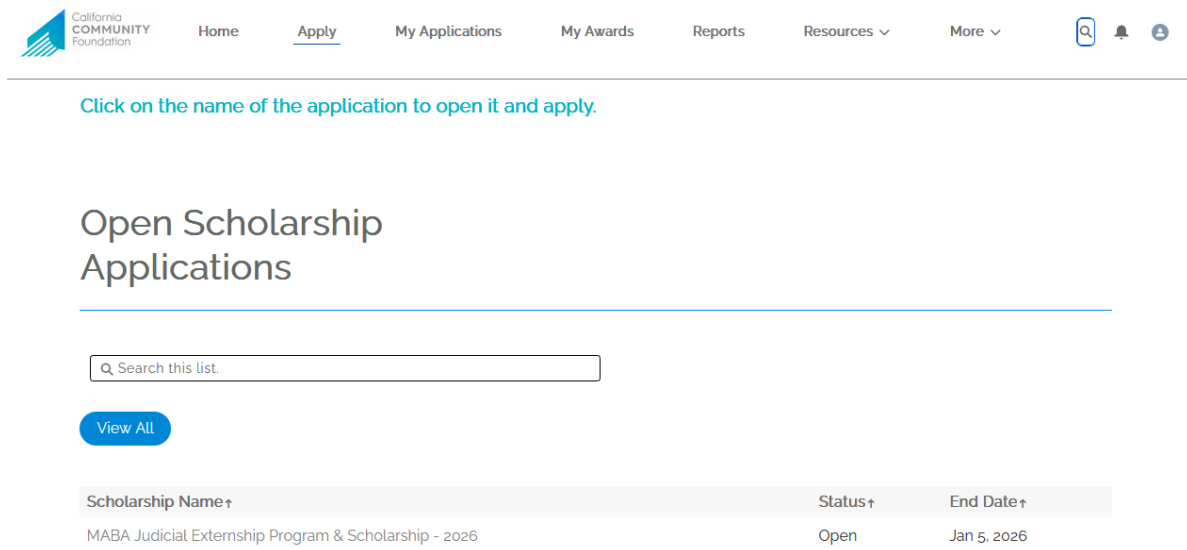
You will then be taken to the home screen of the application portal:



Once you have registered, you will be able to access the application through your secure portal log in here: <https://californiacommunityfoundation.my.site.com/scholarship/s/login/>.

APPLICATION

Upon logging in, select Apply tab at the top of the page, and navigate to the MABA Judicial Externship Program & Scholarship – 2026.



MABA Judicial Externship Program & Scholarship - 2026

APPLY NOW

Application Due Date

01/05/2026

Type

Scholarship

Status

In progress

Description

Established by MABA in 2013, the Judicial Externship Program ("JEP") secures judicial externships for a select group of law students and provides them invaluable experience in our federal and state courts. Selected scholarship recipients undergo a rigorous selection process, wherein they must demonstrate an intention to practice in Los Angeles after their graduation and a commitment to community service and the Latina/o community. Participants work full-time in chambers for eight weeks, conducting research, drafting legal memoranda and orders, and attending proceedings. They also receive a \$2,500 scholarship. MABA attorneys who clerked for federal and state court judges offer them a series of lunch-time seminars, as well as monitor their progress throughout the summer. The JEP was started to provide qualifying students an opportunity that many would not otherwise have in the competitive environment of judicial externships. Participants have used this invaluable experience to bolster their chances of obtaining various legal positions, including judicial clerkships. Several past participants have gone on to clerk for federal and state court judges, including on the U.S. Court of Appeal for the Second Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Once you click on the name of the scholarship, you’ll need to click on the “Apply Now” button. This will take you to the main application page.

You may work on your application and save your progress as you go, but you must have information in all of the required fields (marked with a red asterisk) in order to save the application as a draft. You may put placeholder information into the required fields and return to the application if you save it as a draft. It is recommended you prepare your answers offline and then paste them into the fields when you are ready to submit.

You can return to your saved application on the My Applications page on the scholarship portal. Your saved draft will reopen when you click on your application ID.

Click on the Application ID to open and access your application .

All Applications

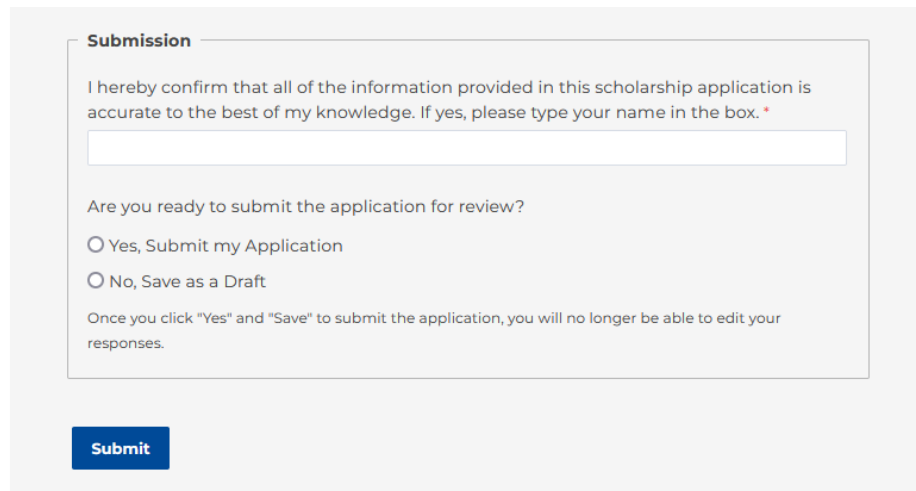
Q Search this list.

View All

Application ID↑	Status.↑	Applying Contact Name↑	Funding Cycle📅
367055	Declined	Maggie Rose	BlackLine Scholarship In Memory of Amit Yoran - 2025
367056	Submitted	Maggie Rose	BlackLine Scholarship In Memory of Amit Yoran - 2025
369146	Submitted	Maggie Rose	Children of Securitas Scholarship - 2025
370710	Submitted	Maggie Rose	MABA Judicial Externship Program & Scholarship - 2026

SUBMISSION

In order to successfully submit your application, you must provide 1) all required information 2) all required attachments and 3) when your application has been finalized you must type your name into the box at the bottom of the application, select “yes”, and click Submit. You will receive a submission confirmation email.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Submission". Inside the form, there is a confirmation statement: "I hereby confirm that all of the information provided in this scholarship application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. If yes, please type your name in the box. *". Below this statement is a text input field. Further down, there is a question: "Are you ready to submit the application for review?". Below the question are two radio button options: "Yes, Submit my Application" and "No, Save as a Draft". At the bottom of the form, there is a note: "Once you click 'Yes' and 'Save' to submit the application, you will no longer be able to edit your responses." Below the form, there is a blue button labeled "Submit".

Tips:

- Please use an email that you check regularly. Hotmail and Yahoo accounts have SPAM filters that often direct the Foundation’s emails to a SPAM folder. If you do not have a Gmail account, be sure to check your SPAM folder regularly to make sure you receive the Foundation’s emails/instructions. Please **avoid** providing a school-associated e-mail address if you will be transferring schools.
- We may need to send you information by mail. Be sure to include your full mailing address which should include your street address (ex. 2000 Smith Street), your city (ex. Los Angeles), your five digit postal zip code (ex. 90012), and if applicable an apartment or unit number.
- If you have any clarifying questions regarding the application portal, please contact the Foundation at scholarships@calfund.org and we will do our best to address your question in a timely fashion.