



RUN OF SHOW

September 24–27, 2026 · Raleigh–Durham, North Carolina

Internal Participant Run of Show Documents for the 2026 Summit. These replace all earlier versions — all timings are subject to change prior to the event, so always check this page for the latest version before your session.

Getting In and Paying for It: Admissions Testing, Scholarships, and the Real Cost of Law School

Day 3 · Saturday · Saturday, September 26, 2026 · 12:30 – 1:30 PM EDT · NCCU Student Center | Second Floor | Event Hall · 500 Nelson Street, Durham, NC 27707 · Moderated panel with curated audience questions; general education only — no individualized financial, legal, tax, credit, or investment advice · All registered attendees · 60 minutes

Admissions and financial aid professionals join current law students for a practical conversation about how testing, admissions decisions, scholarships, and affordability intersect.

KEY DETAILS

- Session purpose: Connects two major concerns for aspiring law students: preparing for the LSAT and financing a legal education. Professional panelists address admissions testing, financial aid offers, scholarship conditions, funding options, and the costs applicants should consider. Student participants share firsthand experience with LSAT preparation, study approaches, navigating setbacks, comparing financial awards, choosing a school, and planning for the expenses of legal education.

PARTICIPANTS

- Zaria Cameron — Co-Moderator — Co-National Director of Pre-Law Affairs, National Black Law Students Association; Third-Year Law Student, University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law; Columbia, South Carolina
- Chandler McGruder — Co-Moderator — Vice President, Black Law Students Association; University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Korey J. Mercer, J.D., M.B.A. — Admissions & Financial Aid Professional — Assistant Dean for J.D. Admissions and Financial Aid, Cleveland State University College of Law; Cleveland, Ohio
- Cassandra B. Jeter-Bailey, J.D., LL.M. — Admissions & Financial Aid Professional — Senior Assistant Dean for Admissions, Financial Aid and Strategic Marketing Initiatives, University of Cincinnati Donald P. Klekamp College of Law; Cincinnati, Ohio
- Awa Mbai — Student Panelist — Co-President, Black Law Students Association; Leary and Joy Davis Leadership Scholar; Third-Year Law Student, Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law; Raleigh, North Carolina
- Nia Anderson — Student Panelist — Third-Year Law Student (3L)
- Cierra Baker — Student Panelist — President, Black Law Students Association; High Point University Kenneth F. Kahn School of Law; High Point, North Carolina

PRE-SHOW & CALL TIMES

11:30 AM — Speaker check-in: Arrive 60 minutes early, check in on the second floor of the NCCU Student Center, and be escorted to the Senate Room (Speaker Suite). Confirm titles, areas of expertise, accessibility needs, and the subjects each person is prepared and authorized to address.

12:00 PM — Group briefing: Assign principal questions, review the educational disclaimer, and separate current verified rules from forecasts or personal interpretation.

12:20 PM — Final readiness check: Take assigned seats, confirm microphones, and be ready for the 12:30 PM start.

PROGRAM RUN OF SHOW

12:30 – 12:33	Welcome and disclaimer (3 min) — Co-moderators Zaria Cameron and Chandler McGruder open with the educational disclaimer: general admissions and financial education only — not individualized financial, legal, tax, credit, or investment advice.
12:33 – 12:38	Introductions (5 min) — Each panelist gives name, role, institution, and one lens on testing, admissions, or affordability.
12:38 – 12:48	Admissions testing (10 min) — Professionals on how the LSAT factors into admissions decisions; students on preparation plans, study approaches, and navigating setbacks or a retake.

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12:48 – 12:58	Scholarships and aid offers (10 min) — How awards are made, what conditions and stipulations to read closely, and how to ask a school informed questions.
12:58 – 1:08	The real cost of law school (10 min) — Total cost beyond tuition: fees, living expenses, bar preparation, borrowing options, and repayment considerations.
1:08 – 1:18	Comparing awards and choosing a school (10 min) — Student panelists share how they weighed offers, fit, location, and career goals; professionals add what they see applicants overlook.
1:18 – 1:27	Curated audience questions (9 min) — Zaria Cameron and Chandler McGruder group questions by testing, scholarships, borrowing, and school choice.
1:27 – 1:30	Rapid-response close (3 min) — One red flag, one smart question, and one action to take before committing. Direct attendees to official admissions and aid offices for individualized guidance.

PRODUCTION & SPEAKER NOTES

- Policies and programs can change. Any current-rule statement should be verified against an official source shortly before the event.
- If a policy detail is disputed or cannot be verified, state that it requires follow-up rather than attempting to resolve it from the stage.
- Opening responses should generally stay within 60–75 seconds; follow-ups within 30–45 seconds.
- Please help protect the published 1:30 PM hard stop by following moderator time cues and completing the current sentence when asked to wrap.
- Opening responses should generally stay within 60–75 seconds; follow-ups within 30–45 seconds.
- Moderators may direct a question to selected speakers; panelists should add only a distinct point rather than repeat an answer.
- Audience questions will be curated from submitted cards or a monitored form. There will be no unscreened open microphone unless the format specifically calls for interactive Q&A.
- Confirm the spelling and pronunciation of your name, credentials, title, and affiliation, and share any accessibility needs before the event.
- No slides are planned. If a visual or handout is essential, obtain approval in advance.