LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS: ENGINES OF INEQUITY?

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### Dataset:
2016 LSSSE ADMINISTRATION | 16,424 STUDENTS FROM 70 U.S. LAW SCHOOLS

Student responses were analyzed through the following frames:

**Race/Ethnicity**
- Asian
- Black
- Latino/a
- White

**Gender**
- Female
- Male

**Parental Education**
- First-generation—no college (FG-HS)
- First-generation—some college (FG-SC)
- Non-first-generation (NFG)

**Entering LSAT score**
- 150 and lower
- 151–160
- 161 and higher

**Enrollment division**
- Full-time
- Part-time

**Expected law school debt**
- $0
- $1-40,000
- $40,001-80,000
- $80,001-120,000
- $120,001-160,000
- $160,001-200,000
- $200,001+

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**Question:**
During the current school year, were you awarded need- or merit-based scholarships or grant funding? If so, what kind of funding did you receive? (Select all that apply.)

- Need-based scholarship(s)
- Merit-based scholarship(s)
- Other, please specify:
- None
Who Received Scholarships?

72% of respondents received a scholarship during the 2015-2016 school year.
Merit scholarships were, by far, the most common type of scholarship awarded.

- **63%** | MERIT
- **17%** | NEED
White respondents were most likely to have received a merit scholarship. Black respondents were least likely.

- **Overall**: 63% (8823/14066)
- **Asian**: 61% (705/1162)
- **Black**: 49% (582/1180)
- **Latino**: 52% (779/1507)
- **White**: 67% (6514/9760)
First-generation respondents were less likely to have received merit scholarships than respondents with college-educated parents. 

- 52% | FG-HS
- 60% | FG-SC
- 65% | NFG
NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Black respondents were most likely to have received a need-based scholarship. White respondents were least likely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2385/14066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>215/1162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>285/1180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>329/1507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>1526/9760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First-generation respondents were more likely to have received need-based scholarships than respondents with college-educated parents.

- **FG-HS**: 21% | 437/2049
- **FG-SC**: 20% | 376/1917
- **NFG**: 16% | 1567/10068
WHAT ROLE DID THE LSAT PLAY?
The Role of the LSAT

Ninety percent of respondents with LSAT scores above 165 received merit scholarships, compared to 16% of respondents with scores of 140 or below.
The Role of the LSAT

Respondents with the lowest LSAT scores were slightly more likely to have received a need-based scholarship than other respondents.
Receipt of a merit scholarship was associated with lower levels of debt.

Respondents expecting $80,000 in debt or less were more than twice as likely to have received a merit scholarship than those expecting debt of more than $200,000.
Receipt of a need-based scholarship was associated with higher levels of debt.

Respondents expecting more than $80,000 in debt were about five times as likely to have received a need-based scholarship than respondents expecting no debt.
TO WHAT EXTENT ARE LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BASED ON EQUITY?
Respondents most likely to receive NEED scholarships included:

- Black students
- First-generation students
- Latino students
- Students expecting the most debt
- Students with the lowest LSAT scores
Respondents least likely to receive MERIT scholarships included:

- Black students
- First-generation students
- Latino students
- Students expecting the most debt
- Students with the lowest LSAT scores
QUESTIONS?