



The Florida Bar Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy 2021-2022 Application

The Florida Bar is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy Class IX. This is a multi-session training program designed to assist a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers in becoming better leaders within the legal profession while enhancing their leadership skills.

THE GOAL OF THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IS:

- To enhance leadership skills of a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers;
- To identify, nurture and inspire effective leadership within The Florida Bar and the legal community;
- To enhance the diversity of leaders within The Florida Bar;
- To raise the level of awareness and engagement among lawyers regarding issues facing the legal profession through the study of ethical, professional and public service issues.

WHO CAN APPLY

The Leadership Academy is open to all Florida Bar members who are in good standing. In an effort to achieve diversity among the participants, qualified individuals will be sought from different backgrounds, large and small law firms, the private and public sectors, different practice areas, and different geographical areas of the state.

YOUR OBLIGATION IN THE PROGRAM

There will be seven required meetings, which will include up to fourteen business days throughout the year including graduation at The Florida Bar Annual Convention in Orlando in June 2021. The proposed dates of each training session are included in the application. Continuing legal education credits will be awarded for most sessions.

TUITION

Academy Fellows not awarded a full scholarship will be required to pay a participation fee of \$500. The participation fee is due in full prior to the first session. Limited financial assistance will be available.

APPLY TODAY

Download the attached application form, follow the instructions on page two of this document, and email it to: leadershipacademyclassIX@floridabar.org

All application must be received on or before January 31, 2021 by 5:30 p.m. (EST).

COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION FORM

Please review for errors prior to submission to avoid delays or non-acceptance of the application.

STEPS FOR COMPLETION:

- Save this application to your local device for completion outside the web browser in a PDF format. **DO NOT SCAN.**
- Verify that your information was saved.
- Please fill out the application form completely. Do not leave any blank fields.
- Please discuss your application with your employer and review the leadership program requirements as participation in the program does involve a commitment to attend and participate in **all sessions**. Your employer must also sign an agreement for your participation.

The application must be received no later than 5:30 p.m. (EST) on Sunday, January 31, 2021. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted, and late applications **will not be considered**. Notices regarding selection status will be sent to applicants in April 2021.

You must include the following required documents along with your application in the format(s) and/or **sizes noted below**.

- Cover letter expressing your interest in being a 2021-2022 participant and how your selection would contribute to the mission of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy. (PDF).
- **Current Professional Headshot for Media Release.** (High resolution in .JPEG)
- One Letter of Recommendation (PDF). You also have the option of providing a second letter of recommendation. The letter(s) **cannot** be signed by the authorized representative that signs your Commitment and Signature Agreement.
Note that all letters of this type must be submitted along with your original application.
Letters submitted under separate cover **will not** be considered during the application review process.

Attach the application along with all other required documents and email it to: leadershipacademyclassIX@floridabar.org

Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy 2021-2022 Application Form

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Mr. Mrs. Ms.

NAME: _____

BAR NUMBER: _____

ETHNICITY: _____

FIRM/EMPLOYER: _____

FIRM SIZE: _____

POSITION WITH FIRM/EMPLOYER: _____

AREA(S) OF PRACTICE: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW?

YEARS _____ MONTHS _____

DATE ADMITTED TO THE FLORIDA BAR: _____

CIRCUIT: _____

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO THE WM. REECE SMITH, JR. LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OR ANY OTHER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY? YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS AND THE YEAR(S) APPLICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED.

ESSAY RESPONSES

On a separate sheet, using no more than 250 words for each answer, please respond to the following. In providing your answers, please make note of any situations in which you worked with other people in furtherance of a group objective, overcame a significant challenge or advocated for and/or achieved a change benefitting a group or the community generally.

1. What suggestions would you give to help facilitate collaboration among attorneys that would address minority participation and involvement in the legal profession?
2. What qualities are most important for leadership positions in The Florida Bar or other organizations?
3. Please explain why you would like to participate in The Florida Bar Leadership Academy and what you expect to gain from the experience.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY BAR ACTIVITIES

Please list, **in order of importance**, the five most important volunteer, community, or bar association activities in which you are or have been involved.

Organization (including location)	Describe Activity Or Position(s) Held	Dates of Involvement

EDUCATION

Please provide the following information with respect to your law school and college education.

Universities/College	Degree	Graduation Date	Major

List any extracurricular activities, leadership positions and honors/awards received in college or law school.

List any leadership positions and honors/awards received post law school.

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please provide the following information with respect to all past employment following graduation from college (other than your current position).

Employer (including location)	Dates of Employment	Position Upon Leaving

REFERENCES

Use this portion of the application to designate **two individuals** (at least one outside your firm) who will serve as references for you and who are knowledgeable about your community involvement, leadership experience and skills. Solo practitioners should also provide two references.

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Business Phone: _____

Business Email Address: _____

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Business Phone: _____

Business Email Address: _____

PROFESSIONAL RESUME

Please include a copy of your **current professional resume** with this application.

Leadership Academy 2021-2022 Commitment and Signature

By submitting this application, I understand and agree that as part of the application process, The Florida Bar staff and Leadership Academy Committee may contact my references and verify other information provided.

I am aware that by signing this form I am making the commitment to full attendance and participation (including completion of any homework assignments) during the entire duration of the Leadership Academy series. I understand that failure to participate may result in my dismissal from the program (exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis). Any final decision regarding my dismissal will be left to the discretion of the Leadership Academy Committee of The Florida Bar. I understand that as a part of participating in the Academy I agree to become involved with and undertake Florida Bar committee, section or division service, local or voluntary bar service, other community leadership activity, and/or act as a mentor to future Leadership Academy Fellows for at least **two years after completing the program**. I further agree to comply with all of the rules of the Academy.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

Employer Acknowledgement and Signature

I hereby understand that my employee has committed to attend seven sessions in order to fulfill their obligations as a fellow of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy. I fully support the candidate's acceptance into the Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy.

Signature of supervisor/employer:

Date:

Printed name of supervisor/employer:

Supervisor/employer's title:

Leadership Academy 2021-2022 Scholarship Assistance Application

Financial support is limited to those applicants who have **financial need** in order to participate in the Leadership Academy. The expenses for the Academy for one year are approximately \$3,000. The scholarship provided by the Bar may not cover all of the projected expenses. Additionally, applicants requesting financial assistance will be required to provide information to the inquiries below.

I am requesting partial financial assistance \$ _____

I am requesting full financial assistance

A. Why do you need financial assistance to participate as a Leadership Academy Fellow?

B. Your current family household income: \$ _____

C. How many people are in your household? _____

D. Does your family household receive additional income from other sources? If so, please explain the circumstances and amount of additional income.

E. Provide an explanation of any unusual circumstances, expenses and/or hardships.

Applicant agrees that if financial assistance is awarded and prior to the conclusion of the Leadership Academy program if Applicant's job or financial circumstances change, Applicant will notify the Diversity Initiatives Manager of such change and provide updated financial information. Applicant agrees that additional income may result in the reduction or termination of financial assistance.

Applicant Name

Signature

Date

Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy 2021-2022 Curriculum Schedule

Session I

Orlando, Florida

Kickoff Academy Meeting

The Florida Bar Annual Convention, Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek

June 11-12, 2021

Session II

Jacksonville, Florida

Meeting Site TBA

August 2021

Session III

Tampa, Florida

The Florida Bar Fall Meeting, Tampa Airport Marriott

September 30- October 1, 2021

Session IV

Tallahassee, Florida

Florida Bar Board of Governors Meeting

DoubleTree Hilton

January TBA, 2022

Session V

Orlando, Florida

Meeting Site TBA

March 18-19, 2022

Session VI

Fort Lauderdale,

Florida Meeting Site

TBA May 21, 2022

Graduation

Boca Raton, Florida

The Florida Bar Annual Convention, Boca Raton Resort & Club

June 24-25, 2022