



With **82,250⁺**
applicants, the 2026 cycle
is the **largest in 15 years.**



2026 LSAC Impact Report

LSAC provided
\$11.4 million
in **fee waiver benefits**
in FY2026.

98% of entering
2025 1L students **used**
the **LSAT®** as part of their
application.



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Our Mission

LSAC's mission is to advance law and justice by promoting access, equity, and fairness in law school admission; to broaden the pathway into legal education; and to support law schools, law students, and the legal education community.

From the President

Legal education and the legal profession are facing real uncertainty and pressures. We are proud that LSAC and the legal education community have met this moment with resolve. Over the past year, our dedicated teams have worked hard to support aspiring lawyers, expand access, broaden the pathways to legal education, strengthen the legal education ecosystem, collaborate with prelaw advisors and pathway programs, and support law schools in myriad ways.

We look forward to working with you to continue to help build a future of justice and opportunity.

With gratitude,

Sudha Setty



Sudha Setty
President and CEO
LSAC



Broadening the Pathway to Legal Education

Through our programs, partnerships, and outreach efforts, we help people from all backgrounds pursue their goals.

- Our targeted digital marketing campaigns and organic social media content guide aspiring law school students every step of the way, including our “**Law Is for All**” prospecting digital advertising campaign, which reaches and encourages individuals who might be considering law school but aren’t sure how to proceed.
- **LSAC Law School ForumsSM**: Over the past year, more than 15,000 prospective law students and representatives from 150 law schools across the United States and Canada connected through our in-person and online forums.
- LSAC provides the most comprehensive **fee waiver program** in the assessment sector, helping to open the door for aspiring lawyers with limited economic resources.
 - 10.8% of 2025 1L students had received an LSAC fee waiver.
 - 16,000+ individuals were awarded fee waivers in FY 2026.
 - LSAC provided \$11.4 million in fee waiver benefits in FY2026.
- LSAC works with **prelaw advisors** at undergraduate institutions and community colleges to provide resources and other support in guiding their advisees on their pathway to law school.
- LSAC is partnering with **national prelaw societies** Phi Alpha Delta and Kappa Alpha Pi to provide programming and support for their members in more than 300 chapters at undergraduate campuses.
- With about 1,000 students per year, the **Plus, Guided Journey pathway program** is now the largest pathway program to law school in the United States.
 - More than 99% of the 2026 Plus, Guided Journey cohort are first-generation college graduates.
 - The 2026 program includes resources and programming to meet the specific needs of service members and military veterans pursuing law school.
- **LSAC’s Pathway Collective** is supporting 25 national and regional pathway programs.
- LSAC awarded more than \$350,000 in **Pathway Grants** to colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and middle and high schools.
- In 2026, LSAC launched a collaborative initiative to expand **rural access to justice**, working with law schools; federal, state, and tribal courts; bar associations; and many other organizations.
- Our free **Strategy Booster program** has been used by 18,000+ test takers to build their skills and confidence in taking the LSAT.
- LSAC’s year-long **Prelaw Advisor Newcomers Training** helped 216 prelaw advisors gain the confidence they need to support prospective law students as they explore legal careers and apply to law school.
- LawHub’s “**I Am The Law**” podcast published 38 episodes this year, interviewing practicing lawyers to showcase the breadth of legal careers, which is increasingly relevant given advancing Big Law recruiting timelines.



Did you know?

As a member-focused organization, LSAC has nearly **20 committees and work groups**, supported by **150 leaders in legal education**, representing nearly 100 individual law schools.



The LSAT: The Gold Standard Assessment

The 2025-2026 testing cycle saw the highest volume of LSAT test takers in more than 25 years.

- There were 196,177 LSAT tests administered, up 13% compared to last year and up 33% compared to the previous four-year average.
- There were 137,811 unique test takers, up 11% compared to last year and up 30% compared to the previous four-year average.

The annual study of predictive validity across 171 participating schools once again found that the LSAT is the best single predictor of first-year law school success, far more predictive than even undergraduate GPA.

- The predictive validity of the LSAT is increasing, while the predictive validity of undergraduate GPA is decreasing, due in part to grade inflation.



Did you know?

Among entering 2025 1L students, **98% used the LSAT** as part of their application.

Supporting Schools in Achieving Their Individual Missions

Supporting law schools as they pursue their unique missions is central to LSAC's purpose. Beyond serving as a recruiting partner working to build deep, broad applicant pools for schools, LSAC supports schools with research, data analysis, professional development, consulting, and more.

- In response to the significant changes to federal student loan policies, LSAC has increased its support, resources, and information related to financial aid for schools, prospective students, and prelaw advisors.
- Unite, LSAC's **admission and enrollment management platform**, is now deployed at every U.S. law school, bringing unmatched efficiency and insights as well as outreach and recruitment capabilities.
- **RISE Alliance®** collaborated with nearly 60 organizations to advance inclusive leadership and professional development for student-facing law school staff.
- LSAC's **Legal Education Consulting (LEC)** provided a wide range of support and services at 33 law schools, from digital marketing and applicant recruitment to predictive enrollment modeling, strategic planning, and even temporary leadership staffing.
- Our **Law School Engagement team** visited more than 100 law schools for a wide range of events, presentations, and consultations.
- The annual **Newcomers Workshop** provided three days of detailed hands-on training for over 100 new and early-career law school admission professionals.
- The **2026 LSAC Annual Meeting** brought our law school community together in Spokane, Washington for four days of professional development, connecting with colleagues, and exploring emerging trends in legal education.







The Surging Interest in Law School

With 82,000+ applicants, the 2025-26 cycle is the largest in 15 years, up 8% compared to 2024-25, and up 25% compared to the previous four-year average.

Strong breadth and diversity in the applicant pool:

- For the first time ever, **applicants of color** represent more than half of all applicants in 2026.
 - Applicants of color are up 9% compared to 2025.
 - They are up 29% compared to the previous four-year average.
- Women applicants are up 9% year over year.
- Men applicants are up 7% year over year.
- Gender diverse applicants are down slightly year over year.
- **First-generation college graduates** are up roughly 6% compared to last cycle and up 22% compared to the previous four-year average.

LawHub: The Premier Destination for Aspiring Law School Students

In just six years, LawHub has grown to become the vital one-stop resource for aspiring law school students, offering everything from LSAT prep to on-demand courses and live events to informative podcasts and other tools. LawHub continued to grow throughout the past year:

- We gained 416,193 unique LawHub users this year.
- There were 1,993,645 LSAT practice tests taken in LawHub.
- We added **37 new courses to LawHub**, bringing the total to more than 50, covering a wide range of topics from navigating the application and admission processes to understanding academic expectations to developing the key skills needed for law school.
 - LawHub courses were rated 4.8 out of 5 stars by aspiring lawyers, with more than 1,000 reviews.
- We held 29 live LawHub webinars.
 - The webinars drew 15,000+ attendees.
 - 95% of LawHub webinar attendees would recommend a webinar to a friend or colleague.



Did you know?

In the past year alone, LSAC facilitated the process for **75 active military personnel to take the LSAT** from a variety of countries around the world to help them on their pathway to legal education.





Innovation and Insights

LSAC is continually innovating to identify new ways to serve schools and students, and ways to make our programs and services more effective, reliable, and cost-efficient.

- We have created new **prelaw advisor tools** to provide streamlined access to insights and information to assist their advisees.
- We've implemented new **SMS messaging capabilities** for real-time communication with registrants and test takers at key moments, such as scheduling and score release, and in the event of technical outages, extreme weather, or other issues.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even in this digital age, LSAC's mail center received, logged, and routed **30,000 hard-copy academic transcripts** on behalf of aspiring law school students in FY 2026.

Our unique position in legal education enables LSAC researchers to provide deep insights and valuable guidance to schools, prelaw advisors, pathway programs, and others on how to support individuals in their admissions journeys and once they are admitted to law school.

- 52% of LSAT test takers first began thinking about law school before college.
- About 20% of Pell Grant recipients and first-generation college graduates first thought about law school as early as elementary school.
- 31% of the 2024 1L respondents anticipate they will carry \$150,000 or more in law school debt upon graduation.
- 20% of test takers report they have no trusted resource to help guide them through the admission process.
- 44% of law students report they thought about leaving law school at some point during their first year.
- LSAC's **survey of prelaw advisors** found that 63% believe they wear too many hats, 59% are concerned about insufficient institutional support, and 48% say they don't have enough time to meet with advisees.
- LSAC collaborated with **NALP** to identify the impact of accelerated **Big Law recruiting** on law school students and applicants.
- LSAC is collaborating with **AALS** for a **new Before the JD II study** to examine undergraduate students' decisions about future careers and postgraduate education.
- LSAC is collaborating with **IAALS on Foundations 2.0**, a national research project building on IAALS's original Foundations for Practice study (first published in 2016) to develop an updated, evidence-based understanding of the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes lawyers need to succeed in legal practice today.

Expanding LSAC's Fee Waiver Program Has Expanded Law School Access

Ever since our founding, LSAC has been committed to expanding access to legal education as a vital component of creating a more just society with opportunity for all.

A key part of that commitment is our **fee waiver program**. For many years, LSAC's fee waiver program has been and continues to be the most generous in the assessments sector. Qualifying individuals receive a comprehensive package of LSAC services including **free LawHub Advantage test prep, free LSAT(s), free score preview(s), free Credential Assembly Service, and free law school reports**. For applicants with limited financial resources, these free services can make a huge difference.

In 2021, we went a step further. We knew there were aspiring law students who didn't qualify under our original income thresholds, but who still faced real financial strain in affording the application process. We kept our original fee waiver fully intact for the most economically under-resourced candidates, and we created a second tier of assistance for applicants with somewhat more, but still limited, financial means.

That decision has made a meaningful difference. In the years since the change took effect, the number of applicants receiving an LSAC fee waiver has grown substantially. In FY2026, LSAC provided \$11.4 million in fee waiver benefits, and more than 16,000 aspiring applicants were awarded fee waivers to assist them in their journeys.

More importantly, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number and proportion of students entering law school who have received financial assistance from LSAC in the application process.

Among the 1L class that entered law school in fall 2025, 10.8% had received an LSAC fee waiver, up from 5.0% in 2021. And this expanded pool of support has helped bring a broader and more

representative group of students into law school. Many of these students are the first in their families to pursue a graduate degree or come from communities that have historically been underrepresented in the legal profession.

We also recognize that removing financial barriers is necessary but not sufficient. Many economically under-resourced applicants have not had the benefit of family members, mentors, or advisors who have walked the law school application path before them. That's why we've worked to pair our fee waiver assistance with clearer guidance and information about the admission process itself, so that access to resources translates into a genuine, supported path forward.

We are proud of the impact our fee waiver program is having, and we see it as one part of our overall mission. Legal education has the power to change lives and uplift communities, but only if the door is open to everyone with the drive and ability to pass through it.

As we look ahead, LSAC remains committed to finding more ways to widen the door to legal education through expanded assistance, better information, and a steady focus on the candidates who have the most to gain, and the most to overcome, on their way to law school.



Did you know?

In FY2026, LSAC awarded **more than 16,000 fee waivers** to aspiring law school applicants to assist them in their journeys.





Broadening the Pathway: Plus, Guided Journey and the Pathway Collective

Every year, LSAC works to make sure promising future lawyers have a path into the profession, regardless of where they start.

For more than two decades, LSAC ran a program called PLUS, short for Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars. An intensive, four-week, in-person program for college students and hosted each summer by member law schools, PLUS served approximately 200 undergraduates a year and, over its run, supported more than 3,500 students interested in law.

About three years ago, we took a step back and asked how we might serve more people, more impactfully. The result was **Plus, Guided Journey**, a reimagined version of the program built for greater scale and centered around community. Rather than a single intensive month, Guided Journey accompanies prospective applicants through every stage of the law school application process over 14 months, providing the information they need at the time they need it in application process.

In just three years, Plus, Guided Journey has become the largest and most effective law school pathway program in the country. Our first cohort, which ran from 2024 to 2025, served more than 450 individuals, and the results were strong. Eighty-seven percent of participants went on to take the LSAT, and more than 95 percent of them improved their score, with a median gain of 12 points. Nearly two-thirds of the original cohort submitted at least one law school application by the program deadline, and admission rates for the group were 65 percent, well above comparable national rates for first-generation college graduates and Pell Grant recipients. Just as important, scholars left the program with a stronger sense that they belonged in law school and were confident they could succeed there.

The second cohort, which will enter law school this fall, included roughly 1,000 participants, more than 35% whom began their undergraduate studies at a community college. This cohort also experienced strong gains with 85% taking the LSAT, 93% improving their scores with a median score gain of 10 points, and more than half of participants



Did you know?

Plus, Guided Journey has become the **largest and most effective law school pathway program** in the country.

applying to at least 1 law school by the program deadline. The preliminary admissions rate is 63%, again well above the preliminary admissions rate for first generation and Pell recipients.

And we're pleased to report that our newest cohort, which will enter law school in fall 2027, will include another 1,000 individuals. More than 99% are first-generation college graduates. Forty percent come from small towns, rural areas, or remote communities, and 6% are active service members or military veterans, a group we're supporting this year with a new dedicated module built around the particular challenges of moving from military service into law school.

Our partner law schools are critical to this effort. More than 70 schools currently help deliver some portion of Guided Journey's programming, and we're always looking for additional partners to join us in this work.

Plus, Guided Journey is our own signature effort, but it's only one piece of a much larger landscape. There are myriad school-based, local, regional, and national pathway programs, which often have limited resources and limited ability to connect and share what works.

That's why we created the **Pathway Collective**, a growing network, now 25 organizations strong, united by a shared commitment to expanding access to legal education at every stage, from middle school through established careers. Collective members provide mentorship, academic enrichment, and professional development, and by connecting their work, the Collective helps strengthen the overall pathway into law.

Looking ahead, we plan to keep growing the Collective, and in our next phase, are looking at how best to support pathway programs based at law schools themselves.

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2026 LSAC Impact Report

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