Drake Law School

Law Opportunity Scholarship - Diversity

Law Opportunity Scholarships may be awarded to those students whose enrollment will significantly contribute to the diversity of the Drake Law School student body, or to those who have overcome economic, educational or other significant disadvantage(s). Applicants must demonstrate financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form must be completed between January 1 and March 1 of the year you will be enrolling in law school. The FAFSA may be submitted electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Opportunity Scholarships range from one-quarter tuition to full-tuition awards. Opportunity Scholarships are renewable provided the student is in good academic standing and continues to demonstrate financial need.

Drake University's Commitment to Diversity:

Drake University is committed to being an inclusive, multicultural community in which differences are welcomed, respected and valued. The University's goal is to ensure that Drake students, faculty and staff are able to function effectively as members of diverse local, national and global communities. Mindful of its responsibility to serve as a leader in promoting social justice and equality, commitment to the principles of diversity, equality of opportunity, and human dignity, the University reserves the right to take affirmative action in pursuing the goal of creating a society in which all may thrive.

Adopted by the Faculty Senate April, 2004.

Drake University's commitment to diversity recognizes that diversity in its student body, faculty and staff benefits everyone—the entire Drake community. Law School diversity was specifically embraced by the United States Supreme Court in Grutter v. Bollenger, and there is no better articulation of those values than the Grutter Court. To paraphrase the Court, universities have a central role in the development and training of America's leaders, and law schools have been in the forefront of those efforts. The educational benefits of diversity are important, laudable, and enduring, and perhaps can best be characterized as the “robust exchange of ideas.” A diverse student body promotes “classroom discussion that is livelier, more spirited, and simply more enlightening and interesting.” It promotes “cross-racial understanding,” prevents minorities from feeling isolated, and can challenge and break down racial stereotypes. It better prepares students for an increasingly diverse workforce and society; in the context of law, it better prepares them as professionals.

Scholarship Award Procedure: In order to be considered for an Opportunity Scholarship, the candidate must have been admitted to the Law School, submitted a completed scholarship application and arranged for his or her needs analysis to be sent to Drake. The applicant must indicate whether the award is sought based on diversity, disadvantage or both factors. Applicants whose candidacy is based on contribution to diversity must complete the Law Opportunity – Diversity application. Applicants whose scholarship candidacy is based on overcoming disadvantage must complete the Law Opportunity – Disadvantage application. Applicants whose scholarship candidacy is based on diversity and disadvantage must complete both.

In determining the award recipients, the Scholarship Committee considers the following factors:

1. The applicant's showing of diversity or disadvantage, or both.
2. The applicant's academic record.
3. The applicant's personal achievements and leadership.
4. The applicant's financial need.

In its allocation of limited funds, the Committee will give priority to those applicants who demonstrate that they will contribute to diversity and that they have overcome disadvantage.

My scholarship application is based on:
☐ Contribution to diversity  ☐ Having overcome disadvantage(s)  ☐ Both

My explanation of how I would contribute to the Law School’s diversity is:
☐ Enclosed with this application (Please attach explanation of no more than two typewritten pages, signed and dated.)
☐ Included with my application for admission

Mail your completed application and any relevant supporting information to:
Drake Law School
Office of Admission and Financial Aid
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311-4505