

Reform It Now

THE LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR AUTISM

Continuing Legal Education Scholarship Application

Thank you for your interest in the Reform It Now, Inc. (RIN) Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the RIN CLE Scholarship Fund was designed around encouraging attorneys and those working in the civil and criminal justice system to apply and attend RIN courses by providing financial assistance to those who need it most. We want to ensure that these persons with financial difficulties have the same opportunity to learn about autism and mental disabilities in the law, regardless of financial status.

The RIN CLE Scholarship Fund awards various amounts of financial assistance to scholarship recipients attending a RIN CLE course. Recipients will need to re-apply for the scholarship in each successive year. The maximum of all total scholarship awards will be exhausted once a lifetime value of up to \$5000 has been awarded per individual.

Preferential consideration may be given to candidates meeting any or all of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated interest and prior experience in serving the needs of the autistic community, or focusing part of his or her education or career on mental disabilities and autism in the law
- Applicants who have autistic children or family members
- Prior history successfully representing individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder or mental disabilities

Other considerations in determination of scholarship recipients include: the applicant's financial need; personal, family and educational background; the personal statement; and participation in community service activities. Applicants must complete all portions of the application.

Financial information from the applicant will be required to evaluate the applicant's financial need. This information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and in accordance with our privacy practices. To obtain a copy of our privacy practices on how we may use the information provided in this application visit <http://www.reformitnow.org/education/privacy-policy>. The appointed RIN Scholarship Committee will select the recipients at regularly scheduled meetings that occur throughout the year. The decisions of the committee are final, provided the information in the candidate's application is truthful and complete. False or intentionally misleading information can result in revocation of scholarships, grievance filings with state or local bars, and barring from future consideration for financial aid.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. All completed applications must be received by regular or certified mail. Applications are processed on a rolling basis and there is no deadline. However applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible as awards may be limited by state.
2. Faxed applications will not be accepted.
3. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
4. Applications must be hand signed. We cannot accept electronic or typed signatures.
5. If you have difficulty with any portion of the form, you may contact us at submissions@reformitnow.org for assistance.

Continuing Legal Education Scholarship Application Requirements and Instructions

Requirements for Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive an RIN Continuing Legal Education Scholarship, an applicant must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. The applicant must be a practicing attorney, judge, judicial law clerk, law student, law professor, law librarian, pro bono, non-profit attorney or legal services attorney, retired and 65 years of age or older, or unemployed for more than 6 months in the past year. Law students who have completed less than years of law school are not eligible. Applicants who are part-time law students are not eligible.
2. At the time of application submission, law student applicants must have achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 grading scale) at his or her law school.
3. The applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America or Canada. Students, who are citizens and residents of any other foreign country, may only apply, if they are licensed to practice law in the United States or Canada.

If the applicant is selected to receive a RIN Continuing Legal Education Scholarship, he or she will be required to enroll in a RIN CLE course after receiving scholarship award notification. An applicant who does not enroll within six months following receipt of his or her will lose the scholarship and must re-apply.

To apply for a Continuing Legal Education Scholarship, please provide the following information:

1. **Application Form.** Each applicant must complete and submit the attached application form. Financial information is required for every scholarship applicant.

If special circumstances exist which prevent you from providing financial information, please explain those circumstances in a separate statement. All information will be kept confidential, provided the information is sent via regular or certified mail (recommended).

To complete the application, applicant must attach copies of federal income tax forms for self and spouse (if any and filing jointly). If you have completed the most recent year's federal income tax return, please attach a copy to the application and redact your Social Security number. Applicant must indicate in the appropriate section of the application if not required to complete federal income tax forms. Each applicant is responsible for notifying the Reform It Now Scholarship Committee in writing of any changes that may have an effect on their finan-

cial status.

2. **Personal Statement.** The personal statement is applicant's opportunity to include information that the application form does not convey, and will assist the Committee in reaching a thoughtful decision evaluation. Examples of such information include a description of applicants personal strengths, contributions through community service, a description of any special or unusual circumstances that may have affected academic performance, or applicants personal and family history of educational or socio-economic disadvantage. While this list is not all-inclusive, we offer it for applicants to consider the types of information that may be useful in application evaluation. Please limit personal statement to 1,000 words and use only one side of the paper. Font size must be at least 12 point. Please, no fancy fonts.

3. **Recommendations.** Each applicant must submit two recommendations, at least one of which should be from a professor, mentor or employer. Applicants who have been out of school for a number of years and have difficulty finding an academic recommender, may substitute letters from employers and/or others who have worked closely with the applicant. No more than four recommendations will be considered. Recommendation letters are particularly useful when the writer provides substantive, comparative information about the applicant's abilities, activities and personal qualities, including specific examples that illustrate these attributes. * Please **have** letters of recommendations sent via email to submissions@reformitnow.org. ***The recommenders should place your name in the subject line of the email and provide their full title and contact information at the end of the email, even if it is in the letter.***

4. **Transcript.** Each applicant law student or attorney admitted to the bar for 5 years or less must submit a copy of his or her **unofficial** transcript from their legal education institution. If you are a student or admitted to the bar within the past five years and are selected to receive a RIN Continuing Legal Education Scholarship, you will be required to submit an **official** copy of the transcript before receiving scholarship discounts.

5. ***Additional information.** Please do not send collateral materials such as photos, articles, press clippings, etc. outside of those required in this application. Submit **only the scholarship application and attachments**, please **do not** return the application instructions.

When you're ready to submit your application, place it into a 9x12-inch envelope and mail it via regular or certified mail (recommended) to:

Reform It Now Scholarship Committee
1838 State Route 35, F85
Wall, NJ 07719 USA

FOR YOUR SECURITY

**We do not recommend emailing
any sensitive documents.**

**Please use regular or certified
mail via the US Post Office.**

**Do not include this page, instructions or
the cover page with your application.**

Thank you.

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For Office Use Only: Acct: _____	
Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Denied: <input type="checkbox"/> Date: ___/___/20___
Letter sent: ___/___/20___	Reviewer: _____
Reason: _____	

Appeal: ___/___/20___	Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Denied: <input type="checkbox"/>
Sup. Rev.: _____	Date: ___/___/20___

Applicant's First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____
 ID No. (if known): _____ Affiliation: _____
 Address: _____ Suite/Unit: _____
 City/Town: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Post Code: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____ Mobile: (____) _____
 E-Mail: _____ Website: _____
 Skype: _____ Best Contact Method: Phone Fax Mobile E-Mail Skype
 Please check one: Licensed for less than 5 years* Retired, 65 years or older Judge Law Student Law Professor
 Law Librarian Law Clerk Non-Profit or Legal Services Attorney Government Attorney*
 Pro Bono Private Practice Unemployed Other _____)

Please specify

Law School:	_____	Graduation Year:	_____
States(s):	_____	Bar Admission Date:	_____

Please check one of the following:

- I plan to participate in:* On-Demand CLE Live Web Chat Telephone Seminar Live Course on-site
 MP3 Download DVD MP3 CD-ROM Autism Inn of Court

Statement of need: (please attach a sheet of your letterhead if employed or a copy of your student ID if a student):

Please attach to this application a 500 word essay explaining how your participation in our courses will benefit your practice and career in law.

Please attach a professional resume. If a recent graduate and still unemployed, please include a statement and a letter of reference from a professor or mentor.

Additional information that may be relevant (use an additional sheet if needed, up to 500 words):

- I would be interested in: Participation in the Autism American Inn of Court (fees may apply)
 Volunteering pro bono services to assist the autistic or mentally disabled

I understand that my answers above will not affect any decision to approve or deny my application for scholarship.

Please tell us how you learned about our scholarship program:

- Internet Search Bar Association Print Media Television Our Website Court Website Social Media

* Attorneys licensed for five years or less, or who are full-time employees of federal, state, or local governments, qualify for an automatic tuition reduction of 30% that is listed on all marketing materials. However, a limited number of full scholarships are available for these attorneys.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Marital Status: Single Married Civil Union Separated/Divorced

Do you have dependents, other than your spouse (if any)? Yes _____ How many No

Are you the first person in your family to attend college? Yes No

Current Employment Applicant Spouse

Weekly earnings: \$ _____ .00 \$ _____ .00

Expected income for current year: \$ _____ .00 \$ _____ .00

Please complete the following financial information for the student (and spouse, if applicable). Due to the open deadline for submitting this application, you may not have completed your past year's federal tax forms (which are due April 15). If not, please attach a copy of your most recently filed federal tax forms (no greater than three years) and explain in a separate statement if there are any material differences between your most recent federal income tax return and your anticipated federal income tax return for last year. Please check which one of the following applies to you:

- _____ I completed the _____ federal income tax return and a copy is attached.
The Adjusted Gross Income for _____ (including spouse, if any) is \$ _____ .00
- _____ I have not yet completed the latest federal income tax return. A copy of the _____ return is attached.
The Adjusted Gross Income for _____ (including spouse, if any) is \$ _____ .00
- _____ I am not required to file a federal income tax return

Please complete the following information:

Most recent year _____ earned income: \$ _____ .00

Most recent year untaxed income: \$ _____ .00

Most recent year interest/dividend income: \$ _____ .00

Applicant's Asset Information — Please complete the following asset information for the student (and spouse, if applicable). For information that requires an explanation, please refer to the section on the 3rd page of the application entitled "Special Circumstances or Explanation of Information."

- A. Cash, savings, money market, and checking accounts: \$ _____ .00
- B. Home: _____ Own _____ Rent Monthly housing cost (rent or mortgage) \$ _____ .00
Mortgage balance owed: \$ _____ .00
- C. Other real estate _____ (explain) \$ _____ .00
- D. Business _____ (explain) \$ _____ .00
- E. Stocks, bonds, investments, certificates of deposit, partnerships (explain) \$ _____ .00
- F. Trust funds of which the applicant is beneficiary (explain) \$ _____ .00
- G. Retirement accounts: \$ _____ .00
- H. Life insurance equity \$ _____ .00

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Full-time Employment—list your last three positions of full-time employment and military service. Begin with your most recent employment. Use an additional sheet if necessary, to explain any details or additional employment.

From	To	Position Held	Firm or Practice	Reason for Leaving

Special Circumstances or Explanation of Information Provided Please attach an additional sheet to explain any requested information on this form. Please use the section headings for reference on each additional sheet. You may also explain any other information that would affect your financial situation.

Eligibility: Practicing attorneys in private practice may qualify for a full scholarship. Awards may be based upon income and other criteria. Law students who have qualified for scholarships and can provide proof of income/assets may qualify for full or partial scholarships for Reform It Now courses. More information may be found at www.reformitnow.org/scholarship-program/

DO NOT REGISTER FOR ANY COURSES UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR DETERMINATION LETTER.

Course tuition is not reimbursable and will not be refunded, in any manner. Scholarships may not be applied retroactively.

Please note that the winner of this award may be published.

If you do not want your name listed, please initial here: _____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE (please note signatures are required. Applications received without signatures will be discarded). Electronic signatures are not acceptable.

By action of submitting this application, I acknowledge the following:

- I understand that withholding pertinent information requested on this application or giving false information will make me ineligible for approval of any scholarship or discount or subject to cancellation of admission if admission has already been granted or dismissal if already enrolled.
- I certify that all statements on this application are complete and correct.
- This application grants permission to officials at all institutions and agencies involved to release information needed by Reform It Now, Inc. to substantiate statements made herein (or in attached documents). The disclosure must be addressed to the Director of Scholarships, Reform It Now, 1838 State Route 35, F85, Wall, NJ 07719

Applicant Signature: I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I AM ACCEPTED AS A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AND ANY OF THE INFORMATION I PROVIDED IS FALSE, MY SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE REVOKED AND I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FULL COST OF MY COURSE(S). IF MY APPLICATION IS APPROVED, I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS OF REFORM IT NOW, INC.

Date: _____ Applicant Signature: _____

Typed signatures will not be accepted.

Please submit your application by regular or certified mail to:
 Director of Scholarships, Reform It Now, 1838 State Route 35, F85, Wall, NJ 07719