



APPLICATION FOR SELECTION TO THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Jointly developed by Miami-Dade FAWL & the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association

The Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (MDFAWL) and the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association (GSCBWLA) have jointly developed the Leadership Academy, which offers relevant professional development and leadership training for a cohort of 10 to 15 women selected as Leadership Fellows. MDFAWL and GSCBWLA jointly developed the Leadership Academy to meet their shared goal of supporting women lawyers to grow in leadership and enhance their impact in South Florida's legal community and beyond.

Leadership Fellows will attend a minimum of five sessions, in person, between November 2024 and June 2025. A copy of the dates for each session is attached to the application. MDFAWL and GSCBWLA will tailor the sessions to align with the goals and interests of the Leadership Fellows. Leadership Fellows, with support from MDFAWL and GSCBWLA, will develop community service projects to be attended by other Leadership Fellows and members of MDFAWL and GSCBWLA.

To graduate from the Leadership Academy, the Leadership Fellows must attend all sessions of the Leadership Academy. Leadership Fellows will also be required to volunteer at an event held by GSCBWLA and an event held by MDFAWL.

Leadership Fellows will be required to pay a participation fee of \$250.00 that will be due in full prior to the first November 2024 session. For Government and Public Service Attorneys, financial assistance is available.

To be eligible for selection as a Leadership Fellow, you must be a woman lawyer who has practiced law for five years or more, and a member of MDFAWL and/or GSCBWLA. To apply, email your completed application to info@womenlawyersleadershipmiami.org by 5 p.m. E.S.T. on September 27, 2024.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Bar Number: _____

Employer/Firm: _____

Office Address: _____

Office Phone number: _____ Office Email Address: _____

Firm/Company Size: _____ Your Title: _____

Area(s) of Practice: _____

Year of admission to the Florida Bar: _____

Dates of your membership in MDFAWL and leadership positions held: _____

Dates of your membership in GSCBWLA and leadership positions held: _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE 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.

Name and location of organization	Leadership position(s) held	Dates of involvement

EDUCATION

Please provide the following information with respect to the college/university and law school you attended.

Name of Institution	Degree	Date of graduation	Major(s)

Please list any significant extracurricular activities you participated in, leadership positions you held, and honors/awards you received in college or law school.

PROFESSIONAL RESUME

Please attach a copy of your professional resume, in MS Word format or PDF format, not exceeding two pages in length.

BIOGRAPHY & HEADSHOT

Please attach a biographical summary of yourself (e.g., personal and professional achievements, interests, hobbies) written from a third-person perspective and not exceeding 175 words and a copy of your headshot.

APPLICANT QUESTIONS

On a separate sheet of paper and in 350 words or fewer, please respond to the following questions. In your responses, describe your efforts to overcome a significant challenge, any change you worked to achieve for the benefit of a group or community, or any past experiences working with others to meet a group objective.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Leadership Academy?
2. What do you expect to gain from your participation in the Leadership Academy?
3. What do you think is the biggest challenge to minority women lawyers' success within the South Florida legal community?
4. What do you believe is your role in helping to facilitate women lawyers' ascension into more leadership roles?
5. What are your goals in the next 3-5 years in life and career?
6. What do you consider to be your biggest challenge?

REFERENCES

Provide the names and contact information of two individuals (at least one outside your firm) to serve as your references. The persons you designate should be knowledgeable about your community involvement, leadership experience, and skills, and at least one of them must be a member of MDFAWL and/or GSCBWLA.

Name: _____ Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____ Business Phone: _____

Business Email Address: _____

Name: _____ Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____ Business Phone: _____

Business Email Address: _____

COMMITMENT AND SIGNATURE

By signing and submitting this application, I understand and agree that: (1) members of the Leadership Academy’s Selection Committee may contact my references and verify information I have provided; (2) I am committing to fulfilling all requirements to participate in and graduate from the Leadership Academy set forth above; (3) a failure to fulfill such requirements may result in my dismissal from the Leadership Academy; (4) I will maintain membership in, and will undertake leadership within, MDFAWL and/or GSCWBWLA for at least two years after graduating from the Leadership Academy; and (5) I will follow the Leadership Academy’s rules applicable to Leadership Fellows.

Applicant’s signature: _____ Date: _____

Employer Acknowledgement

I understand that my employee, if selected as a Leadership Fellow, will attend five sessions of the Leadership Academy, which will occur in person and between November 2024 and June 2025, with each session limited to one hour in length. I fully support her application for selection to the Leadership Academy.

Signature of supervisor/employer: _____ Date: _____

SCHEDULE

Kick-Off Happy Hour SLS Brickell	Thursday, October 17, 2024
First Session Universal Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	Saturday, November 16, 2024
Second Session Carlton Fields, Miami, Florida	Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Third Session Carlton Fields, Miami, Florida	Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Fourth Session Carlton Fields, Miami, Florida	Thursday, March 13, 2025
Fifth Session Bilzin Sumberg, Miami, Florida	Thursday, April 10, 2025
Sixth Session Bilzin Sumberg, Miami, Florida	Thursday, May 15, 2025
Graduation <i>Location to be announced at a later date</i>	June 2025