



## Sutherland Scholars Program

Under the auspices of our firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Sutherland decided it was important to begin early helping talented college students prepare for the rigors of law school. Spearheaded by Partner, former firmwide Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair and Executive Committee Member Allegra J. Lawrence-Hardy, the Sutherland Scholars program is an initiative to help ensure the success of underrepresented law school students. As a longtime member of the firm's Hiring Committee and a frequent speaker at law student events, Allegra noticed that many students of color, who often did well in college, did not immediately thrive in the law school environment.

**Sutherland Scholars is a summer program offered at no cost to students from historically black colleges and universities.**

In July 2005, Sutherland's first class of 22 scholars graduated with skills targeted to improve their chances of success during the first year of law school. They drafted study outlines, briefed cases, completed an introductory contracts course, and took a final exam. To date, more than 250 students have graduated from the program held in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. In 2010, the program included students from Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Howard University in Washington, D.C., Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida, and Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama.

Classes are taught by Sutherland attorneys and guest speakers, who practice law in a wide range of contexts. Some guest speakers include a Deputy General Counsel from Sallie Mae, the Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, a professor from Georgetown University Law Center, a senior counsel from TIAA-CREF, lawyers from the Washington Lawyers Committee, an entertainment attorney, and a presiding justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. Classes include:

- Overview of the Law School Curriculum
- Basic Factors for Success in Law School
- How to Prepare for Class
- How to Brief a Case
- How to Form an Effective Study Group
- Introduction to the Socratic Method
- Writing: The Most Important Skill for Law School
- Legal Research Techniques
- How to Prepare for Law School Exams
- How to Write Final Exams
- Opportunities to Excel: Law Review, Moot Court, Mock Trials and Clinical Programs
- Tips on Building Relationships with Professors
- Preparing for Life After Law School
- Business Etiquette Training

### FACTS

One in four law students is a student of color, but fewer than one in six associates at large law firms are lawyers of color.

Only one in 20 partners at large law firms is a lawyer of color.

SUTHERLAND

Scholars

# SUTHERLAND

“Our vision is teaching students to succeed right out of the gate, not after a semester or two. Our goal is for them to get top grades immediately.”

Allegra J. Lawrence-Hardy  
Member, Sutherland Executive  
Committee

“Sutherland Scholars is an innovative program that demonstrates our commitment to promoting diversity in our firm and in the legal community.”

Mark D. Wasserman  
Managing Partner

“Sutherland Scholars enabled me to piece concepts together in ways that my classmates could not. I saw connections that I would not have seen as early had I not been exposed to the material as a Sutherland Scholar.”

Paige Brinkley,  
Sutherland Scholar  
NYU School of Law  
Class of 2011



“My first few weeks at New York University School of Law mirrored Sutherland Scholars, and I was ahead of the group in regard to those cases.”



Kara Akins,  
Sutherland Scholar  
University of Virginia School of Law  
Class of 2011

“The Sutherland Scholars program provides students with a balanced curriculum that propels them to excellence. Aside from gaining invaluable knowledge about the legal field, the connections and mentorships that you will create are unprecedented.”



Dwight Mitchell,  
Sutherland Scholar  
Morehouse College  
Class of 2011

**ABOUT SUTHERLAND** Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP is a law firm with global reach known for solving challenging business problems and resolving sophisticated legal issues for many of the world’s largest companies. Founded in 1924, the firm handles matters throughout the United States and worldwide. Seven major practice areas—corporate, energy and environmental, financial services, intellectual property, litigation, real estate, and tax—provide the framework for an extensive range of focus areas, allowing Sutherland attorneys to serve a diverse client base that ranges from small and medium-sized start-up businesses to a significant number of Fortune 100 companies.