



372 Franklin Avenue  
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Nutley, New Jersey 07110  
973-819-9488  
[cskinner@njwla.org](mailto:cskinner@njwla.org)

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NJWLA has established a scholarship program to benefit students who are pursuing juris doctorate degrees. In 2026, NJWLA intends to award scholarships of \$5,000 each, to one student from each of New Jersey's law schools: Rutgers University Law School – Camden, Rutgers University Law School – Newark, and Seton Hall University Law School.\*\*

In order to qualify, each applicant must be a matriculating law school student who:

- Has completed at least twelve (12) credits at the time of application;
- Is carrying a minimum of six (6) credits per term; and
- Has been recommended by either (1) a professor, an instructor, an adjunct faculty member, a clinical instructor, a Dean, a Director of their law school *or* (2) a lawyer or a judge with whom the applicant has worked as a clerk or intern during the past two (2) years.

## SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

In addition to the above requirements, applicants will be judged according to their commitment and dedication to their law school, dedication to the mission of NJWLA, and the practice of law, as well as their essay.

Scholarship awards may be used for tuition, fees, books, and personal expenses, and are given directly to the students.

Applicants who work for companies that offer tuition reimbursement are eligible to apply.

Scholarship application forms are available from the Deans of each New Jersey law school and are also available on our website at [www.njwla.org](http://www.njwla.org).

## PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

All applications must be **received** by January 23, 2026, at 5:00 pm. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the deadline WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

\*\* Please note that for purposes of this scholarship process NJWLA treats Rutgers – Newark and Rutgers – Camden as separate schools.

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## APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Multiple reviewers will evaluate each application. For an application to be considered complete and eligible for consideration, we must receive from you by the deadline your:

- Application form
- Essay
- Letter of recommendation
- Law school transcript (first year students should submit undergraduate transcript)
- Resume

### Means of Submission:

The application form, essay, law school transcript, and resume must be submitted by email, with all attachments in pdf format to [cskinner@njwla.org](mailto:cskinner@njwla.org) and [Nancy@primelaw.com](mailto:Nancy@primelaw.com). Any attachments should be named using the following convention: Last Name\_School\_Document (e.g., complete application, application form, essay, transcript, resume).

If it is not possible to submit your documents via email, please contact [cskinner@njwla.org](mailto:cskinner@njwla.org) and [Nancy@primelaw.com](mailto:Nancy@primelaw.com) for alternatives.

Letters of recommendation can be submitted via email directly from the party providing the recommendation (but they may not be submitted via email by the Applicant), or the party providing the recommendation can mail the recommendation to the address below. Alternatively, if the party providing the recommendation is providing a hard copy to the applicant, the recommendation must be in a sealed envelope from the party providing the recommendation and the applicant is responsible for mailing the recommendation to the address below.

**Mailing address:** NJWLA  
372 Franklin Avenue  
Suite 713  
Nutley, New Jersey 07110.

### TIMELINE

**January 23, 2026, 5:00 pm** – Deadline for submission of *all materials* to **ARRIVE** at NJWLA Mailbox and/or email addresses provided above. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 23, 2026, BUT RECEIVED THEREAFTER ARE NOT TIMELY SUBMISSIONS AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

By end of February 2026 – All candidates and Deans will be notified of the outcome of the application review.

The scholarships will be publicly recognized on March 18, 2026 at The Grove in Cedar Grove, NJ. Winners are expected to attend. This is a truly inspirational evening not to be missed.

DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION



**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

**DEADLINE January 23,2026, 5pm**

**I. Student Information (Please type or print neatly)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_ Current or \_\_\_ Previous

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hours worked per week during the 2024/2025 academic year \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated hours to be worked per week during the 2025/2026 academic year \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the NJWLA Scholarship award? \_\_\_\_\_



**II. ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

High School Graduation (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

College or University: \_\_\_\_\_

**Law School Information:**

Name of Law School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Matriculation: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of credits completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of completion: \_\_\_\_\_ Total credits required for law degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Status: Full Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Part Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Credits to be taken during the academic year: \_\_\_\_\_

(Minimum is six (6) per term, but you do not need to be enrolled all terms.)

(Approximate dates: Fall: Sept. – Dec. Winter: Jan. – May Summer: June – Aug.)

Fall 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ Winter 2026 \_\_\_\_\_ Summer 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Credits for the Academic Year 2025-2026: \_\_\_\_\_

**By submitting this application, applicant hereby grants to NJWLA the right to use, publish, exhibit and/or reproduce the applicant's name, law school information and scholarship essay in any and all media now known or later developed, and for any and all purposes, without the payment of any royalty or compensation of any kind. Further, if applicant is selected as one of the grant recipients, then applicant further agrees that NJWLA may use images, including photographs and videos, of applicant from the NJWLA Gala in any and all media now known or later developed, and for any and all purposes, without the payment of any royalty or compensation of any kind. The applicant herein releases NJWLA, its officers, directors, employees and agents and any affiliated or related persons or entities from any and all claims and causes of action based upon NJWLA's use of the essay. By signing this application, applicant warrants that he/she is the sole owner of the rights granted and that the essay submitted does not infringe upon the copyright or rights of anyone. Moreover, by signing this application, applicant affirms that the essay submitted herewith is entirely their own original work. Applicant certifies that they have not used any form of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Large Language Model (including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, or similar tools) to draft, write, edit, outline, or revise any portion of the essay submitted herewith.**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**III. Essay to respond to one of the following:**

**Topic 1:**

The Role of Affinity and Identity in Professional Development

The increasing presence of women and various minority groups in the legal profession is a significant and ongoing demographic shift. While diversity is often championed as an ethical and societal good, its primary impact is felt at the professional level—influencing mentorship, client relations, judicial interpretation, and firm culture.

**Critically evaluate the following question:**

Does the formation of professional identity groups (such as women's bar associations, minority lawyer networks, or LGBTQ+ legal groups) primarily function as an essential *support structure* necessary for navigating unique systemic challenges, or does it risk becoming a *form of professional segmentation* that potentially limits the organic integration and networking of diverse attorneys within the broader legal community?

**Your essay should:**

1. Take a clear position arguing either for the primacy of these groups as necessary support structures OR as potentially segmenting forces.
2. Support your argument with logical reasoning and, if possible, real-world examples (e.g., in litigation, policy-making, or corporate governance).
3. Acknowledge and briefly address the opposing viewpoint.
4. Focus on the *professional impact* of these groups on careers and legal practice, not solely on societal ideals.



**Topic 2:**

The Constitutional and Statutory Implications of Race-Based Government Action: From Admissions to Enforcement

**Prompt:**

The Supreme Court's emergency order in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* (concerning the temporary lifting of an injunction against federal agents using factors including apparent race, ethnicity, language, location, and job type to form reasonable suspicion for immigration stops) highlights a critical intersection between criminal procedure, executive power, and the equal protection guarantee. This case—addressing race as a *negative* factor in government enforcement—stands in stark contrast to the Court's recent strict scrutiny applied to race as a *positive* factor in public university admissions in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College (SFFA)*.

**Critically evaluate and take a position on the following statement:**

The judicial skepticism toward race-based government classifications, exemplified by the heightened strict scrutiny of affirmative action in *SFFA*, has paradoxically contributed to the legal reasoning in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* that allows for the continued use of racial or ethnic appearance as a component of reasonable suspicion. The unifying legal principle is the Court's overall narrowing of acceptable race-based distinctions, whether they are intended to be beneficial or punitive.

**Your essay should:**

1. Doctrinal Analysis: Compare and contrast the constitutional standards applied to race-based classifications in the two distinct contexts:
  - o The Fourth and Fifth Amendment "reasonable suspicion" framework applied to law enforcement stops (e.g., *Noem, Brignoni-Ponce*).
  - o The Equal Protection/Fourteenth Amendment "strict scrutiny" framework applied to race-conscious government benefits or admissions (e.g., *SFFA*).
2. Impact on Precedent: Analyze what *Noem* suggests about the future of other existing precedents in discrimination law. Specifically, discuss the potential implications of the *Noem* legal reasoning on established Title VII employment discrimination law, particularly regarding:
  - o The standard for proving disparate treatment when the plaintiff's protected class characteristic is implicitly or explicitly used as a proxy for suspicion or fitness.
  - o The continued viability of disparate impact claims where a facially neutral policy creates a disproportionate outcome that might be justified by an enforcement or security interest (as implied by the government's position in *Noem*).
3. Judicial Trend: Argue whether the outcome in *Noem* (the granting of the stay) signals a judicial trend of *expanding* executive and law enforcement discretion in the use of race-related factors, or if it instead reinforces a fundamental, yet often contradictory, principle of the Equal Protection Clause that demands "consistency and neutrality" regardless of the context.

**Please use separate pages for your essay (do not print it here).**

**Please only answer one of the questions.**

**Your essay is not to exceed 1500 words.**

**Please note that if you use or refer to cited work, citations should be in Blue Book format.**

**We reserve the right to edit all essays for publication.**