

2017 Law Student Diversity Scholarship Application

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2017

Scholarship Requirements

DRI announces its annual Law Student Diversity Scholarship program, open to rising (2017-18) second- and third-year African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, LGBT and multi-racial students. All rising second- and third-year female law students are also eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity. Any other rising second- and third-year law students who 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, 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 two worthy law students from ABA-accredited law schools to promote, in a tangible way, the DRI Diversity Statement of Principle. See the last page 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) 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 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 award. A PDF of the entire application, including letters of recommendation, cover letter and essay may be emailed to scholarship@dri.org or faxed to 312.252.0995, attn: Tim Kolly.

* 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 1,000 words based upon the following question:

Sally Smith is an 19-year-old sophomore college student in South Carolina who was injured last year when your law firm’s client, New York resident Brian Jones, struck Sally’s car as she was passing through the intersection. Your client denies he is liable, but does not question that Sally was injured. Sally’s lawyers have alleged that she has permanent and debilitating injuries after suffering a broken arm, broken leg, a torn rotator cuff, and a lacerated liver and have alleged that her medical expenses to date are over \$400,000 and continuing.

Sally’s lawyers filed a complaint in the South Carolina federal district court, Columbia Division, bringing claims of negligence and gross negligence. She also is claiming post-traumatic stress disorder and seeks damages for all her injuries in excess of one million dollars. Your law firm will contest liability as well as the extent of physical injuries and also will contest whether the plaintiff is actually suffering from PTSD.

To determine the viability of the plaintiff’s claims of both physical and psychological injury, your law firm is considering filing a motion for two independent medical exams (“IMEs”)—a physical exam and a mental exam—under Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on the grounds that Sally had put her physical and mental conditions at issue in bringing the lawsuit. You have also learned from discovery that the plaintiff has continued to participate in college cheerleading and sorority activities, leading your partners to question whether her injuries are permanent.

Sally is from a small town in rural South Carolina and led a sheltered life until starting college last year. In discussions with Sally’s lawyers, they told your partner that her doctor advised them that she would be traumatized by the IMEs, and they also are arguing that Sally’s medical records contain enough information for your medical expert to furnish opinions. They will not agree to the exams and said that if the court orders the IMEs over their objections, Sally’s mother should be present for both exams and also a court reporter should be present to record them.

Please compose an essay analyzing the legal issues involved in the motion for the two IMEs, including whether you believe the motion would succeed, and why or why not. Assume, then, that the motion is successful, and provide further analysis of the likelihood that the plaintiff’s lawyers can convince the court to allow Sally’s mother and a court reporter to attend the IMEs.

Submission Deadline

Applications and all other requested materials must be received by March 31, 2017. Scholarship winners will be notified in advance and officially announced at the DRI Diversity for Success Seminar scheduled for June 15–16, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

All applications, essays and required materials may be submitted in PDF format to scholarship@dri.org, faxed to 312.252.0995, or hard copy format to**

Tim Kolly, Director of Public Policy
DRI—*The Voice of the Defense Bar*
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60603

** 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: _____

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
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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.

What are your career goals?

SECTION SIX: Applicant's Certification

- 1) I am currently registered as a full-time, rising (2017-18) second-year or rising 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	<i>DRI is committed to the principle of diversity in its membership and leadership. Accordingly, applicants are invited to indicate which of the following may best describe them:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American
		<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial	<input type="checkbox"/> LGBT	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
		Date of birth _____ month/day/year			

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Diversity and Inclusion in DRI: A Statement of Principle

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, which includes sexual orientation, 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.