



**2026 CIVIL RIGHTS & COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS
SPONSORED BY J.L. TURNER LEGAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION**

QUALIFICATIONS/ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

- UNITED STATES CITIZEN OR PERMANENT LEGAL RESIDENT
- CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN AN ABA-ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES AS A PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME STUDENT
- GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING AT THE LAW SCHOOL (PROOF OF ACADEMIC STANDING IS REQUIRED)
- A MINIMUM GPA OF 3.0 FOR A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP OR 2.5 FOR A FINANCIAL NEED SCHOLARSHIP
- SECOND OR THIRD YEAR LAW STUDENT FROM THE DFW METROPLEX OR ATTENDING LAW SCHOOL IN THE DFW METROPLEX
- SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON, THE J.L. TURNER LEGAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION GALA (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026) TO ACCEPT THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

*****APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 AT 5:00 PM CST*****

****INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED
**ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE FOUNDATION
BY THE DEADLINE**

For more than two decades the J. L. Turner Legal Association Foundation has awarded scholarships to law students attending law school in, or who are from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Sponsorships from the Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala are used to fund the scholarships. In 2026, the scholarship program was re-named the JLTLA Foundation Civil Rights & Community Service Scholarships, in honor of the very distinct history of the JLTLA founders' involvement in the struggle for civil rights in this country, and their core commitment to community service in DFW.

There are two distinct types of JLTLA Foundation Civil Rights & Community Service Scholarships: MERIT-BASED and FINANCIAL NEED.

Merit-Based Scholarships: There are five (5) merit-based scholarships that may be awarded in a given year. These are primarily academic scholarship awards. The merit scholarships are as follows:

- **The Barbara Jordan Scholarship** - awarded to the most outstanding female law student applicant, with a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and commitment to community service.
- **The Fred Finch Scholarship** - awarded to the most outstanding male law student applicant, with a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and commitment to community service.
- **The Marie Trahan/Susman Godfrey Scholarship** - awarded to an outstanding male or female law student born or raised in the State of Texas, who has a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and commitment to community service.
- **The Judge's Scholarship (Phyllis Lister Brown Memorial Scholarship)** - awarded to a male or female law student who has excelled academically in law school, who has a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and commitment to community service.
- **The Rhonda Hunter Scholarship** - awarded to an outstanding male or female law student born or raised in the State of Texas, and who is attending law school in the DFW Metroplex; who displays demonstrated leadership qualities and who has a bold and brave record of commitment to community service.

MERIT-BASED APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- OFFICIAL SEALED LAW SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT WITH GRADES CONFIRMING ENROLLMENT
- UNOFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE TRANSCRIPT
- PROOF OF ACADEMIC STANDING
- LEGAL WRITING SAMPLE (5 pages or less)
- LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: Maximum of one page, including signature, email, address, and phone number of references. *Letters from relatives or fellow law students will NOT be accepted.*
- CURRENT RESUME THAT INCLUDES HONORS, ACTIVITIES, AND PUBLICATIONS
- BRIEF ESSAY: Discussing (a) how your educational and professional goals align with the mission of the J.L. Turner Legal Association and/or J.L. Turner Legal Association Foundation; (b) your demonstrated interest in civil rights and your commitment to community service; and (c) how you will support the J.L. Turner Legal Association after graduating law school. (One page, double-spaced, 500 words maximum).

Financial Need Scholarships: Although JLTLA Foundation encourages academic excellence, the need-based scholarships focus on financial need and are not primarily academic scholarships. In selecting financial-need scholarship winners, we will consider an applicant's need, disadvantaged circumstances, demonstrated interest in civil rights, community involvement, and other factors, in addition to merely, academic standing.

- **2026 Juanita Harris Legacy Scholarship** - awarded to a female law student, with financial need, that is: a) from (born and/or raised) in the DFW Metroplex; b) the mother of at least one child; c) will be in their (2L) year of law school in the Fall of 2026; and d) plans to take the Texas Bar and practice in Texas after completion of law school. The scholarship will be in the amount of **\$50,000.00** and will be distributed to the student over a two-year period. The winner will receive **\$20,000** in their 2L year; upon verification of successful completion of 2L year and enrollment in their 3L year, they will receive another **\$20,000** in their 3L year; then upon verification of graduation from law school and registration for the Texas Bar Exam, they will receive a **\$10,000** stipend to help them while studying for the Texas Bar Exam.
- **L.A. Bedford Memorial Scholarship** – awarded to a deserving law student with financial need, displaying leadership qualities in the pursuit of justice for all, exhibiting a commitment to excellence, demonstrated interest in civil rights, and engaged in community service.
- **Karen McCloud Memorial Scholarship** – awarded to a deserving law school student displaying financial need, a commitment to inclusion and excellence within the legal profession, a dedication to service in the community, a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and a relentless focus on justice for all.
- **Capt. Richard Stewart, JAG Corp. U.S. Navy (Ret.) Legal Education Scholarship**– awarded to a law student with demonstrated financial need who: (1) currently serves or was honorably discharged from a branch of the U.S. military, as evidenced by a valid DD214; (2) is a child of a U.S. military veteran, as evidenced by a valid DD214; or (3) is a current member of, or has been accepted and plans to enter, the U.S. JAG Corp; who has a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and commitment to community service.
- **Chief Justice Carolyn Wright Scholarship** – awarded to a female law student displaying financial need, a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and a record of community service.
- **General Financial Need Awards** – awarded to law students with demonstrated financial need and connection to DFW metroplex, who have a demonstrated interest in civil rights, and commitment to community service.

FINANCIAL NEED APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- OFFICIAL SEALED LAW SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT WITH GRADES CONFIRMING ENROLLMENT
- LEGAL WRITING SAMPLE (5 pages or less)
- BRIEF STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED (maximum of one page, summary of annual expenses, financial aid, income sources, and other scholarships, etc.)
- LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: Maximum of one page, including signature, email, address, and phone number of references. *Letters from relatives or fellow law students will NOT be accepted.*
- CURRENT RESUME THAT INCLUDES HONORS, ACTIVITIES, AND PUBLICATIONS

- BRIEF ESSAY: Discussing (a) how your educational and professional goals align with the mission of the J.L. Turner Legal Association and/or J.L. Turner Legal Association Foundation; (b) your demonstrated interest in civil rights and your commitment to community service; and (c) how you will support the J.L. Turner Legal Association after graduating law school. (One page, double-spaced, 500 words maximum).
- *DD214 (Required for Military Scholarship Applicants ONLY)*

2026 CIVIL RIGHTS & COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
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NAME _____

Application for the following: ☐ FINANCIAL NEED ☐ MERIT ☐ BOTH/ALL awards

Any specific financial need award? _____

U.S. CITIZEN: YES ☐ NO ☐ PERMANENT RESIDENT: YES ☐ NO ☐

☐ AFRICAN/AFRICAN-AMERICAN ☐ ASIAN ☐ HISPANIC ☐ WHITE

☐ OTHER (Please specify) _____

CURRENT ADDRESS _____
(Street/P.O. Box) (City, State and Zip Code)

PHONE NUMBER _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (If different from above)

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

LAW SCHOOL _____

GPA _____ CLASS RANK _____ 2L ☐ 3L ☐ EXPECTED GRAD DATE: _____

BLSA MEMBER: YES ☐ NO ☐ (If similar organization, please name): _____

UNDERGRADUATE
INSTITUTION _____ GPA _____

EXPLAIN YOUR CONNECTION TO THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH METROPLEX

MILITARY SERVICE (YOU/PARENT) ? YES ☐ NO ☐ BRANCH _____

TYPE OF SERVICE? (Active, Reserve, JAG, etc.) _____

SERVICE DATES: _____

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A JLTAF SCHOLARSHIP? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, when and what amount? _____

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO ATTEND THE JLTAF GALA *IN-PERSON* THIS YEAR? YES ____ NO ____

By signing this application, Applicant attests that the information contained herein is true and correct.

(Applicant Signature)

(Date)

Please return ALL application materials via email, **except** the official law school transcript, which should be e-mailed directly from your institution. PLEASE SEND ITEMS REQUESTED BY EMAIL TO: JLTLAF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (erin@nowellforjustice.com) with the subject:

2026 JLTLAF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION/[Applicant Name].

(1) Completed *Application Packet* (materials described on page 1&2, application on page 3);

- a. **SEND VIA EMAIL IN SINGLE PDF FILE,**
- b. **Do NOT send a separate PDF/file for EACH component of application packet.)**

(2) Official law school transcript (if your transcript does not show class rank or standing, please provide additional documentation to verify your class rank, such as a letter from the Dean). If your school sends official transcripts via email, please direct to: erin@nowellforjustice.com. **

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REQUESTED (Winners will be featured in the Gala program!)

(3) Student Biography (5-7 sentences in a Word document, written in third person, for inclusion in gala program, if selected). **(SEND VIA EMAIL)**

(4) Professional Photograph (Hi-resolution photo (in .JPG format) of head and shoulders; photograph should be suitable for inclusion in a professional publication (business attire preferred)). **(SEND VIA EMAIL)**

**** INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. ****

ALL APPLICATION PACKETS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT.

**COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKETS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 AT 5:00 PM, CST.**

For more information about J. L. Turner Legal Association Foundation and/or the scholarship, please visit www.jlturnerfoundation.org or contact:

2026 Scholarship Chair, Hon. Erin A. Nowell: erin@nowellforjustice.com
2026 Foundation Chair, LaVonda Russell: foundationchair@jlturnerfoundation.org