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Executive Director

To: Directors of Law School Financial Aid Offices
From: Iraida Mendez, Executive Assistant
Date: February 9, 2016
Re: Available – Scholarship Funds for Students with Disabilities

Deadline is May 9, 2016

The Essex County Bar Association (ECBA) and its Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in conjunction with the Hon. Vincent J. Biunno Memorial Fund, is pleased to announce the continuation of the **Biunno Scholarship Program for the 2006-2017** school year. The scholarships are designed to offer financial assistance to persons with disabilities who are currently attending law school. For purposes of this scholarship, a disability is limited to a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual having such an impairment.

The applications for the Biunno Scholarship will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the ECBA's Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will make recommendations of potential recipients to members of the Biunno family. The Biunno family funds this scholarship and will make the final decision. The Biunno family may, in its discretion, elect to make several small awards, rather than one large award. Your assistance in publicizing this award would be most helpful. Attached is a 2006-2017 Biunno Scholarship Application for your reference.

Persons wishing to apply for the scholarship should know that apart from the requirement that they demonstrate a permanent disability consistent with the criterion outlined above a variety of other factors, including financial need, law school achievement and commitment to the practice of law will enter into the decision-making process. Candidates should also bear in mind, however, that the scholarship funds will not be disbursed directly to a recipient but must be directed to a third party provider of goods or services.

If you have any questions, or would like additional copies of the application, please feel free to contact me at ECBA Headquarters at (973) 622-6207, ext. 14 or via email at imendez@essexbar.com. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Essex County Bar Association
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Historic Courthouse Rm B-01
470 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102

IMPORTANT

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION

1. Most recent law school transcript. (If you are a first year student, please provide first semester grades.)
2. Standing in your law school class.
3. Completed Graduate and Professional School Financial and Service form. This may be obtained from your school financial aid office.
4. Law school aptitude test score and final college cumulative average.
5. Resume
6. Invoices or any other documentation you can provide that describes what you will use the scholarship funds for, if it is other than tuition.
7. Medical documentation establishing the nature and extent of your disability. This may be in the form of a letter, medical records, or other similar evidence.

NO AWARD WILL BE MADE WITHOUT THE SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION OR RECORDS, AS REQUESTED. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT APPLICATIONS AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION. IF THE APPLICANT DESIRES AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT, PLEASE REQUEST IT IN THE COVER LETTER TRANSMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.

**Essex County Bar Association
Announces
The Biunno Scholarship for Law Students with Disabilities**

Criteria:

1. Recipient must demonstrate a present and permanent physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual. Medical documentation establishing the nature and extent of the disability will be required.

Recipient must be a resident of New Jersey. There will be a preference given to Essex County residents.

Recipient must be attending law school or be accepted to and commencing studies in law school.

Recipient must have attained a 3.0 or equivalent GPA in law school, or if they are an incoming student, a 3.0 undergraduate GPA.

A preference will be given to a person seeking to pursue a career in the field of advocacy for persons with disabilities. Intent may be demonstrated by completing a course in disability law, work in a disability or disability-related clinic or prior job experience in an advocacy field or with a public interest organization.

A preference will be given to students who can demonstrate financial need.

Restrictions:

No scholarship awards will be given directly to students. The funds must be directed to a third party such as the law school for tuition or to a company providing equipment for the disabled student.

Requirements:

Completed applications must be submitted with all requested documentation no later than **May 9, 2016**.

Award decisions will be made by the Biunno family working in conjunction with the ECBA's Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

PLEASE **DO NOT STAPLE** ANY DOCUMENTS TO APPLICATION. All documents should be attached with a paper clip.

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www.essexbar.com

APPLICATION FOR THE BIUNNO SCHOLARSHIP

2016-2017

Application and documentation must be received by

May 9, 2016

(Feel free to attach additional sheets if necessary to respond completely and accurately)

Name of applicant: _____

Current mailing address: _____

Permanent home address: _____

Length of time at home address _____ If less than 3 yrs, please list your previous
address: _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

Date of birth ____/____/____ Place of birth: _____

Citizenship: _____ # of years _____

Spouse's occupation: _____ Number of years in occupation _____

Law school you are currently attending _____

Address of Law School _____

Student Identification Number _____

Anticipated graduation date: _____

Application for the Biunno Scholarship 2016-2017

Applicant's name: _____

Please describe the nature and extent of your ties to New Jersey and/or Essex County:

List all colleges and graduate schools attended, dates of attendance and degrees awarded:

List any financial aid for 2015-2016 that you have applied for or received and if pending, when you expect to be advised:

List all actual and anticipated employment from 2013 through 2017: Include employer's name and address, a brief description of duties and responsibilities, and salary:

List college, law school and community activities and please include any positions you have held:

List any honors or awards received and list any honor societies to which you have belonged since high school graduation:

Please describe the nature and extent of your disability including the date of onset:

Please describe the purpose(s) to which you would put the scholarship funds, if awarded to you, bearing in mind that the funds must be paid to a third party. (Examples: to XYZ Medical Device Co. for a particular device or piece of equipment to assist you; the XYZ Law School directly for tuition:

List any additional information you would like us to consider:

State why you believe that you should be awarded the Biunno Scholarship:

In consideration of the facts set forth in this application, I respectfully petition that a scholarship be awarded to me for the academic year 2016-2017. I solemnly affirm that the information given in this application is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____