



OACTA Hilary S. Taylor Inclusion & Equity Scholarships

What is OACTA? The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) is an organization of attorneys, corporate executives and managers who devote a substantial portion of their time to the defense of civil lawsuits and the management of claims against individuals, corporations and governmental entities. OACTA, *The Source for Defense Success*, has been serving the public, the business community, and the legal profession in Ohio for over 50 years.

What is OACTA's commitment to inclusion and equity? OACTA believes that a diverse membership makes us a stronger organization. We encourage inclusion and equity in all aspects of our activities and are committed to nurturing a culture that supports and promotes it.

How do the scholarships support that commitment? The awards make it more likely that those receiving them will be able to graduate from law school and join our profession, making it more diverse. Diversity of viewpoint is important to our legal community and to the profession. Different experiences and perspectives bring important diversity of viewpoints and thought to the profession. These life experiences and perspectives may be influenced by many things including, but not limited to, a person's gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, geography, ethnicity, work experience, and socioeconomic status.

Do I have to commit to becoming a civil defense attorney after graduating from law school and joining OACTA? No. While we would like all applicants to consider a legal practice focused on the civil defense of individuals, corporations, and government, doing so is not required. However, for applicants with civil defense experience (such as a clerkship doing such work) or interest in civil defense, there is space provided in the application to reference such experience or interest. Experience or interest in civil defense may weigh in favor of an applicant's selection.

Who is eligible for the Scholarship? They are open to the following incoming second and third year law students who are enrolled in an Ohio law school or are permanent Ohio residents including, but not limited to, Minority law students; LGBTQIA+ law students regardless of race or ethnicity; female law students, regardless of race or ethnicity; law students with disabilities, regardless of race or ethnicity; law students from economically impoverished families/backgrounds, regardless of race or ethnicity; and law students from geographically disadvantaged communities, regardless of race or ethnicity. Note: Previous selection for an OACTA Law Student Scholarship does not disqualify an applicant from subsequent selection.

What are the selection criteria? The criteria include academic achievements; service to the community and to the cause of inclusion and equity; and experience or interest in a civil defense practice. The Scholarship Committee will not provide an advantage or disadvantage to an applicant because the applicant identifies with one of the listed identifiers or categories. Rather, successful applications will address the academic and professional accomplishments of the applicant and explain how the student's background and/or life experiences provide the student with an ability to successfully contribute to the diversity of the legal profession.

What else can you tell me about the application process? Up to three (3) scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be awarded to successful applicants. Applicants are required to submit an application, law school transcript and a cover letter addressing the following: academic, personal and professional accomplishments, and why they should be selected as a recipient of the scholarship. Applicants must also submit at least one letter of recommendation

but may submit a total of three. Applications must be submitted online with a cover letter. Transcripts and letter of recommendation may be mailed to the OACTA office.

What is the deadline for submission of the application and when will we know if we won?

The completed application and all other requested material must be received by 6/16/25. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. OACTA reserves the right to extend the deadline. Application extensions will be posted on <https://www.oacta.org/>. Scholarship recipients will be announced in July and recognized at the OACTA Annual Meeting in November. Funding is provided by the OACTA Foundation.