



THE COUNTY PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
A 501(c) 3 CORPORATION

August 08, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

The County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey, Inc. Announces Scholarships

The County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey annually awards scholarships to college, graduate and law students. Each scholarship is a one-year grant in the amount of \$3,500.00 paid directly to the recipient. Scholarship recipients from previous years are ineligible. The County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey Inc. announces the availability of the following scholarships:

The Oscar W. Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship
The Andrew K. Ruotolo Jr. Memorial Scholarship
The Harris Y. Cotton Memorial Scholarship
The John H. Stamler Memorial Scholarship and
Avon Thomas Morgan III Memorial Scholarship

To be eligible for the Oscar W. Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission into a law school. The applicant must have an interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need. Past recipients of this scholarship are ineligible.

To be eligible for the Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission to a law school or a graduate school. The applicant must exhibit an interest in, and commitment to, enhancing the rights and well-being of children through child advocacy programs. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need. Past recipients of this scholarship are ineligible.

To be eligible for the Harris Y. Cotton Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission to a law school. The applicant must have an interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crime prosecutions. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need. Past recipients of this scholarship are ineligible.

To be eligible for the John H. Stamler Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident and sworn law enforcement officer seeking educational advancement on a college or graduate level to improve his or her effectiveness as a law enforcement officer. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need. Past recipients of this scholarship are ineligible.

To be eligible for the Avon Thomas Morgan III Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission to a law school. The applicant must be a diverse candidate that is part of an underrepresented group consistent with New Jersey Attorney General Guideline Promoting Diversity in Law Enforcement (December 7, 2021) and have an interest in and commitment to serving as a career prosecutor. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need.

Deadline for submission of applications is September 30, 2024. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision in November 2024. Applications are available online at <https://ocponj.gov/cpanischolarshipapp/>.

THE HARRIS Y. COTTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**AWARDED BY
THE COUNTY PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
A 501(c)(3) CORPORATION**



**PROSECUTOR BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
119 HOOPER AVENUE
P. O. BOX 2191
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191**

THE HARRIS Y. COTTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**THE COUNTY PROSECUTORS
ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, INC.
A 501(c)(3) CORPORATION**

GENERAL INFORMATION

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To be eligible, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission to a law school. The applicant must have an interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crimes prosecutions. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need.

Applications must be postmarked or emailed by September 30, 2024. Personal interviews of finalists will be conducted. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision in November 2024. Please use the following link to download a copy of the application: <https://ocponj.gov/cpanjscholarshipapp/>.

Applications should be sent to:

**THE HARRIS Y. COTTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
c/o Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
119 Hooper Avenue
P. O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191**

OR

**Emailed to:
mgibbons@co.ocean.nj.us**

Harris Y. Cotton (1929-1997)

Harris Cotton was a caring, compassionate and giving person with a tremendous spirit and a great sense of humor. He was considered to be the Dean of Prosecutors in the State of New Jersey.

Harris Cotton was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Villanova University and received a degree in Biology. He had once considered being a doctor but told a reporter in 1980 that he “couldn’t get into medical school and tending bar just didn’t seem like a good kind of future.”

He joined the Army during the Korean War. He became a lab technician performing autopsies in Japan and Korea. Upon returning from his military stint, he lived in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and commuted to Woodbury, New Jersey, for a bartending job. He subsequently enrolled in Rutgers University Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1958.

Harris Cotton had a strong legacy of respect for personal rights. His father, Charles Camp Cotton, a staunch Civil Rights supporter and counsel to the NAACP, had served as the Gloucester County Prosecutor from 1940 to 1945. Following in his father’s footsteps, Harris Cotton served two five-year terms as the Gloucester County Prosecutor. The first term was from 1975 to 1980 when it was still a part-time position. His second term commenced in 1991 and ended in 1997. He died at the age of 68, 40 minutes before his second term officially ended.

Harris Cotton was a strong advocate for protecting individual rights. Under his watch, specialized Units in the Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office, such as the Domestic Violence Unit and the Hate Crimes Unit, received the type of support needed to aggressively combat criminal acts that serve to undermine basic personal rights. As a tribute to Harris Cotton, a vanguard of individual rights, this scholarship was established by his friends and colleagues in his memory.

Social Security Number _____/_____/_____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Marital Status () Single () Married

Dependents: _____

Name Age

Name Age

Present occupation: _____

Have you served in the Armed Services? Yes () No ()

Branch Dates of Service

Discharge Date Rank at Discharge

Have you served in any law enforcement capacity? Yes () No ()

Agency Dates of Service

Position

II. Applicant's Educational Background (Circle School for which Scholarship Application is submitted and attach proof of acceptance or attendance)

A. Secondary: _____
Name and Address of High School

B. Undergraduate: _____
Name and Address of College/University

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

C. Graduate: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

D. Law School: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

III. Financial Information (Provide Figures Pertaining to the Academic Year for which Scholarship Application is Submitted)

A. Estimated Cost of Education, including Tuition, Room & Board and books.

B. Applicant's Current Yearly Salary: _____

C. Spouse's Current Yearly Salary: _____

D. All Other Sources of Income or Support, including parental: _____

E. All Other Grants, Financial Aid and Scholarships: _____

F. State any Other Information Relevant to Applicant's Financial Need: _____

IV. Special Honors or Prizes

Specify any special recognitions, honors or prizes which you have achieved including academic work, the arts, athletics, and community service.

V. Resume & Personal Statement

Attach to and submit with your Application a copy of your Resume and a typed Statement of your educational and career objectives. Your statement should describe your interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crimes Prosecutions.

Date Completed ____/____/2023

Applicant's Signature

THE JOHN H. STAMLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**AWARDED BY
THE COUNTY PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, INC.
A 501(c)(3) CORPORATION**



**PROSECUTOR BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
119 HOOPER AVENUE
P. O. BOX 2191
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191**

THE JOHN H. STAMLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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To be eligible, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident and a sworn law enforcement officer seeking educational advancement on a college or graduate level to improve his or her effectiveness as a law enforcement officer. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need.

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Applications should be sent to:

THE JOHN H. STAMLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
c/o Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
119 Hooper Avenue
P. O. BOX 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191

OR

Emailed to:

mgibbons@co.ocean.nj.us

JOHN H. STAMLER (1938-1990)

Those of us who were fortunate enough to know John H. Stamler during his time with us know of a man whose life was marked with integrity and compassion, a man with a delightful wit and an acute sense of fairness coupled with a strong desire to be of service.

John was the first Prosecutor in New Jersey ever to be appointed to three consecutive terms. He was first appointed by Governor Brendan Byrne on May 12, 1977, reappointed to a second term by Governor Thomas Kean on November 3, 1982 and then reappointed again to the unprecedented third term by Governor Kean on May 16, 1988.

He was twice chosen to be president of the County Prosecutors Association, serving from 1983 to 1984 and again from 1989 to 1990.

John graduated from Lafayette College and Vanderbilt University Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1965. He was sworn in as a Union County Assistant Union County on December 14, 1967 and was supervisor of the first countywide narcotics strike force, combining county investigators and municipal police officers in a joint assault against drug dealers.

He was known throughout New Jersey as a man who loved law enforcement with an unbridled passion, a man so driven by a desire to be of use to his fellow man that he would not allow the physical pain and problems associated with his heart transplant and terminal illness to stand in the way of performing his duties.

His list of awards, accomplishments and honors fills several pages, but suffice it to say he was indeed recognized for his innovations in such areas as domestic violence, child abuse, victim/witness assistance, crime prevention and most of all, the battle against the scourge of drugs.

Beyond all of that, he took the time to remember birthdays, children and the special events in the lives of friends, staff members and those closest to him.

The Union County Police Academy Building, as well as this special annual scholarship award, are forever named in honor and in memory of "Mister Prosecutor," John H. Stamler.

JOHN H. STAMLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. Personal History of Applicant

() Mr. () Miss () Ms. () Mrs.

Name _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Permanent Mailing Address _____
Number and Street

City County State Zip Code

Current mailing Address
(If different from above) _____
Number and Street

City County State Zip Code

Phone Number(s): () ()
Home Mobile

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number _____/_____/_____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Marital Status Single Married

Dependents: _____

Name	Age
------	-----

Name	Age
------	-----

Present occupation: _____

Have you served in the Armed Services? Yes No

Branch	Dates of Service
--------	------------------

Discharge Date	Rank at Discharge
----------------	-------------------

Have you served in any law enforcement capacity? Yes No

Agency	Dates of Service
--------	------------------

Position

II. Applicant's Educational Background (Circle School for which Scholarship Application is submitted and attach proof of acceptance or attendance)

A. Secondary: _____
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B. Undergraduate: _____
Name and Address of College/University

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

C. Graduate: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

D. Law School: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

III. Financial Information (Provide Figures Pertaining to the Academic Year for which Scholarship Application is Submitted)

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B. Applicant's Current Yearly Salary: _____

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D. All Other Sources of Income or Support, including parental: _____

E. All Other Grants, Financial Aid and Scholarships: _____

F. State any Other Information Relevant to Applicant's Financial Need: _____

IV. Special Honors or Prizes

Specify any special recognitions, honors or prizes which you have achieved including academic work, the arts, athletics, and community service.

V. Resume & Personal Statement

Attach to and submit with your Application a copy of your Resume and a typed Statement of your educational and career objectives. Your statement should describe your interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crimes Prosecutions.

Date Completed ____/____/2023

Applicant's Signature

THE OSCAR W. RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**AWARDED BY
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**PROSECUTOR BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
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TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191**

THE OSCAR W. RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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<https://ocponj.gov/cpanjscholarshipapp/>.

**Applications should be sent to:
OSCAR W. RITTENHOUSE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
c/o Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
119 Hooper Avenue
P. O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191**

OR

**Emailed to:
mgibbons@co.ocean.nj.us**

Oscar W. Rittenhouse (1930-1979)

Oscar W. Rittenhouse, known to his friends and colleagues as Bill, was a remarkable man; a prosecutor with a deep commitment to fair play and justice for all; a dedicated and sensitive community leader; and a warm and caring human being.

Bill Rittenhouse was born June 4, 1930 in Somerville, New Jersey. His family lineage was among the oldest in Hunterdon County, tracing back to pre-revolutionary days. He began his education in the local school system in Clinton, New Jersey and after graduation from Clinton High School received his B.S. at Cornell University and L.L.B. at Harvard Law School. His education was interrupted by service as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army in Korea from 1953 until 1955 when he was discharged with the rank of Captain.

He entered the private practice of law in Hunterdon County in 1959 and continued therein until 1975. During that period, he served as an attorney for numerous municipalities and municipal boards. In 1966, he was selected as Hunterdon County delegate to the New Jersey Constitutional Convention. Bill's other contributions to his community included membership on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Hunterdon Medical Center and the Board of Trustees of the Grandin Library and service as an Elder in the Clinton Presbyterian Church.

He was initially appointed as Prosecutor of Hunterdon County in 1968 by Governor Richard Hughes. At that time, the position was part time. He served in that capacity until 1973 when he once again returned to devote full time to his private practice.

In 1975, he was selected by Governor Brendan Bryne to become Hunterdon County's first full-time Prosecutor and served in that position with distinction. He was chosen by his peers as President of the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey to serve from 1978-1979. In 1979, he was requested by the National District Attorneys Association to head a presentation on juvenile delinquency prevention at its mid-winter meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. It was following that presentation en route home, that he met an untimely death in a tragic airplane accident.

His life, cut short at age 48, was an inspiration for those who knew him. To share some of that experience with others, his friends and colleagues have established this scholarship in his memory.

OSCAR W. RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. Personal History of Applicant

() Mr. () Miss () Ms. () Mrs.

Name _____
 Last Name First Name Middle Name

Permanent Mailing Address _____
 Number and Street

 City County State Zip Code

Current mailing Address
 (If different from above) _____
 Number and Street

 City County State Zip Code

Phone Number(s): () _____ () _____
 Home Mobile

Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____

Social Security Number _____/_____/_____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Marital Status () Single () Married

Dependents: _____

Name Age

Name Age

Present occupation: _____

Have you served in the Armed Services? Yes () No ()

Branch Dates of Service

Discharge Date Rank at Discharge

Have you served in any law enforcement capacity? Yes () No ()

Agency Dates of Service

Position

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A. Secondary: _____
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Name and Address of College/University

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Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

C. Graduate: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

D. Law School: _____
Name and Address of Institution

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F. State any Other Information Relevant to Applicant's Financial Need: _____

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V. Resume & Personal Statement

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Date Completed ____/____/2023

Applicant's Signature

THE ANDREW K. RUOTOLO, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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THE ANDREW K. RUOTOLO, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
119 Hooper Avenue
P. O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191**

OR

**Emailed to:
mgibbons@co.ocean.nj.us**

Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr. (1952-1995)

Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr., known to his friends and colleagues as Drew, was a "great person," a "fine prosecutor" and a "wonderful friend."

Drew Ruotolo was born on November 5, 1952. He attended Westfield High School where he earned All-American honors as a swimmer. He then attended Amherst College, where he graduated with honors in 1974. In 1978, he received his law degree from Fordham University Law School.

He joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1981, working in the criminal division and handling a number of high-profile cases. Thereafter, he worked in private practice in Mountainside, specializing in criminal and civil litigation. He was a certified Criminal Trial Attorney and a Master with the Richard J Hughes American Inn of Court Program

In 1991, at age 38, he took the oath of office as Prosecutor of Union County. In four short years, Prosecutor Ruotolo implemented a number of initiatives. He established an Anti-Bias Unit to effectively combat hate crimes and personally handled the first jury trial of a bias crime indictment ever prosecuted in New Jersey. He developed the first Human Relations Commission in Union County, established the first full-time Domestic Violence Unit in the County and directed a countywide protocol for rape victims.

Prosecutor Ruotolo is widely credited for his efforts to help create the Essex-Union Auto Theft Task Force. After only two years, the task force of 23 police officers and detectives from both counties joined state troopers in making hundreds of arrests for stolen vehicles with a net reduction of 20% in car thefts. Juvenile law issues were a major concern of his. He served for nearly 10 years helping troubled youth on the Juvenile Conference Committee. As Prosecutor, he expanded the size of the Juvenile Unit, worked on several initiatives to combat violence among youth and created the first ever Prosecutor-sponsored Youth Academy for first time offenders.

Of all his accomplishments, he will perhaps be best known for the creation of the Union County Child Advocacy Center, dedicated on July 11, 1995. The Center provides a "safe haven" inside a refurbished home in Elizabeth where scarred child abuse victims come to begin the healing process while providing evidence to prosecute their abusers.

Prosecutor Ruotolo died at age 42 at the end of a brave and courageous six-month battle with cancer. While his list of awards and recognitions could fill several pages, the underlying theme in all his accomplishments was a deep love for people and a commitment to improve the human condition of those who were victimized by circumstances beyond their control.

ANDREW K RUOTOLO, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. Personal History of Applicant

() Mr. () Miss () Ms. () Mrs.

Name _____
 Last Name First Name Middle Name

Permanent Mailing Address _____
 Number and Street

 City County State Zip Code

Current mailing Address
 (If different from above) _____
 Number and Street

 City County State Zip Code

Phone Number(s): () () _____
 Home Mobile

Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____

Social Security Number _____/_____/_____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Marital Status () Single () Married

Dependents: _____
Name Age

_____ Name Age

Present occupation: _____

Have you served in the Armed Services? Yes () No ()

Branch Dates of Service

Discharge Date Rank at Discharge

Have you served in any law enforcement capacity? Yes () No ()

Agency Dates of Service

Position

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Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

C. Graduate: _____
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Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

D. Law School: _____
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V. Resume & Personal Statement

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Date Completed ____/____/2023

Applicant's Signature

**THE AVON THOMAS MORGAN III
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**AWARDED BY
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THE AVON THOMAS MORGAN III MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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c/o Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
119 Hooper Avenue
P. O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191**

OR

**Emailed to:
mgibbons@co.ocean.nj.us**

Avon Thomas Morgan III (1984 - 2022)

Avon Thomas Morgan III was born on March 1, 1984 in New York City. In 1991, the Morgan family moved to Ridgewood NJ, where Avon would ascend through Travell Elementary School, Benjamin Franklin Middle School, and Ridgewood High School.

Avon excelled in athletics throughout high school, particularly in football. He eventually earned a scholarship to Trinity College, where he earned his undergraduate degree and accolades for his football achievements.

Avon began his professional career in public service in the Family Division of the Bergen County Superior Court. He was a diligent employee who attended law school in the evening program at New York Law School, while continuing to work full-time. Despite his busy schedule, all in the Courthouse remarked about Avon's enthusiasm, enduring positive spirit and bright smile.

Upon graduation from law school and after passing the bar, Avon practiced civil law before achieving his goal of serving as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in 2016. As an Assistant Prosecutor, Avon presented cases to the Grand Jury, developed an expertise in bail reform and detention hearings and tried several jury trials to verdict in the Special Victims Unit and Trial Section. In addition to his prosecutorial duties, Avon instructed at the Bergen County Police Academy, was a Crisis Intervention Training instructor and he was involved in many community outreach activities and office functions.

Avon was incredibly proud of being an Assistant Prosecutor and despite being offered higher paying jobs in private practice, he often commented that he loved his job and that he was a career prosecutor. Avon was the ultimate team player, always volunteering to help a colleague. Shortly after leaving work on July 29, 2022, Avon was injured in a motorcycle accident, and later passed away at the age of 38. His colleagues in Bergen County will never forget his smile, his exuberance and the positive impact he had on all our lives. In his honor, his friends, family and colleagues have established this scholarship.

Social Security Number _____/_____/_____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Marital Status () Single () Married

Dependents: _____

Name Age

Name Age

Present occupation: _____

Have you served in the Armed Services? Yes () No ()

Branch Dates of Service

Discharge Date Rank at Discharge

Have you served in any law enforcement capacity? Yes () No ()

Agency Dates of Service

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B. Undergraduate: _____
Name and Address of College/University

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

C. Graduate: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

D. Law School: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

III. Financial Information (Provide Figures Pertaining to the Academic Year for which Scholarship Application is Submitted)

A. Estimated Cost of Education, including Tuition, Room & Board and books.

B. Applicant's Current Yearly Salary: _____

C. Spouse's Current Yearly Salary: _____

D. All Other Sources of Income or Support, including parental : _____

E. All Other Grants, Financial Aid and Scholarships: _____

F. State any Other Information Relevant to Applicant's Financial Need: _____

IV. Special Honors or Prizes

Specify any special recognitions, honors or prizes which you have achieved including academic work, the arts, athletics, and community service.

V. Resume & Personal Statement

Attach to and submit with your Application a copy of your Resume and a typed Statement of your educational and career objectives. Your statement should describe your interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crimes Prosecutions.

Date Completed ____/____/2023

Applicant's Signature