

2018 Law Student Diversity Scholarship Application

Submission Deadline: March 30, 2018

Scholarship Requirements

DRI announces its annual Law Student Diversity Scholarship program, open to rising (2018–19) 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.

* 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:

A senior partner at your law firm represents Hands Free Cars, an automobile manufacturer that recently introduced a fully autonomous vehicle into the market. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (“NHTSA”), this vehicle is a Level 4 autonomous vehicle approved for driving on public roads. The vehicle is designed to operate in full autonomous mode, but does have human usable controls for when a human driver wants or needs to take control. The client has recently informed your senior partner about the very first accident involving one of these cars.

According to Hands Free Cars, one of its cars was operating in full autonomous mode in heavy traffic (autonomous vehicle or “AV”). The AV was traveling in the center of three one-way lanes. The AV identified a space between two vehicles (a minivan in front and a sedan behind) in the left lane and began to merge into that lane. At the same time, the minivan decelerated. Sensing that the gap was closing, the AV stopped making the lane change and returned fully to the center lane. As the AV was re-centering itself in the center lane, a motorcycle that had just lane-split between two vehicles in the center and right lanes moved into the center lane. The motorcyclist glanced the side of the AV, wobbled, and fell over. At the time of the collision, the AV was traveling with the flow of traffic at 25 mph, while the motorcycle was weaving in and out of traffic at approximately 35 mph. The motorcyclist escaped serious injury, but was transported by ambulance to the hospital for treatment.

The motorcyclist’s attorney has sent a demand letter to Hands Free Cars and the “driver” of the AV. Your senior partner has asked you for a memo analyzing the legal issues involved in any potential lawsuit involving Hands Free Cars, the “driver,” and the motorcyclist. Your client is particularly interested in which liability doctrine would most likely control under these facts.

Please compose this memo.

Submission Deadline

Applications and all other requested materials must be received by March 30, 2018. Scholarship winners will be notified in advance and officially announced at the DRI Diversity for Success Seminar scheduled for June 14–15, 2018, 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 (2018-19) 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.