

Tips to Get Lavender Law Funding

Here are some tips if your law school is not already funding all or part of your trip to Lavender Law.

- Meet with the Dean of your law school on behalf of your LGBT students and ask for sponsorship. Deans generally have discretionary funds on hand for ensuring representation for their law school at national events, especially those that provide employment opportunities. The 2008 Career Fair will host over 150 recruiters specifically looking for "out" LGBT students. Remind your Dean that AALS mandates amelioration for discrimination by the U.S. military, and that Lavender Law is expressly one form of amelioration.
- Go to your law school's student bar association. When requesting funds, develop a reasonable budget based upon registration fees, and associated costs such as travel and meals. Before you ask for funding, assess your needs – know exactly how many students are willing to attend and present a firm budget based on real needs.
- Your school's career services office may provide additional assistance. Many career services professionals recognize that discrimination still occurs among recruiters and are committed to providing alternatives for LGBT students.
- Talk up your needs to LGBT alumni from your school. Many practitioners are often willing to provide a donation to your school (that may or may not be tax deductible) for a specific purpose, such as sending one or more students to Lavender Law.

Remember, obtaining funding for Lavender Law is not about providing special opportunities for LGBT students, instead it is about **leveling the playing field and providing equal opportunities** in the legal recruitment process and further promoting your individual school's national reputation for its commitment to diversity!