



STUDENT LAW
ACADEMY

Speaker Guide Summer 2021



"It is an outstanding program that connects the legal community with diverse, future community leaders. I'm inspired by the students' enthusiasm for the law and their eagerness to learn."

- Sherri Wattenbarger, *U.S. Department of Justice Office of The U.S. Trustee*, SLA Mentor (2020)

Who We Are

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation (KCMBF), in partnership with local education non-profit organization The Partnership for Regional Educational Preparation-Kansas City (PREP-KC), created Student Law Academy (SLA) in 2019.

Our Mission

SLA aspires to serve as a future pipeline to diversify Kansas City's legal community. Its mission is to provide underserved urban high school students, who would not otherwise have the opportunity, meaningful exposure to careers in the legal profession and a broad overview of the justice system.

What We Do

SLA collaborates with local law firms, courts, and other legal entities to provide a dynamic summer curriculum. SLA works within PREP-KC's six school districts and three charter schools to select juniors and seniors in high school as SLA Scholars.

Talent is equally distributed throughout society.
Opportunity is not.
- Layla Janah

Program Logistics

As part of our commitment to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the summer 2021 program will be presented in a virtual format. The SLA Legal Pathway will occur June 1 - June 25, through online sessions on PREP-KC's Connector via Zoom. Each weekday, SLA Scholars will attend online sessions in the morning interacting with local legal professionals. A broad array of legal topics will be covered, from conversations with judges to protest litigation.

Online sessions will take place from 9:15am – 12:00pm. Each session will last 45 minutes.

Speaker Highlights

Online Sessions will take place through PREP-KC's Connector platform. Each speaker's Connector profile will be sent to you by KCMBF staff via email.

The Connector uses Zoom for the virtual session. If you are not familiar with Zoom and would like a practice session prior to your scheduled speaking time, contact Sharra Wagner, Foundation Director, at (816) 474-4322 or swagner@kcmbf.org.

Key Highlights:

We would recommend the below techniques be incorporated into your presentation/conversation with SLA scholars.

- **Include case study materials** prior to the session if covering a certain type of law or case. SLA scholars can be required to pre-read materials.
- If case study materials are not appropriate, SLA scholars can be **required to conduct online research** about a certain topic prior to the session.
- **Incorporate pauses** throughout your presentation for the opportunity to ask and answer questions.
- **Ask questions** directly to the scholars. Request their thoughts on a particular fact, subject, or situation.
- **Call on scholars by name** directly if calling for response to a question.
 - Some students may be in a place where they are limited in their ability to unmute, however all students will have the ability to "chat" through Zoom.

Share about yourself!

These students are interested in learning how you became a lawyer/judge, and why you chose that path. We would recommend every speaker consider incorporating into their presentation the following topics:

- Why did you go to law school or choose your particular career path?
- What did you study in college? And how did it help you in law school?
- Disqualifying charges: how students' actions today can affect their future legal career.
- The importance of well-being, starting healthy habits now to help you through law school and a law career.

SLA Schedule

- Tuesday, May 25 at 4 pm: Volunteer Orientation via Zoom
- Tuesday, June 1 - June 25: SLA Legal Pathway (calendar on next page)
- Friday, June 25 at 12 pm: SLA Graduation via Zoom

Volunteer Orientation will include expectations for mentors, recommendations from prior-year speakers on how to best connect with SLA Scholars in a virtual environment, a presentation on imposter syndrome and how this may be affecting students, and a small networking opportunity to connect with your fellow volunteers.

SLA Graduation will celebrate the class of 2021, featuring a keynote speaker. [Click here](#) to view the program from SLA Graduation 2020, which includes a calendar of events from SLA 2020.

SLA Legal Pathway - Virtual Speaking Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time		June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4
9:15am-10:00am					
10:15am-11:00am					
11:15am-12:00pm					
Time	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11
9:15am-10:00am					
10:15am-11:00am					
11:15am-12:00pm					
Time	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18
9:15am-10:00am					
10:15am-11:00am					
11:15am-12:00pm					
Time	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25
9:15am-10:00am					
10:15am-11:00am					
11:15am-12:00pm					

Contact Sharra Wagner, Foundation Director, to reserve a speaking session, at (816) 474-4322 or swagner@kcmbf.org.