**JD Grants Committee 2025-2026**

**Business Purpose Information**

*Last updated May 16, 2025*

All use of university funds must be supported by a Business Purpose. The description of the Business Purpose must communicate to a university auditor that the expense was (or will be) a necessary, reasonable, and appropriate use of university funds. The description must communicate all necessary information about the event without reference to other documentation.

The Business Purpose paragraph(s) must include the following information:

* Name of organization (full name, not acronym or abbreviation)
* Name of the event
* Date of event (month and year are sufficient)
* Location of event (city and state if out of town; on or off campus location if in Madison)
* How the event supports or advances the organization’s goals, objectives, and/or mission.

If you are filling out the Meal Payment Form, there is a place to type the Business Purpose for the event. If the event and/or expenses do not involve food, then you should include the Business Purpose in an email, either in the body of the message or as an attachment, to Adam Bushcott, Main Office Manager at adam.bushcott@wisc.edu.

If you have questions about the Business Purpose, contact Mr. Bushcott.

**Examples**

The following examples were submitted by various law school student organizations. They have been edited to include all required information in necessary detail. The headings list the expenses paid by the JD Grants Committee.

**Local Event: Speaker Travel Expenses and Conference Meals**

The Indigenous Law Student Association (ILSA), Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center, and the UW Law School hosted the 38th Coming Together of Peoples Conference (CTOPC) on April 12th and 13th, 2024, at the Law School.  This conference is the longest-running student-led Indian law conference in the country.  This year's conference explored various Indigenous law topics, including Tribal data sovereignty, publication of Tribal codes and cases, interdisciplinary research in federal Indian law, and more.

**Local Event: Speaker Travel Expenses and Conference Meals**

The Wisconsin International Law Journal held its annual symposium on April 12, 2024, at Memorial Union.  This conference brought together scholars from various disciplines and countries to discuss central banks' structure, powers, and independence and how they respond to crises such as the 2008 financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change. After the symposium, there was a dinner for the speakers and other special guests.

**Local Event: Speaker Travel Expenses**

The Government Law Society held a lunch-hour Judicial Elections Panel with four higher-profile Wisconsin judges in March 2024 at the law school.  This event aimed to hear from Wisconsin judges who have run in elections at all levels of the Wisconsin court system about how they decided to run for office, how nonpartisan judicial campaigns operate, and how they won (or why they lost).

Participating students heard perspectives from judges willing to speak candidly about their experiences with judicial elections, including two who have run in high-profile statewide races and one who has won a narrow victory in Milwaukee.  Students anticipating running for office, whether for a judge or any other elected position, will benefit from this.  So will attorneys who plan to practice in Wisconsin, insofar as understanding how judges get their seats helps them know how they think and how they might be convinced to rule for your side.

**Local Event: \_Catering Expenses**

The Jackie Macaulay Auction (JMA) is the primary fundraiser each year for the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF). This year’s auction was on March 2, 2024, at the Law School. PILF is dedicated to working with students on issues of public interest law.  PILF puts on various events about public interest issues, such as community panels, guest speakers, and faculty lunches.  Through various service events, PILF is also involved within the community and actively raises money to support law students pursuing unpaid summer work in public interest law.

**Travel: Conference Registration Fees**

Members of the Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA) will attend the Federal Bar Association's 2024 Indian Law Conference in April 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.  The conference's purpose is to address how practitioners can help Tribes and Indigenous individuals protect their rights, lands, communities, and culture while maintaining collaborative efforts with the state and federal governments.  ILSA will also host its yearly event and would like to gather ideas and connect with panelists for the Coming Together of Peoples Conference.

**Travel: Conference Registration Fees**

Three members of the Socialist Law Students of Wisconsin will travel to Chicago, IL, in September to attend Socialism 2023. Socialism 2023 is a four-day conference bringing together hundreds of activists from around the country to participate in discussions about social movements, Marxism, abolition, working-class history, and the debates and strategies for organizing today. The conference aims to be a place where activists can share lessons from their struggles through talks and workshops throughout the weekend.  It features authors and thinkers discussing the issues and debates on the left today and meetings on the hidden history of working-class and socialist struggles.