

2016 Law Student Diversity Scholarship Application

Submission Deadline: March 30, 2016

Scholarship Requirements

DRI announces its annual Law Student Diversity Scholarship program, open to rising (2016–17) 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.

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:

“Jury nullification” is generally defined as a circumstance in which members of a jury either disregard evidence and/or the court’s instruction on the law in an effort to reach a verdict based on their own collective conscience. Among other things, it is a direct challenge to the traditional concept that jurors decide the facts, with the court’s role being to interpret and instruct on the law.

In recent remarks at the New York University School of Law, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor said “There is a place, I think, for jury nullification—finding the balance in that and the role judges should play.”

Is “jury nullification” acceptable in our system of justice and if so, under what circumstances? As part of your analysis, please discuss the pros and cons of “jury nullification” in both civil and criminal cases, including a discussion of how jury nullification could be identified and accepted by the Court. If you believe jury nullification should be permitted, also please give examples of when it would be so.

Submission Deadline

Applications and all other requested materials must be received by March 30, 2016. Scholarship winners will be notified in advance and officially announced at the DRI Diversity for Success Seminar scheduled for June 9–10, 2016, 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

Tim Kolly, Director of Public Policy
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: _____

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
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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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 (2016-17) 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.