DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

At Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, we are committed to the ongoing development of a diverse work force. We believe that by continuously broadening the diversity of our attorneys that we provide better service to our clients and create a richer work environment. As part of this commitment to diversity, and in an effort to provide students with support in pursuing a law degree, we have established the Harter Secrest & Emery LLP Diversity Scholarship.

WHAT IS THE HARTER SECREST & EMEY LLP DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP?

The Harter Secrest & Emery LLP Diversity Scholarship was established in 2005. The firm awards one 1L law student with (1) a $7,500 scholarship to be applied to the student’s second year tuition and (2) a paid 10-week summer associate position in the firm’s Rochester office between the student’s first and second year of law school.*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP?

To be eligible for the Diversity Scholarship, the applicant must be a full-time currently enrolled 1L law student who is in good standing at an accredited law school. First-year students who are members of populations historically underrepresented in the legal profession are encouraged to apply.

WHAT ARE THE SELECTION CRITERIA?

In addition to the eligibility requirements set forth above, the recipient will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: (1) the individual must possess an academic record, interest and capacity that evidence great promise for a successful career during the remainder of law school and in the legal profession; and (2) the individual must contribute to the diversity of the student body at his or her law school. Although a disclosure of financial circumstances is not required, a demonstrated need for financial assistance may be taken into consideration. The Diversity Scholarship recipient will be chosen based upon the Firm’s review of all scholarship applications and interviews conducted with scholarship finalists.

HOW DO I APPLY?

In order to apply for the Diversity Scholarship, complete the online application and submit all required materials to:

Cristy Gordon, Legal Recruiter
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP
1600 Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604
Phone: 585-231-1414
cgordon@hselaw.com

The online application can be found by clicking here.

* Diversity Scholarship recipients who are interested in returning to work at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP for a second summer will be asked to reapply to the firm after the conclusion of the student’s 1L summer.
WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DUE?
The Diversity Scholarship application must be received by Harter Secrest & Emery LLP on or before Monday, January 13, 2020.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT WILL BE SELECTED?
The Hiring Committee at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP will review all applications that are complete and received in a timely fashion. The top applicants will be considered finalists and will be invited to Harter Secrest & Emery LLP for an interview with the firm’s Hiring Committee on Friday, January 24, 2020. After conducting the interviews, the Hiring Committee will select the Diversity Scholarship winner. Once the winner has been notified of his or her selection as a recipient of the Diversity Scholarship, he or she must accept or decline the Diversity Scholarship within two weeks of notification.

WHEN WILL THE DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BE SELECTED?
The Diversity Scholarship winner will be selected by February 7, 2020.

FAQS
For frequently asked questions, please see the attached Schedule A.
SCHEDULE A
HSE DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FAQS

REFERENCE LETTERS
Q. Can reference letters be emailed directly by the professor or employer, or should they be sent via regular mail?
A. Reference letters can be sent via regular mail or emailed. However, if the reference letter will be sent via email, it must be sent directly from the employer or professor, not from the student.

Q. Is it required that one reference letter come from an employer and one from a professor?
A. Yes, in order to apply for the scholarship, we require one letter from an employer and one from a law school professor.

WRITING SAMPLE
Q. How long should my writing sample be?
A. Although there is no required minimum or maximum number of pages for the writing sample, we recommend a sample that is 5-7 pages in length.

TRANSCRIPT
Q. What if my official law school transcript is not available before the submission deadline?
A. If your official transcript is not available before the submission deadline, please submit an unofficial copy of your fall semester grades and forward the official transcript when it becomes available.

Q. What constitutes an “official” copy of a transcript?
A. An official copy of a transcript is the actual transcript that the school sends to you or to our office. We require the original transcript, so if you scan the transcript and send it by email, you must also send the original transcript to us by regular mail.

WHO CAN APPLY
Q. I’d like to apply for the diversity scholarship, but I’m not sure whether I am considered a “diverse” candidate.
A. We ask that each scholarship applicant identify in the application how he/she will add to the diversity of our Firm. We do not place any restrictions on what constitutes diversity; it is open to the applicant’s interpretation. However, students who are members of populations who are historically underrepresented in the legal profession are encouraged to apply.

Q. Is a student able to receive the scholarship money even if he or she is unable to participate in the Summer Program at HSE?
A. No. In order for a student to receive the scholarship award, the student must participate in the HSE Summer Program.

JOINT J.D./MASTER DEGREE STUDENTS
Q. I am a joint JD/MBA student and would like to apply for the diversity scholarship. Am I eligible?
A. Yes, you are eligible for the diversity scholarship, but only if (i) you are currently in your first year of law school or (ii) you have completed only the first year of the law school component of your joint degree.