

2012 Law Student Diversity Scholarship Application

Submission Deadline: April 27, 2012

Scholarship Requirements

DRI announces its annual Law Student Diversity Scholarship program open to incoming second and third-year African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American students. Incoming second and third-year female law students are also eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity. Incoming second and third-year law students who also come from backgrounds that would add to the cause of diversity, regardless of race or gender are eligible to apply. Students who are members of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), Law School or Law Student members of AAJ or students otherwise affiliated with or employed by AAJ are not eligible for DRI Law Student Diversity Scholarships. To qualify for this scholarship, candidate must be a full-time student. Evening students also qualify for consideration who have completed one-third or more of the total credit hours required for a degree by the applicant's law school. The goal of these scholarships is to provide financial assistance to two worthy law students from ABA accredited law schools in order to promote, in a tangible way, the DRI Diversity Statement in Principle. See page three of this application for the DRI Diversity Statement.

Two scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each will be awarded to applicants who best meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated academic excellence
- Service to the profession
- Service to the community
- Service to the cause of diversity

Applications must include three recommendations, one each from the following individuals:

- A) The Dean or an Associate Dean of the student's law school
- B) A current or past law professor
- C) An individual who is personally acquainted with the applicant, but who is not related by blood line or adoption.

Additionally, each applicant must include a cover letter with their application. In that cover letter each applicant should identify his or her academic, personal and/or professional accomplishments and how those accomplishments qualify him or her for DRI's Law Student Diversity Scholarship award.

Essay Requirements

In addition to submitting the attached application and required recommendations, applicants must complete an essay of no more than 1,000 words based upon the following question:

In *Milward v. Acuity Specialty Products Group, Inc.*, 639 F.3d 11 (1st Cir. 2011), cert. denied, --- S.Ct. ----, 2012 WL 33303, 80 USLW 3133 (2012), the First Circuit Court of Appeals held that expert testimony on causation, which is based on a “weight-of-the evidence” methodology, can be reliable, and thus admissible, depending on the facts of the case. Does an expert opinion based on the weight-of-the-evidence approach satisfy Federal Rule of Evidence 702’s requirement of evidentiary reliability, as articulated in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), *Gen. Elec. Co. v. Joiner*, 522 U.S. 136 (1997), and *Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael*, 526 U.S. 137 (1999)? How will the First Circuit’s ruling affect the issue of admissibility of expert testimony on medical causation in toxic tort cases?

Essays must be submitted in hard copy, double-spaced, typed pages with copy on only one side of each page.

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Applications and all other requested materials must be **received** by April 27, 2012. Scholarship winners will be notified in advance and officially announced at the DRI Diversity for Success Seminar, June 7-8, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

All applications, essays and required materials must be submitted in hard copy format to:

Tyler Howes, Deputy Executive Director
DRI – *The Voice of the Defense Bar*
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60603



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SECTION ONE: Personal Information

Full Name:

Last

First

M.I.

Current Mailing Address:

Street Address

Apt/Unit #

City

State

Zip Code

Permanent Mailing Address:

Street Address

Apt/Unit #

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address: _____

DRI Diversity Statement

DRI is the largest international membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation.

Diversity is a core value at DRI. Indeed, diversity is fundamental to the success of the organization, and we seek out and embrace the innumerable benefits and contributions that the perspectives, backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences a diverse membership provides.

Inclusiveness is the chief means to increase the diversity of DRI's membership and leadership positions. DRI's members and potential leaders are often also members and leaders of other defense organizations. Accordingly, DRI encourages all national, state, and local defense organizations to promote diversity and inclusion in their membership and leadership.



SECTION TWO: Academic Information

High School Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Undergraduate Institution Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards or Other Special Recognition:

Extracurricular Activities:



SECTION TWO: Academic Information (continued)

Graduate Institution Name (other than law school):

City: _____

State: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards or Other Special Recognition:

Extracurricular Activities:

Law School Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Anticipated date of graduation: _____

GPA _____ **Grading Scale** _____



SECTION TWO: Academic Information (continued)

Law School Information (Continued)

Class Rank: _____

Honors, Awards or Other Special Recognition:

Extracurricular Activities:

Have you previously attended any other law school? If so, please explain.

SECTION THREE: Community Service Information

Describe any community service activities.

Dates	Organization/Activity	Role/Position
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SECTION FOUR: Work Experience

Describe any relevant work experience (attach resume if necessary).

Dates	Company/Organization	Position/Title
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SECTION FIVE: Other Information

Have you ever been arrested and/or convicted of a crime, other than a moving traffic violation? If so, please describe below and/or attach a detailed description.



SECTION FIVE: Other Information (continued)

What are your career goals?

SECTION SIX: Applicant's Certification

- 1) I am currently registered as a full-time, incoming second-year or incoming third-year law student at an ABA accredited law school identified in this application, or I am an evening student who has completed one-third or more of the total credit hours required for a degree from the law school I now attend.
- 2) I am not a member of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), a Law School or Law Student Member of AAJ, or otherwise affiliated with or employed by AAJ.
- 3) I am eligible to apply for this scholarship under the criteria.
- 4) All information contained in this application is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

