



STETSON LAW

Stetson University College of Law Public Service Scholarship, 2025-2026

Description

The College of Law's Public Service Scholarship will be awarded annually to one student, full- or part-time, who is entering his or her final year of law school, and normally will cover full tuition for the student's last two semesters. The scholarship will be awarded based on a demonstrated history of, and commitment to, public service. Each spring, the Honors, Awards, and Financial Aid Committee ("Financial Aid Committee") will recommend to the Dean, in rank order, two or three finalists for the scholarship; the Dean will then select the student who will receive the scholarship for 2025-2026. The selection will be based on the student's intention to engage in the practice of public service law upon graduation. Public service law is broadly defined to include employment with U.S. or international nonprofit organizations, government service, and law firms whose primary mission is serving the public interest or under-represented clients. **When multiple qualified candidates apply, those who plan to represent indigent or other under-represented groups may be given preference.** The recipient is expected to work full-time in the service of the public for at least three years following graduation; all alumni of the scholarship program are expected to support the scholarship to the fullest possible extent.

Selection criteria

The Public Service Scholarship is designed to ease the financial burden on students who demonstrate their commitment to serving their communities after graduation from law school. Therefore, the selection criteria include a demonstrated commitment, before and/or during law school, to public service as evidenced by volunteer or paid work that serves the public's interest. The Committee values candidates who show a clear and strong commitment to a particular population or issue, versus candidates who have broad interests tied to public service. The selection criteria also include demonstrated leadership abilities and high academic standards. Violations, if any, of the College of Law's Academic Honor Code and Code of Student Professionalism and Conduct also will be considered. While need is not a primary factor in the selection process, the applicant's educational debt and personal, family, educational, and socio-economic background will be considered. Representatives of the College of Law may look at the applicant's admission file and may look at publicly available material, such as material available through an Internet search.

Students on full scholarship are not eligible to apply. Students with partial-tuition scholarships may apply. If selected, the Public Service Scholarship will replace the other scholarship.

If a May or July graduate is selected, the scholarship will cover the student's final fall and spring semesters. If a December graduate is selected, the College of Law will cover the student's final summer session and fall semester.

Application process and deadline –

TIP: Secure your letter of reference right away.

Each applicant must complete the application (see next page). In addition, each applicant must submit a short essay (not more than 1,000 words) describing his or her commitment to public service and goals for utilizing the legal education in the public service. The essay should be autobiographical in nature, and should inform the Committee of the applicant's personal motivation for pursuing a career in public service. Also, each application should attach a current resume and at least one letter of recommendation from an individual familiar with the applicant's public service background and aspirations.

Completed applications should be submitted to Office of Admissions and Student Financial Planning, by March 14th at 5 p.m. The materials may be submitted in hard copy to the Office of Admissions and Student Financial Planning, or electronically to finaid@law.stetson.edu.

Interviews

The Honors Awards and Financial Aid Committee reserves the right to conduct interviews with any applicant. Students who are selected for interviews should expect to discuss their history of public service work (volunteer or paid, before and during law school), their personal, family, educational, and socio-economic backgrounds, and their specific goals for a career in public service.

Stetson University College of Law
Public Service Scholarship Application,
Application Deadline: March 14th, 2025, 5 p.m.

Full Legal Name: _____ Banner ID #: 800_____

Address: _____

Stetson Email: _____ Phone number: _____

Expected graduation date: _____

Cumulative Law School GPA and Class Rank: _____

AGI: Student and spouse (if married) adjusted gross income: _____. The College of Law will access your FAFSA (and EFC) to verify this data. Non-borrowers: Please email finaid@law.stetson.edu for information on income verification.

Total Educational Debt: You may include the interest that has accrued on your educational loans. Do not include spouse or dependent educational debt. (Please visit www.nslds.ed.gov for your total educational debt to date.) **Do not include future borrowing or future interest.** \$_____

Previous and/or Current Public Service Work:

Specific Plans for Public Service Career:

Pro Bono Service – please describe:

Resume: Please attach a resume that highlights not only your Public Service work, but also law school extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, academic awards, honors, and leadership positions at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Letter of Recommendation: Please secure one letter of recommendation from someone who is familiar with your public service history and/or goals. You are allowed to ask Stetson Law faculty for a recommendation letter. Recommenders may email the recommendation letter to Karla Davis-Jamison, Senior Assistant Dean of Strategic Enrollment Management (kdavisjamison@law.stetson.edu). Please ask your recommender as soon as possible to ensure timely submission.

Essay: Please submit this application and an autobiographical essay that does not exceed 1,000 words describing your commitment to serving the community and your motivation for pursuing a career in public service.