



The ABAS Law Foundation  
Asian Bar Association of Sacramento Law Foundation  
A 501(c)(3) Educational and Charitable Corporation  
555 University Ave., Suite 235, Sacramento, CA 95825-6505  
Telephone: 916.568.1222 Fax: 916.568.1881  
Taxpayer Identification Number: 91-1859906  
www.abaslawfoundation.org

## **THE ABAS LAW FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (FOR 2015-2016)**

Thank you for your interest in the ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship Program. This document constitutes the entire application package and should provide you with information that you need to know about the scholarship program, how to apply, and how to seek additional information if necessary.

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Asian Bar Association of Sacramento ("ABAS") was founded in 1981. The membership, which now numbers well in excess of one hundred attorney members, is a group of judges, attorneys, law students, and friends who have associated for the purposes of professional development, community service, advocacy, and camaraderie. As part of its community service mission, ABAS established the scholarship program in 1991.

In 1997, The ABAS Law Foundation ("Foundation"), a charitable and educational organization, was established under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). One of the Foundation's primary purposes is to award scholarships that recognize law students and recent law school graduates who possess extraordinary skills, desire, and potential to serve and lead the greater Sacramento area Asian-Pacific Islander community.

The Foundation primarily raises funds through its annual spring wine tasting event and annual fall golf tournament. These two events and generous gifts from community leaders fund the Foundation's scholarships.

In the 2014-2015 scholarship cycle, the Foundation awarded approximately \$15,000 in scholarships to area law students. The Foundation anticipates awarding between \$12,000 and \$20,000 in scholarships each year, and the awards typically range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for individual scholarships. The Foundation will formally present the scholarship awards at a scholarship reception in Fall 2016.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be considered for a scholarship, you must be either: (i) currently enrolled and in good standing at a Sacramento area law school (including U.C. Davis); or (ii) currently residing in the Sacramento area and have graduated from law school in Spring/Summer 2015 or winter 2015-2016.

## **CRITERIA**

The Foundation awards scholarships on the basis of the following criteria:

- (i) potential for community service and leadership in the Asian-Pacific Islander ("API") community;
- (ii) academic achievement; and
- (iii) financial need.

Generally, community service and leadership potential are accorded more weight and can be shown in various ways, including past activities serving API or other communities and current involvement with API organizations. However, some scholarships are more heavily weighted in terms of financial need than the other criteria. Financial need can be demonstrated through various types of information, such as the academic year budget, eligibility for financial aid from the law school, or lack of other financial support for school related expenses.

## **APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Each applicant must submit all of the following information and materials:

- a. Evidence of scholarship eligibility (a copy of your current law school registration or law school diploma will suffice).
- b. A personal statement, not to exceed three, double-spaced pages in length. This statement must also include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number. You must sign and date your statement. Other than these requirements, your statement may contain any relevant information and may be in any form you desire. Generally, the Foundation's Scholarship Committee is most interested in employment experience and ambitions, community and campus activities, and unique life experiences. If you feel you have overcome any form of hardship (financial, educational, physical, etc.) you are encouraged to discuss the experience in your statement in addition to the other topics listed above. Feel free to be creative and innovative in your approach to the personal statement.
- c. Current resume.
- d. Current law school transcripts (either official or unofficial).
- e. Financial information (if you feel that you are in financial need), which includes an itemization of financial resources (including other scholarships received) and expenses for the nine-month academic period, at a minimum.
- f. List of two or three references, including each reference's name, mailing address, telephone number, and a brief description of your relationship to each reference.

The Foundation's Scholarship Committee encourages applicants to submit application materials via e-mail with attachments in .pdf format. For ease of reading by, and distribution to, the committee's

members, the Scholarship Committee appreciates receiving the fewest number of total attachments from each applicant, i.e., please consolidate where practicable.

#### **APPLICATION EVALUATIONS**

The Scholarship Committee will evaluate each scholarship application package and select the scholarship recipients in its sole discretion, bound only by the purposes of the scholarship program and scholarship criteria. To facilitate the decision-making process, the Scholarship Committee may, in its discretion, require a personal interview with any or all scholarship applicants.

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Please submit your application materials no later than **February 19, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.** to:

Latika Sharma  
ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship Committee Chairperson  
Via e-mail (with attachments in .PDF format please):  
scholarships@abaslawfoundation.org

Application materials submitted after the above-stated deadline may be considered at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

#### **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions about the scholarship program or its administration, please e-mail Latika Sharma at [scholarships@abaslawfoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@abaslawfoundation.org), and include a reference to the ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship in the title of the e-mail message. To ensure fairness to all applicants, a copy of your question (without identifying you as the source), together with the Scholarship Committee's written response, might be disseminated to all scholarship applicants. All questions must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than **February 8, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.** Questions received after that time may be addressed at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. Again, thank you for your interest in the ABAS Law Foundation Scholarship Program. We look forward to receiving your application and learning more about you.