



## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS XVII 2026 APPLICATION

### MISSION & PURPOSE

**Mission:** The Leadership Academy seeks to provide high quality, interactive leadership training to members to enable them to become effective leaders in local and state bar organizations; in South Carolina communities and nonprofit organizations; and to serve as role models in matters of ethics and professionalism.

**Purpose:** This highly selective program is designed to equip members to face challenges in the legal community and community at large; maximize networking and relationship building opportunities; nurture principled leadership and increased awareness regarding ethical, professional and community service issues; and develop other skills necessary to give back to the profession and position themselves as valuable leaders in the community.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications and supporting documentation must be completed and received by **5 p.m. on September 15, 2025.**

### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have practiced law for not less than **three years and for not more than 15 years** as of January 1, 2026 (based upon first admission to any state bar). In an effort to achieve diversity among the participants, qualified individuals will be sought from different backgrounds, large and small law firms, the private and public sectors, different practice areas, and different areas of the state. Each class will consist of no more than 20 participants.

### ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Mandatory attendance is required for each monthly session (January through May). Participants are expected to attend each of the sessions and the graduation in their entirety. At least one session may require overnight travel and/or a group dinner. Members will be responsible for their travel mileage expenses arising from attendance at all sessions. Hotel will be covered if distance traveled is more than 150 miles and requires an overnight stay. Sessions are held statewide.

**Attendance at and participation in the Orientation Session is mandatory.** Applicants are instructed to apply **only** if they expect to attend all sessions.

### 2026 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS SCHEDULE

<b>January 22-24</b>	<i>Savannah (SC Bar Convention)</i>	<b>Orientation Session/Session 1</b>
<b>February 12-13</b>	<i>Greenville</i>	<b>Session Two</b>
<b>March 19-20</b>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<b>Session Three</b>
<b>April 9-10</b>	<i>Clemson</i>	<b>Session Four</b>
<b>May 28-29</b>	<i>Isle of Palms</i>	<b>Session Five &amp; Class Graduation</b>

**Signed and completed applications may be emailed to [jsobey@scbar.org](mailto:jsobey@scbar.org) or submitted by mail to:** Juliana Sobey, SC Bar, c/o Leadership Academy, P.O. Box 208, Columbia, SC 29202.

**Your application must contain the following items assembled in this order:**

- (1) The application (completed and signed by the applicant/nominator and employer; applicants may self-nominate)

- (2) Your personal resume (not to exceed three pages)
- (3) A narrative summary (not to exceed three pages, double-spaced) that addresses:
  - a. What do you consider to be the top two problems facing the legal profession today?
  - b. What do you consider to be your most important contribution to the legal profession and the community?
  - c. Please describe your personal goals for developing leadership skills and anticipated application of those skills to impact the legal environment in South Carolina.
- (4) Two letters of recommendation; one of which must be from someone not affiliated with your current employer (letters of recommendation may be sent separately from the application)

Once class members are notified of acceptance, a **\$750.00 tuition fee** for each participant will be charged, due by **January 5, 2026**. Make checks payable to “South Carolina Bar.” A limited amount of scholarship money is available.

For more information, contact Kimberly Snipes at (803) 576-3835, or [ksnipes@scbar.org](mailto:ksnipes@scbar.org).

## **APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION**

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Applicant's Name

E-mail

Firm/Employer

Mailing Address

Phone

City

Zip Code

Year Admitted to Practice

States Admitted

Law School

Area of Practice

Nominated by

### **OPTIONAL INFORMATION**

Age

Gender

Race/Ethnicity

### **ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, AND AWARDS**

(1) List any involvement with the South Carolina Bar:

(2) List any leadership roles you hold or have held in the legal profession:

(3) List any civic, charitable and/or community involvement:

(4) List any additional information you would like to have considered with your application (e.g., memberships, honors, training, and education):

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please provide the names of two individuals (at least one who is not your employer) who will submit letters of recommendation and who are knowledgeable of your attributes as a leader.

Full Name	Firm/Organization
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Phone	Email
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Full Name	Firm/Organization
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Phone	Email
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### PERSONAL NARRATIVE

On a separate sheet, not to exceed three pages double-spaced, please respond to the following questions.

- (1) What do you consider to be the top two problems facing the legal profession today?
- (2) What do you consider to be your most important contribution to the legal profession and the community?
- (3) Please describe your personal goals for developing leadership skills and anticipated application of those skills to impact the legal environment in South Carolina.

### APPLICANT SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

Limited scholarships are available to those applicants who have a financial need. If accepted in the Leadership Academy, will you find it necessary to seek scholarship assistance toward the tuition fee? If so, what percentage?

Yes, I request tuition assistance of \_\_\_\_\_%

No, I will not need tuition assistance

Why do you need tuition assistance?

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### APPLICANT COMMITMENT

Participants are expected to attend each of the sessions and the graduation in their entirety. Event dates will be made known to you before your final acceptance is expected.

By submitting this application and typing my name below, I am indicating that I understand the purpose of the South Carolina Bar Leadership Academy and that if I am selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that even though emergencies arise, the sessions are **MANDATORY** and any participant missing more than one session will be removed from the class and **WILL NOT GRADUATE**. I understand that if I withdraw from the Academy for any reason, no portion of my tuition will be refunded.

I further understand that failure to attend each session and remain for the entirety of the session will jeopardize any scholarship funding and hotel/travel reimbursements.

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Applicant Name

Date

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### EMPLOYER/ SELF-EMPLOYED AGREEMENT

This applicant has the approval of this company/firm and if selected, the applicant has our full support, which includes any necessary time required to fully participate in the program.

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Authorized Representative

Title

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Signature

Date

Please submit your completed application, resume (not more than three pages), two letters of reference, and the narrative summary responding to questions about leadership and goals by **5 p.m. on September 15, 2025**.

Application packets should be sent to:

**Juliana Sobey  
South Carolina Bar  
P.O. Box 208  
Columbia, SC 29202-0608  
jsobey@scbar.org  
(803) 576-3806**