SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICATION

All admitted students are invited to apply for inclusion in the inaugural class of Social Justice Scholars. The Social Justice Scholars Program is an elite public interest scholarship program for students with a demonstrated record of public service and a commitment to social justice.

The Social Justice Scholars program provides financial incentives and professional development opportunities throughout law school (assuming satisfactory progress). If selected, program participants will carry the designation of ‘Social Justice Scholar.’ Only a limited number of students on each campus will receive this honor, which carries the following benefits:

1. Scholarship funding in the amount of at least $2,500 in the first year of law school (and presumptively renewable in following years, assuming compliance with program responsibilities).
2. Presumptive funding for summer public interest work after the first and second years through the Maida Public Interest Scholars program, http://www.law.rutgers.edu/maida-summer-public-interest-fellowship-program.
3. Automatic enrollment in the Social Justice Workshop series, which explores a variety of cross-cutting themes and concerns in public interest practice and cultivates professional skills.¹
4. Small stipends for attendance at public interest conferences.
5. Preferential sign-up for Alumni Mentors in Residence Program events.
6. Preferential access to social justice advocates, mentors, networking opportunities and programming.

Benefits of participation in the Social Justice Scholars Program come with responsibilities:

1. Social Justice Scholars will assist with planning and executing lectures, symposia, and other public interest-oriented special events.
2. Social Justice Scholars will represent the Law School externally, as appropriate.
3. Social Justice Scholars will complete a minimum of 100 hours of pro bono service through approved law school or external pro bono projects (with annual milestones).

Social Justice Scholars are not required to commit to careers in public service but must demonstrate a commitment to using legal skills for public good in a substantial way through public service employment and/or pro bono work. For more information about the Social Justice Scholars Program, please contact Jill Friedman, Associate Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest, at jill.friedman@rutgers.edu or 856-225-6263.

To apply, please submit a completed application to admissions@law.rutgers.edu by April 11, 2016. Notification will be made by April 14, 2016.

¹ The Social Justice Workshop Series provides exposure to areas of practice (environmental; criminal justice; international human rights, etc.) and types of practice (direct representation; impact litigation; legislation, etc.). It provides opportunities for reflection (access to justice; problems of racism; sexism and other institutional discrimination within the legal system; barriers to the profession and the development of a diverse pipeline; alternative systems of justice, etc.) and for professional development (resume review; interview preparation; introduction to and preparation for the post-graduate fellowship application process, etc.)
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1. Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Rutgers Law School Campus Preference:

Undergraduate Institution, Degree, Graduation Date and Major:

2. Resume

Though you already submitted a resume as part of your law school application, please submit your current resume, reflecting especially the experiences you think are relevant to this application for the Social Justice Scholars Program.

3. Applicant Narrative

In 350 words or fewer, and in 12 point font or larger, describe why you should be designated as a Social Justice Scholar. You may choose to focus on:

- Your personal background and how it has sparked a particular passion.
- Paid or volunteer experiences that have exposed you to a particular problem or population.
- Coursework or academic experiences that excited you.
- Whatever you think demonstrates how and why you plan to devote your professional energies to public service and/or pro bono work.