



THE 22ND ANNUAL

National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair

CONFERENCE STRATEGY & NOTES

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR QUESTIONS. YOUR NEXT STEPS.

November 12-14, 2026 | Cambridge & Boston, Massachusetts

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Boston University School of Law

Created by Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M.

Founder & Event Director

NAME

02 Welcome to the Conference

The 22nd Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair | 2026

Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M.

Founder & Event Director

Dear Friends and Future Legal Leaders,

With deep gratitude and great joy, I welcome you to the 22nd Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair! I am delighted that you are joining us in Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts, as we gather at Harvard Graduate School of Education and Boston University School of Law to invest in your future in law.

When I founded this Conference, I wanted aspiring Black lawyers to have a national gathering that centered their stories, lived experiences, and journeys. As a first-generation college student, law student, and lawyer, I understood how much access to guidance, information, and a supportive community could matter. That understanding became the foundation of this work.

Building and sustaining this Conference has required persistence, resourcefulness, and a deep commitment to its purpose. I am proud of what we have built together, and I am profoundly grateful to everyone who has helped make it possible. What keeps me committed is the opportunity to help aspiring lawyers recognize what is possible for their lives and take meaningful steps toward it.

To every aspiring lawyer joining us: you belong here, and your aspirations deserve to be taken seriously. You do not need to have every answer today. Bring your curiosity, your questions, and a willingness to learn. Whether you have dreamed of becoming a lawyer for years or are just beginning to consider the possibility, I hope you feel welcomed and supported in this community.

03 A community cheering you on

A welcome from Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M. | Continued

Use this opportunity fully. Introduce yourself to someone whose journey interests you. Ask about the parts of the process you do not yet understand. Seek guidance, take notes, and follow up with the people you meet. As you listen and participate, identify the steps you can take when you return home.

Your experiences, perspective, and commitments matter. They can help you recognize needs others overlook and understand the people you may one day serve. As you pursue a legal education, consider how you will use that knowledge to advocate effectively and contribute to your communities.

This Conference centers the stories, lived experiences, and journeys of current and aspiring Black lawyers. It is open to all and welcoming to everyone. Wherever you are starting, I hope you find both practical guidance and people who encourage you to keep moving forward.

To our speakers, law school representatives, sponsors, partners, and extraordinary volunteers: thank you for believing in this mission and putting that belief into action. Your generosity makes these opportunities possible. I do not take your time, your contributions, or your trust for granted.

My commitment remains strong because I believe in the people this Conference brings together. I believe in your capacity to learn, to lead, and to make a meaningful contribution to the legal profession. I look forward to the day when you help another aspiring lawyer find their way.

Welcome to the Conference. Your next chapter deserves your full commitment, and you have a community here cheering you forward. Let's go!

With gratitude and determination,

Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M.

Founder & Event Director

National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair

04 Key things to consider

Arrive ready to learn, connect, and make the most of your time.

1. BRING A WAY TO CAPTURE IDEAS

Bring a few pens you enjoy writing with and keep this booklet close. Consider using a second color to mark ideas you want to act on, questions to revisit, and important follow-up tasks. If you prefer digital notes, charge your device and save a copy of this booklet before you arrive.

2. MAKE IT EASY TO STAY CONNECTED

Bring business or contact cards, or prepare a simple digital contact card. Include your name, professional email address, and relevant school, major, or professional role. A LinkedIn profile or QR code can also help someone reconnect with you. Share the contact information you are comfortable making available.

3. PREPARE YOUR INTRODUCTION

Practice a brief introduction: who you are, where you are in your journey, and what you hope to learn. You do not need a perfect pitch. A thoughtful question and a sincere interest in another person can begin a meaningful conversation.

BE OPEN TO LEARNING. BE READY TO CONNECT.

Review the program, identify a few priorities, and leave room for an unexpected connection or new idea.

05 Bring your best to the room

Your curiosity, preparation, and consideration help shape the experience.

4. AN OPEN AND INQUISITIVE MIND

Join us ready to learn and ask questions. Even if you have already researched law school extensively, a different perspective may reveal something useful. Listen carefully, seek clarification, and remember that every person has experiences you cannot know simply by looking at them.

5. A POSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL APPROACH

Help create a welcoming atmosphere by treating attendees, speakers, representatives, and volunteers with kindness, dignity, and respect. If you feel overwhelmed, give yourself a moment to regroup. Ask for help when you need it and remain open to the opportunities around you.

6. A PLAN YOU CAN ADJUST

Use the current conference schedule to choose sessions and plan transitions. Confirm any tour, advising, or activity requirements in the official event information. Allow time for travel, meals, rest, and conversations. Your plan should help you focus while remaining flexible enough to learn something unexpected.

COME AS YOU ARE. PARTICIPATE WITH INTENTION.

You do not need to know everything to belong here. Prepare your questions, listen actively, and give yourself permission to grow.

06 Questions that shape my path

Use these five topic areas to identify what you want to understand.

LAW SCHOOL FIT & COMMUNITY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

LSAT SUCCESS STRATEGIES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

FINANCIAL AID, STUDENT LOANS & DEBT MANAGEMENT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CAREER ADVICE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

07 My Law Fair shortlist

Which ten law schools, programs, or organizations do I want to explore?

Research ahead of time so you can ask questions beyond the website. Stay open to schools and programs you have not yet considered; an unexpected conversation may offer a useful connection or new possibility.

01

02

03

04

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EXPLORE WITH INTENTION

Use the school or program notes page to capture details and follow-up questions.

08 People I want to learn from

Which speakers, panelists, presenters, law students, or attorneys would I like to meet?

Read speaker biographies. Look for shared interests, schools, experiences, or career paths that can help you begin a thoughtful conversation and build a meaningful relationship.

PERSON / ROLE

WHY I WANT TO CONNECT / WHAT I WANT TO ASK

PERSON / ROLE

WHY I WANT TO CONNECT / WHAT I WANT TO ASK

PERSON / ROLE

WHY I WANT TO CONNECT / WHAT I WANT TO ASK

09 Make the experience count

Learn actively, build relationships, and follow through.

DURING THE EVENT

Take good notes and write down new questions. Seek answers. Participate in networking activities, exchange contact information, and focus on meaningful connections. Keep a list of actions you can take after the event.

PROCESS AND PUT YOUR NOTES TO WORK

Give yourself time to absorb what you learned. Review and organize your notes, then begin the action items you identified. Make room for reflection while keeping track of any time-sensitive follow-up.

THANK PEOPLE AND STAY CONNECTED

Thank the law students and attorneys who offered guidance. Follow up with people you met. Build accountability partnerships with other aspiring lawyers and continue the relationships beyond the event.

APPROACH RELATIONSHIPS WITH A SPIRIT OF GIVING

Take a genuine interest in others and look for ways to contribute. As you build connections, consider offering: “Let me know if there is ever anything I can do to help out and be of service to you.”

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE AND GIVE BACK

Tell other aspiring lawyers about the Conference. If it helped you, consider giving back through your time, talent, or treasure so that others can benefit too.

10 Your companion, your pace

Use the pages you need. Return to them as your questions and plans evolve.

You belong in the conversation. Whether you are beginning college, preparing an application, or returning after years of work and life experience, start with what you bring. This booklet helps you turn information into decisions and manageable next steps.

01 **PREPARE**

Name your starting point and the questions that matter most.

02 **CAPTURE**

Write down the idea, who shared it, and what it means for you.

03 **FOLLOW THROUGH**

Choose a next step, a date, and the support that will help you act.

FIND WHAT YOU NEED

02-09 Founder's welcome & conference companion tools

11-14 Starting point & priorities

15-22 Session notes & blank pages

23-28 Schools, advising & planning

29-32 Connections & action

33-35 Open notes & reflection

36 Your next step

Already attended? Begin with page 30. Rebuild your notes from your memory and materials, then use page 31 to choose your next actions.

PRINT: US Letter, actual size; two-sided, flip on the long edge. Interior pages are designed for handwriting. Annotate digitally with a PDF app, or print extra copies of any notes page.

11 Start where you are

Your path does not have to look like anyone else's to deserve a thoughtful plan.

MY PURPOSE

Why law? Whose lives or what issues do I hope to affect?

WHAT I BRING

Experiences, strengths, responsibilities, and commitments that shape my path.

MY CURRENT PRIORITY

What would useful progress look like at this stage of my life?

KEEP IN MIND

You can build from your current starting point, one deliberate step at a time.

12 More room to reflect

Continue exploring your purpose, experiences, and current priorities.

13 Make room for what matters

Choose a few priorities so the most useful opportunities do not get lost.

MY THREE PRIORITIES

What do I most want to learn, clarify, or move forward?

QUESTIONS I WANT ANSWERED

Be specific. What answer would help me make a decision?

PEOPLE, SCHOOLS, OR SESSIONS TO SEEK OUT

Who could help? Where could I find the information?

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

Circle your top priority. Leave room for an unexpected connection or new idea.

14 Questions & priorities

Continue your questions, priorities, and ideas here.

15 Listen. Capture. Apply.

Record the meaning of what you hear, along with anything you need to confirm.

SESSION / TOPIC

DATE

SPEAKER / ROLE / ORGANIZATION

IDEAS AND EXAMPLES WORTH KEEPING

What did I learn? Why does it matter for my goals?

QUESTIONS OR DETAILS TO VERIFY

Name a person, school, or official source to follow up with.

ONE NEXT STEP

TARGET DATE

16 Blank notes

Session 01 - extra space for notes, diagrams, or sketches.

17 Listen. Capture. Apply.

Record the meaning of what you hear, along with anything you need to confirm.

SESSION / TOPIC

DATE

SPEAKER / ROLE / ORGANIZATION

IDEAS AND EXAMPLES WORTH KEEPING

What did I learn? Why does it matter for my goals?

QUESTIONS OR DETAILS TO VERIFY

Name a person, school, or official source to follow up with.

ONE NEXT STEP

TARGET DATE

18 Blank notes

Session 02 - extra space for notes, diagrams, or sketches.

19 Listen. Capture. Apply.

Record the meaning of what you hear, along with anything you need to confirm.

SESSION / TOPIC

DATE

SPEAKER / ROLE / ORGANIZATION

IDEAS AND EXAMPLES WORTH KEEPING

What did I learn? Why does it matter for my goals?

QUESTIONS OR DETAILS TO VERIFY

Name a person, school, or official source to follow up with.

ONE NEXT STEP

TARGET DATE

20 Blank notes

Session 03 - extra space for notes, diagrams, or sketches.

21 Listen. Capture. Apply.

Record the meaning of what you hear, along with anything you need to confirm.

SESSION / TOPIC

DATE

SPEAKER / ROLE / ORGANIZATION

IDEAS AND EXAMPLES WORTH KEEPING

What did I learn? Why does it matter for my goals?

QUESTIONS OR DETAILS TO VERIFY

Name a person, school, or official source to follow up with.

ONE NEXT STEP

TARGET DATE

22 Blank notes

Session 04 - extra space for notes, diagrams, or sketches.

23 Explore a school or program

Use another copy for each school or program. Compare your notes after the event.

SCHOOL / PROGRAM

REPRESENTATIVE / CONTACT

DATE

FIT WITH MY GOALS AND LIFE

Programs, community, location, support, and other factors important to me.

DETAILS TO CONFIRM

Requirements, deadlines, costs, outcomes, or opportunities I want to verify.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION / SOURCE TO CHECK

BY WHEN

24 Make advising actionable

Keep the advice and your decision separate. Ask how guidance fits your circumstances.

ADVISOR / ROLE / CONTACT / DATE

THE QUESTION AND CONTEXT I SHARED

What did the advisor need to understand about my situation?

GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES OFFERED

What was suggested, and why? What should I confirm?

MY DECISION AND NEXT STEP

What will I do, adapt, or explore further? When will I follow up?

25 More advising notes

Continue the guidance, questions, and next steps from your conversation.

26 Build from your strengths

Consider what is established, what you can influence, and what support you need.

MY STARTING POINT

Education, grades, work, service, family responsibilities, and transferable skills.

MY MOST USEFUL AREA OF GROWTH

Choose one: academic skills, test preparation, application materials, or experience.

A REALISTIC PLAN

What can I do with the time and resources I have? Who can help?

A HELPFUL QUESTION

What is within my control this month, and what is my smallest useful next step?

27 More room to plan

Explore your strengths, preparation priorities, and next steps in more detail.

28 Ask before you commit

Use this page to prepare questions about costs and support, then confirm current terms.

SCHOOL / PROGRAM / SOURCE / DATE

THE FULL COST I NEED TO UNDERSTAND

Tuition, fees, living expenses, preparation, travel, and other obligations.

SUPPORT AND CONDITIONS TO CLARIFY

Aid or scholarships, eligibility, renewal conditions, deadlines, and remaining costs.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND NEXT CONTACT

Who can explain the details and help me understand my options?

29 Continue the conversation

A useful follow-up is personal, specific, and respectful of the other person's time.

NAME / ROLE / ORGANIZATION

CONTACT / WHERE WE MET

REMEMBER AND RECONNECT

What did we discuss? What can I share, ask, or offer in my follow-up?

NAME / ROLE / ORGANIZATION

CONTACT / WHERE WE MET

REMEMBER AND RECONNECT

What did we discuss? What can I share, ask, or offer in my follow-up?

FOLLOW-UP STARTER

"It was a pleasure meeting you at the Conference. Our conversation about ____ helped me _____. Thank you for _____. My next step is _____."

30 Turn reflection into direction

Start here after the Conference. Capture what changed, then decide what comes next.

WHAT STAYED WITH ME

An idea, conversation, or moment that changed or strengthened my perspective.

WHAT I STILL NEED TO UNDERSTAND

What is unclear? Which notes, resources, or people should I revisit?

WHAT I WILL CARRY FORWARD

Which lessons matter most for the next stage of my journey?

CHOOSE DELIBERATELY

Circle one takeaway you are ready to turn into action on the next page.

31 My next 30 days

Choose up to three actions you can realistically complete. Give each one a first step.

01 ACTION / WHAT COMPLETION LOOKS LIKE

FIRST SMALL STEP

SUPPORT OR RESOURCE

TARGET DATE

02 ACTION / WHAT COMPLETION LOOKS LIKE

FIRST SMALL STEP

SUPPORT OR RESOURCE

TARGET DATE

03 ACTION / WHAT COMPLETION LOOKS LIKE

FIRST SMALL STEP

SUPPORT OR RESOURCE

TARGET DATE

32 Check in, adjust, continue

A plan is a tool you can revise. Notice progress and respond to what you learn.

CHECK-IN DATE

ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER, IF HELPFUL

PROGRESS I CAN RECOGNIZE

What did I complete, clarify, or begin?

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

What got in the way? Do I need time, support, a different approach, or a smaller step?

MY NEXT COMMITMENT

What will I do next, and when will I check in again?

33 Space to think

Use this space for ideas, examples, questions, or anything you want to remember.

TOPIC

DATE

34 Questions to return to

What deserves more research, reflection, or a conversation?

TOPIC

DATE

35 Lessons for my next chapter

What do I want to remember when I need encouragement or direction?

TOPIC

DATE

36 Take the next step

Your journey matters. Let these pages become a record of learning and forward motion.

You do not need to have every answer today. You can ask thoughtful questions, seek reliable information, build meaningful relationships, and take the next step available to you.

ONE PROMISE I AM MAKING TO MYSELF

What will I remember or practice as I continue toward my goals?

MY NEXT STEP

WHEN I WILL BEGIN

LEARN. CONNECT. FOLLOW THROUGH.

You bring experiences, perspective, and potential that matter.
Keep building from where you are.

www.blackprelawconference.org