

Student Law Academy 2023: That's a Wrap!



We had 33 students, rising juniors, and seniors in high school who were selected to participate as scholars in KCMBF's Student Law Academy (SLA) **Legal Pathway**. The largest class of scholars to date, the 2023 SLA program launched on June 5th, 2023. Each weekday morning throughout the month, SLA Scholars interacted with legal professionals on various legal topics. They spoke with judges, heard from lawyers from all areas of law, and learned about the justice system and different careers in the law. The students attended a total of 54 sessions with 68 speakers. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer presenters who provided great sessions for the students. The graduation was held on June 30th at UMKC School of Law, and Hon. Candice Alcaraz was the inspirational keynote speaker.

We were also thrilled to continue the SLA **Job Shadow** this year. SLA graduates from past years' Legal Pathway program enjoyed an in-person rotational, paid internship opportunity and mock trial experience from July 5-28, 2023. Scholars were assigned and worked with mentors and attended field trips to the Kansas State Capitol, the Kansas Supreme Court, United States Courts-Western District of Missouri, and the Missouri Court of Appeals-Western District. The Job Shadow program ended with a Mock Trial and Ice Cream Social at the KCMBF headquarters!

All SLA graduates are eligible for the **Pre-Law Fellowship**, which provides resources and mentorship for those applying to law school or other legal-related professional schools.



What SLA session did you find most impactful and why?

"When I learned how people took their different paths to get to where they're at now despite how hard it was. That really motivated me."

From Leon Versfeld, KCMBF President:

Thank you to the SLA Committee leadership team: Amy Coopman, Kelly Frickleton, Kamillia Scott, and all the members of our Student Law Academy Committee, who worked hard to ensure SLA continues to improve year after year, as well as the KCMBF Board of Directors, the staff at KCMBF and PREP-KC, and the Kansas City legal community at large.

A special thank you to the following sponsors who made this paid internship a reality for these students: Davis Bethune & Jones, LLC; Ketchmark & McCreight, P.C.; Dollar, Burns, Becker & Hershewe, LC; Baty Otto Coronado Scheer PC; Bill and Kelly Martucci; Lathrop GPM; Norman and Graves, LLC; Presley & Presley LLC; Siro Smith Dickson PC; The Kenner Law Firm; Williams Dirks Dameron LLC; Associates in Dispute Resolution, LLC; Gyllenborg & Brown, P.A.; Janssen Estate, Probate and Elder Law; Kamillia Scott; Law Office of Dana M. Outlaw; Stinson LLP; Tamara Veit; and Versfeld & Hugo, LLC.

"The best thing we discussed was their day-to-day job as an attorney. This gives an inside look of what it is like to wake up and practice law every day."

"Although school was talked about, I think my favorite part was when the mentor and another student spoke about their hobby which was reading/listening to audio-books. Another part was talking about our goals for the week and how our week was going."



Scott Bethune



Bianca Torres, Markus Jones,
Tabakanya Washikala, Adrinne Ruby



Hon. Candice Alcaraz, Angelina Mejia, Leon Versfeld