

2026 Law Student Diversity Scholarship Application

Submission Deadline: **June 30, 2026**

Scholarship Requirements

DRI announces its annual Law Student Diversity Scholarship program, open to rising (2026–2027) second and third-year law students. All rising second- and third-year law students are eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity. The Law Student Diversity Scholarship is focused on students who come from backgrounds that would add to the cause of diversity within the Civil Defense Bar. 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, a candidate must be a full-time student. Evening students also qualify for consideration if they 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 three worthy law students from ABA-accredited law schools.

One scholarship in the amount of \$10,000 and two scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 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:**

- 1) The dean or an associate dean of the student's law school;
- 2) A current or past law professor; and
- 3) An individual who is personally acquainted with the applicant, but who is not related by bloodline or adoption.

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

* Letters of recommendation may be submitted directly by the applicant.

Essay Requirements

In addition to submitting the attached application and required recommendations, applicants must complete an essay of no more than 2,000 words based upon the following question:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession

Diversity, equity, and inclusion strengthen the legal profession by expanding perspectives, removing barriers, and helping ensure that justice is accessible to all communities. In recent years, however, programs and efforts designed to advance diversity have faced increasing scrutiny and challenges.

Please describe how your background, identity, and life experiences—including any obstacles or challenges you have faced—have shaped your perspective on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession. In your response, discuss how navigating these experiences has helped prepare you to address future efforts that may seek to limit or eliminate diversity in the profession, how you have demonstrated resilience, academic excellence, or leadership during law school despite those challenges, and the specific initiatives, programs, or efforts you would create, develop, or champion to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession and the communities it serves.

Submission Deadline

Applications and all other requested materials must be received by June 30, 2026. Scholarship winners will be notified in advance and officially announced at the DRI Annual Meeting, October 21-23 in Washington, DC.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

All scholarship materials (including cover letter, application, essay, and recommendations) may be submitted in PDF format to scholarship@dri.org, or mail a hard copy format to:

Diversity Scholarship
DRI
222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1870
Chicago, IL 60606

** Letters of recommendation may be submitted directly by the applicant.

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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: _____ Phone Number: _____

SECTION TWO: Academic Information

High School

High School Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Undergraduate

Undergraduate Institution Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Degree Earned: _____

SECTION TWO: Academic Information *(continued)*

Undergraduate Information *(continued)*

Honors, Awards, or Other Special Recognition:

Extracurricular Activities:

Graduate

Graduate Institution Name (other than law school):

City: _____ State: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards, or Other Special Recognition:

SECTION TWO: Academic Information *(continued)*

Graduate Information *(continued)*

Extracurricular Activities:

Law School

Law School Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Anticipated date of graduation: _____

GPA: _____ Grading Scale: _____

Class Rank: _____

Honors, Awards, or Other Special Recognition:

SECTION TWO: Academic Information *(continued)*

Law School Information *(continued)*

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

What are your career goals?

SECTION SIX: Applicant's Certification

- 1) I am currently registered as a full-time, second- or 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 that I now attend.
- 2) I am not a member of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), a law school or law student member of the 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.

OPTIONAL
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Applicants are invited to indicate which of the following may best describe them:

<input type="radio"/> African American	<input type="radio"/> Asian American	<input type="radio"/> Hispanic	<input type="radio"/> Native American
<input type="radio"/> Caucasian	<input type="radio"/> Multi-Racial	<input type="radio"/> LGBT+	<input type="radio"/> Other: _____

Date of birth _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

