



2025 ORGANIZATIONAL PROSPECTUS

Since 1968, Training Tomorrow's Lawyers, Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders.



CLEO's mission is to inspire, motivate, and prepare students from underrepresented communities to succeed in law school and beyond.

CLEO's vision is that the United States legal profession is truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive and that it effectively balances the scales of liberty and social justice for all.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Juan Carlos "J.C." Polanco, Esq., MBA



Greetings! I am pleased to invite you to partner with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO), the nation's preeminent legal education pipeline, as we continue preparing students from various racial, ethnic, cultural, first-generation, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to attend law school and bring much-needed access, opportunity, and equity to the legal profession.

As CLEO enters its 57th year of operation, we are pleased to share this organizational prospectus with you. This concise, yet comprehensive, overview of the organization and the educational programs and services we offer, also includes the mission and vision statements that guide the important work we strive to do every day.

As you review our prospectus, we hope you will see something that intrigues you and motivates you to want to do more to bring true commitment to advancing the value of diversity to the legal profession. Your support is invaluable and can change many lives. With so many distinct levels of support to choose from, your partnership means the success of more students enrolling in law school and, eventually, taking and passing the bar exam and becoming the hard-working, tireless advocates our country needs.

Today, CLEO's influence is wide-reaching as those who have gone through our educational programs serve as members of Congress, judges at every level of the judiciary, partners at the nation's top law firms, general counsels in Fortune 1000 companies, and agents of change in communities across the country. The success of our organization and continued impact on the legal profession depends on our friends, partners, and allies like you. When I think about every one of the more than 32,000 individuals we have served since the organization's inception in 1968, I am excited about the countless students we will help over the next decades. What we do now will change the future for so many motivated and deserving aspiring attorneys.

Join us, support us, and partner with us as we move boldly into the future together.

CLEO EDGE EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE

EDGE: Education, Diversity, & Greater Equality in the Legal Profession

CLEO has successfully facilitated pipeline programs for 50-plus years by offering educational programs for college students, law students, and CLEO Alumni.



CLEO COUNTS!

PARTICIPANT DATA & DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

As highlighted in the data below, the various educational programs and services CLEO offers are utilized and valued, by a fully-engaged audience annually.



Total number of individuals annually served
across all programs and services – **2,000**



CLEO Justice + Diversity Report e-newsletter
quarterly circulation – **7,000+**



99% intending to start law school in the fall
92% said [AIE](#) met or exceeded expectations
91% said [AIE](#) helped prepare them for success
75% female attendance
52% self-identified as low-income
50% are first-generation undergraduate students
48% identify as economically-disadvantaged

Participant Ethnicity: African American (35%); Hispanic/Latino (23%); Caucasian (15%); Asian-Pacific Islander (7%); West Indian/Caribbean (7%); African (5%); Other (8%)



94% said [ASAP](#) seminar met or exceeded expectations
88% would be first-generation law student
86% never previously applied to law school
77% plan to apply to law school within one year
75% female attendance
55% identify as economically-disadvantaged
55% are first-generation undergraduate students

Participant Ethnicity: African American (42%); Hispanic/Latino (30%); Caucasian (9%); Asian-Pacific Islander (8%); West Indian/Caribbean (7%); African (3%); Other (1%)



98% intending to start law school in the fall
98% said [PLSI](#) helped prepare them for success
95% said [PLSI](#) met or exceeded expectations
68% female attendance
50% are first-generation undergraduate students
24% participated in a previous CLEO program
18% were raised in a rural area

Participant Ethnicity: African American (66%); Hispanic/Latino (19%); West Indian/Caribbean (5%); Asian-Pacific Islander (4%); African (3%); Caucasian (2%); Other (1%)

CLEO PRE-LAW SUMMER INSTITUTE



Since the organization's establishment, CLEO's flagship educational program, the CLEO Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI), has created opportunities for students from various racial, ethnic, cultural, first-generation, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to attend law school by putting them in an intensive, residential program.

The four-week institute, taught by experienced legal instructors and designed to simulate the rigors of the first year of law school, allows admissions personnel to assess an applicant's likelihood of success while simultaneously increasing his/her confidence.

CLEO's placement assistance helps ensure that committed students who possess the desire to succeed in law school have an opportunity to pursue their dreams! To learn more about the PLSI, visit: <https://cleoinc.org/plsi/>.

PRE-LAW
SUMMER
INSTITUTE

CLEO ALUMNI

Since the organization's inception 55+ years ago, CLEO Alumni have excelled in every area of the legal profession. Our legion includes more than [250 judges](#), numerous corporate attorneys, legal academicians, large-, medium-, and small-sized firm practitioners, legislators, business leaders, and more. Some of our more notable alumni are:

- **Hon. Sanford Bishop** (GA) (*U.S. House of Representatives*)
- **Phyllis P. Harris** (*Global Director for Environmental Assurance and Protection, Amazon*)
- **Hon. Reggie Walton** (*Presiding Judge, U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court*) (Ret.)
- **Domitilia dos Santos** (*Executive Director, dos Santos Financial Group, Morgan Stanley*)
- **Blake D. Morant** (*Former Dean, The George Washington University Law School*)
- **Hon. Nanette Diaz Barragán** (CA) (*U.S. House of Representatives*)
- **Hon. Eileen A. Olds** (VA) (*Chesapeake Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court*) (Ret.)

“CLEO for me was not just foundational for a legal education, but I also met some wonderful people who have become lifelong friends. It is the gift that keeps on giving!”

- Hon. Eileen A. Olds

CLEO EDGE Awards

Preparation * Access * Opportunity

Lawyers impact every aspect of American life. More than 50 years ago, CLEO's founders recognized the importance of producing a legal profession that mirrors the mosaic of this great nation. Building on the pillars of Education, Diversity and Greater Equality, they worked together to develop the foundation for a program that would weather many storms over the next half-century. During the CLEO EDGE Honors reception, the organization honors several individuals, law firms, law schools, and/or organizations that have made significant accomplishments or demonstrated commitments to either Education or Access and Greater Equity.

The CLEO EDGE Awards honors those who have helped to sustain and expand CLEO's mission through their collective passions toward balancing the scales of justice for all.

More information about the EDGE Honors Reception & Awards Program can be found at cleo.org/edgeawards



CLEO EDGE HONORS RECEPTION

Awards Program

[Home](#) [About CLEO](#) [2024 Honorees](#) [CLEO, Inc. Home](#)

The CLEO EDGE Honors Reception

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

6:00 – 8:30pm ET

PRESENTED BY



2101 L St. NW, SUITE 1000, WASHINGTON, DC 20037

CLEOINC.ORG/EDGEAWARDS

CLEO Sponsorship Opportunities

General Donor Benefits

	\$50K	\$25K	\$20K	\$10K	\$5K
Number of Exclusive Opportunities Available	1	2	1		
Opportunity to nominate a member of the CLEO Board of Directors	✓				
Opportunity to nominate a member of the CLEO Advisory Council		✓			
Dedicated logo post on LinkedIn (3,100+ followers) and X (1,900+ followers) announcing the sponsorship	✓				
Larger ad on CLEOinc.org website	✓	✓	✓		
\$2,500 Full-tuition CLEO Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI) scholarship(s) in your organization's name	2	1			
\$1,000 Bar Review scholarship(s) in your organization's name	2	1		1	
\$500 Law School Book Stipend scholarship in your organization's name				1	
Attorney Spotlight on CLEO's Diversity and Inclusion Spotlight (DAIS) online platform (a virtual "platform" designed to showcase and highlight diverse attorneys and critical inclusion initiatives from our valued partner organizations)	2	1	1	1	
One (1) special guest appearance on new CLEO EDGE podcast to discuss the organization's approach to DEI or a topic of your choosing	✓	✓	✓		
One (1) 30-second ad on CLEO EDGE Podcast (to be produced by sponsor, per CLEO's specifications)	✓				
Thumbnail ad on CLEOinc.org website	✓	✓	✓		

CLEO EDGE Honors Reception & Awards Program* Benefits

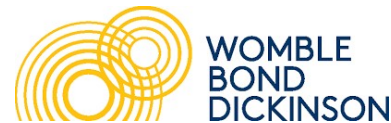
*The CLEO EDGE Honors Reception & Awards Program is a signature, annual fundraising event that will take place on April 24, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

Donor Levels (USD) & Benefits

	\$50K	\$25K	\$20K	\$10K	\$5K
Exclusive opportunity to present an award * Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Heritage Award ** Education or Access and Greater Equity	✓*	✓**			
Official acknowledgment from the podium during the awards reception	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Company representative to provide remarks during awards reception	✓		✓		
Opportunity to nominate one (1) representative to the CLEO EDGE Honorary Host Committee	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Special recognition with logo and name on all award announcement emails and social media posts	✓	✓			
Dedicated logo post on LinkedIn (3,100+ followers) and X (1,900+ followers) announcing the sponsorship	✓	✓			
Logo and/or name recognition on awards reception signage	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (MEDIUM)	NAME ONLY
Logo and /or name recognition on awards reception promotional materials	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (MEDIUM)	NAME ONLY
Logo and/or name recognition on awards reception webpage	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (MEDIUM)	NAME ONLY
Logo and/or name recognition on thank you letters to donors	LOGO (LARGE)	LOGO (SMALL)	LOGO (SMALL)	LOGO (SMALL)	NAME ONLY
Complimentary CLEO EDGE Honors & Awards Program Event Tickets (\$100 value each)	8	8	8	6	
Reserved seating during the awards reception	✓	✓			
"Step & Repeat" photo opportunity with President & CEO and CLEO Students at the awards reception	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Opportunity to create a one-minute (or less) video to play during the reception showcasing commitment to DEI	✓	✓			
Swag bag inclusion opportunity (materials must be delivered to CLEO by April 10th)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swag bag sponsorship			✓		
Inclusion in special post-awards reception thank you social media video tribute to winners	✓	✓	✓	✓	
"Hosted by" awards reception recognition and logo on presentation holding slide			✓		
Logo on awards reception "Step & Repeat"	✓	✓			
Logo on name tag/lanyards			✓		

THANKS, ALL AROUND!

CLEO, Inc. is very grateful for the generous support we received over the years from various entities, including, but not limited to, the following:



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides students from various racial, ethnic, cultural, first-generation, and economically disadvantaged communities with greater access, opportunity, and equity to legal education and creates new agents for social change. Since its inception in 1968, more than 32,000 individuals have participated in CLEO's educational programs, with over 46% becoming members of the legal profession.

CLEO is a strategic business partner that helps organizations develop a pipeline for the legal workplace.

CLEO matches legal professionals with CLEO students for mutually beneficial mentoring relationships.

CLEO ALUMNA
Bernarda A. Villalona
SENIOR TRIAL COUNSEL
VILLALONA LAW, PLLC

2020 INDUSTRY DEMOGRAPHICS

Black
05.0%



Hispanic
05.0%



Asian
02.0%



Despite CLEO's far-reaching impact since its inception, the ABA's 2020 Profile of the Legal Profession reports that only 5% of lawyers are Black, 5% are Hispanic, and 2% are Asian.

Join our efforts to provide access, opportunity, and equity to legal education and advance the value of diversity in the legal profession.



CLEO*inc.*
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Working hard to create the next
generation of legal advocates
and social change agents.

www.CLEOINC.org