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**ACCESS GROUP AWARDS THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION A \$320K GRANT**

CHICAGO, Nov. 30, 2016 — The [American Bar Foundation](http://americanbarfoundation.org) (ABF) has been awarded a \$320,000 grant from [Access Group, Inc.](http://www.accessgroup.com), a nonprofit organization that works to promote access to legal and graduate education through research, policy advocacy, and direct member and student educational services. The grant comes from Access Group's [Center for Research & Policy Analysis](http://www.accessgroup.com) (the "Center") and will support the ABF's Emerging and Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program in Legal and Higher Education.

The Center [announced](#) the recipients of over \$1.2 million in grants to "promote access, diversity and research" in legal education. "The Access Group Center for Research & Policy Analysis is pleased to award the American Bar Foundation a \$320,000 grant to support the Emerging and Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program in Legal and Higher Education," [Christopher P. Chapman](#), president and CEO of Access Group, said in an email. "Advancing scholarly research in legal education, and in higher education more broadly, is a core priority of the Center."

The amount awarded to the ABF comes from the Center's directed grant program. It will support two new programs at the ABF: the [Visiting Scholar Program in Legal and Higher Education](#) and the [Doctoral Fellowship Program in Legal and Higher Education](#). The goal of both programs is to advance scholarship examining access, affordability, and value in legal and higher education.

Existing law and social science scholars interested in studying legal and higher education are invited to apply for the [visiting scholar program](#). While in residence at the ABF, visiting scholars will have the opportunity to conduct their research in an empirical and interdisciplinary research environment and benefit from the ABF's academic and administrative resources.

Emerging scholars interested in empirical and interdisciplinary research on legal and higher education are invited to apply for the [doctoral fellowship program](#). This fellowship is open to Ph.D. candidates whose doctoral research shows promise of a major contribution to social scientific understanding of legal and higher education.

With these two new programs, the ABF aims to assemble and coordinate a professional network of scholars who will produce innovative, objective, empirical, and interdisciplinary research in the field of legal and higher education. Doctoral fellows and visiting scholars will have access to the ABF's interdisciplinary scholarly community and benefit from mentoring provided by its research faculty.

“We are delighted and grateful to receive this generous grant from Access Group to support our Emerging and Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program in Legal and Higher Education,” said [Ajay K. Mehrotra](#), director of the ABF. “With this grant, we plan to further enhance the ABF’s long-standing tradition as an incubator for the next generation of innovative and influential scholars.”

To learn more about these programs, and other doctoral fellow and visiting scholar opportunities at the ABF, please visit our [website](#).

### **About the American Bar Foundation**

*The [American Bar Foundation](#) (ABF) is the nation's leading research institute for the empirical study of law. An independent, nonprofit organization for more than 60 years, the ABF's mission is to serve the legal profession, the public, and the academy through empirical research, publications, and programs that advance justice and the understanding of law and its impact on society. The ABF's primary funding is provided by the [American Bar Endowment](#) and [The Fellows of The American Bar Foundation](#).*

### **About Access Group**

*Founded in 1983, [Access Group, Inc.](#) is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved law schools. The organization works to further access, affordability and the value of legal education, specifically, and graduate and professional education more broadly, through research, policy advocacy, and direct member and student educational services. Access Group is headquartered in West Chester, PA; its [Center for Research & Policy Analysis](#) is located in Washington, D.C.*

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