

2025 PERKINS COIE 1L FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FAQs

Are you a 1L who is considering applying for either the Patent Fellowship or the 1L Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship? [The Perkins Coie 1L fellowship applications open on November 15, 2024, and will close when positions are filled. Please apply as soon as possible.](#) Here are a few FAQs that may be helpful as you develop your application strategy.

1. Which office should I apply to?

The Perkins Coie 1L fellowship programs are designed to recruit law students who may eventually join the firm as full-time employees. To that end, you should only apply to the office located in the city where you plan to live and start your practice as an entry-level lawyer. Candidates applying to the 1L Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship may only apply to one office and one fellowship position in that office. Candidates applying for the Patent Fellowship may apply to multiple offices.

2. How important are law school grades?

As with any competitive process, undergraduate, graduate (if applicable), and law school grades are important evaluative factors. As part of the complete package for the 1L Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship, we also consider other factors, including your personal statement, relevant previous professional experience, and written and oral communication skills.

3. My law school grades have not been released. Am I still able to apply?

This is a common occurrence. You can and should apply even if your first-semester grades are not yet available. Please submit all other application materials and follow up by providing your law school grades as soon as they become available.

4. What type of writing sample should I provide?

The ideal writing sample demonstrates strong legal analysis and writing ability. If you do not have a legal writing sample, please submit a writing sample that demonstrates your ability to summarize and analyze information and draw appropriate conclusions based on that analysis.

5. How important is the personal statement that is required for the 1L Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship?

A strong personal statement is essential to your application. An effective statement provides us with a sense of who you are both as a candidate and as an individual. Your personal statement should be a narrative about your unique personal history and commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion within your community and in the legal profession.

Your statement should provide concrete examples of diversity and inclusion leadership, resilience, and perspective, highlighting the following:

- **Diversity and Inclusion leadership.** Diversity and inclusion initiatives or programs you have established, expanded, or otherwise substantively engaged in while in school (including undergraduate), with an employer, or in your community.
- **Resilience.** Obstacles you have encountered and overcome and what you learned from those experiences.
- **Perspective.** Relevant life experiences that have shaped your personal and professional goals.

6. When will I receive an update on the status of my candidacy?

You should expect to hear an update regarding your candidacy status before the end of January 2025.