



## Ford Law Career Academy

U Prep Schools seeks to offer career pathway opportunities at the secondary level to ignite student interest in fields that are in high demand but lack diversity in race and/or gender.

According to a report published this year by the American Bar Association, only 5% of lawyers in the United States are Black. To support the change of this narrative and in alignment with the U Prep Schools' vision of providing a culturally responsive educational experience for all scholars that builds academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, we are proud to announce the upcoming launch of the Ford Law Career Academy!

In partnership with Ford Motor Company, the Ford Motor Company Fund and Henry Ford Learning Institute, this four year program design will immerse students in the exploration of a unique future career in Law. School Director at UPA High, Derrick Kellam expresses, "this new career pathway will provide students with lifelong mentors, guidance and opportunities that will directly impact their future career goals. I feel honored to introduce this new offering at our campus." The Ford Law Career Academy is scheduled to launch at University Preparatory Academy (UPA) High School in 2021.

*University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically, engage as change agents for themselves and their community.*



Driven by Ford Fund & Henry Ford Learning Institute

Two college prep high schools

that serve Detroit youth --

**Henry Ford Academy and**

**University Prep Academy** -- will

be the first two Ford Law

pilot sites nationally.

## DRIVING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS

Lawyers are advocates for others. They fight to keep people in their homes, break down obstacles for people with disabilities, and ensure protections in the workplace. They represent athletes and artists, and protect works of literature, film, art, music, and new products. They participate in writing, interpreting, and enforcing laws. They help people with disputes come to a resolution. And, so much more.

However, the legal profession is still one of the least diverse professions. Troubled by this ongoing problem, **Ford Motor Company's Office of the General Counsel** is taking action to excite young people of color about careers in law and create access to law-related educational opportunities in high school.

Ford Law Career Academy is a new four-year program for high school students. Ford Law is not a stand-alone high school. This program doesn't replace an undergraduate degree or law school. It's a pathway within an existing school that excites and empowers students who want to prepare now for their future as a lawyer or explore legal career opportunities in a focused educational experience.



5% of all lawyers are African American  
– the same percentage as 10 years ago –  
but the U.S. population is  
13.4% African American. (ABA)

*Racial and ethnic diversity  
in the legal profession is  
essential to securing  
access to justice for all -  
especially the members of  
society who are the most  
underrepresented.*

*Increasing the pipeline of  
lawyers of colors is critical  
to optimize change that  
opens the doors to access  
and opportunity.*

*This change occurs  
through creative and bold  
programs that move the  
diversity needle.*

**FORD IS COMMITTED  
TO ADDRESSING THIS  
IMPORTANT NEED**

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE WITH FORD LAW

Designed collaboratively by educators and practicing attorneys, Ford Law introduces students to a range of practice areas and **empowers them to take the first steps in developing the special set of skills, mindsets, knowledge, and connections** that all lawyers need for success. This will be accomplished through:

- Law-focused courses
- Connections to the Law in other subjects
- Job shadowing and field trips at legal organizations
- Community-connected learning at local law firms
- Support from lawyer-mentors
- Annual capstone projects
- Cohort-building activities
- Links to colleges and universities

## COLLABORATING TODAY FOR STUDENTS' PROFESSIONAL FUTURES

Ford Fund partnered with **Henry Ford Learning Institute (HFLI)**, an experienced education nonprofit, to develop Ford Law Career Academy. Ford Law is informed by extensive research, visits to and resources from similarly focused career academies in major cities, along with critical input from progressive educators and a diverse team of experienced attorneys. HFLI's **expertise in K-12 education and legacy of Deeper Learning by Doing™** (immersive, hands-on & real-world focused) is reflected throughout the approach and framework to create a powerful experience for high school students.

## EXPLORING AND PLANNING A PERSONAL PATH

Envisioning and mapping out future education and career plans can be a daunting process. Ford Law provides structured opportunities to **explore a range of practice areas in the legal profession**. Every year, all students will participate in experiences with attorneys at local law practices and other organizations in the legal community, including a senior internship. Capstone projects promote students' deep exploration of individual interests, exposure to in-demand areas or growing trends in law, and planning for their future.

### POPULAR LAW PRACTICE AREAS

• Civil Rights	• Sports & Entertainment
• Cybersecurity	• Intellectual Property
• Immigration	• Corporate/Business
• Environmental	• Animal Rights
• Labor & Employment	• And many more...
• Human Rights	



### GETTING STARTED

*Do you want to bring a Ford Law Career Academy to your community?*

A limited number of opportunities are available to established high schools.

Contact us at [info@hfli.org](mailto:info@hfli.org) to get started.