

To maintain the RI Law Center ■ To foster services to the legal profession and the community

RHODE ISLAND
BAR FOUNDATION

January 2025

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Program Director

Dear Scholarship Applicant:

Enclosed is an application for the scholarships to be awarded through the Rhode Island Bar Foundation Scholarship Program for academic year 2025-26.

The Thomas F. Black, Jr. Scholarships, Papitto Opportunity Connection Scholarships, Patrice A. Tarantino Memorial Scholarship, and Nicole J. Benjamin Scholarship are one-year, non-renewable awards **for full-time students who are Rhode Island residents who will be entering their first year of law school in September 2025**. You may apply for all scholarships.

For the academic year 2025-26, the Foundation intends to grant two Thomas F. Black, Jr. scholarships, one Patrice A. Tarantino scholarship, and one Nicole J. Benjamin scholarship in the amount of \$25,000 each. The Foundation's Scholarship Committee seeks applications from candidates without regard to race, color, religion, country of central origin, handicap, age, sex, or sexual orientation. The Committee will endeavor to make awards to assure that, over time, the recipients reflect the diversity of the Rhode Island population. In addition to the other criteria, *Nicole J. Benjamin candidates must emphasize their leadership skills and activities.*

Two additional scholarships from the Papitto Opportunity Connection Foundation (Papitto) in the amount of \$25,000 each will also be awarded to candidates who are committed to actively promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in society. In addition to the other criteria, *Papitto candidates must provide specific examples of strategies that have been undertaken, or will be undertaken, within both the legal profession and the broader community to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Papitto candidates will need to consider how they believe their unique background, experiences, and perspectives have contributed, or will contribute, to their endeavors to foster a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.*

The objective of the Bar Foundation's Scholarship Program is to support high legal practice standards in Rhode Island by providing financial assistance to Rhode Island residents who show promise that they are likely to become outstanding lawyers, hopefully in Rhode Island, who will adhere to such standards and who will need such assistance in order to study law at quality law schools.

Scholarship awards shall be exclusively for tuition and related expenses for persons who enroll as full-time students in programs leading to the award of the L.L.B. or J.D. degree offered by law schools located in one of the United States or in the District of Columbia and which are accredited by the American Bar Association. Each scholarship award will be made on the basis of:

1. Demonstrated financial need, based upon your personal and family financial circumstances, as well as the extent in which you have helped to finance your undergraduate career by past and present part-time and/or full-time work efforts;
2. Superior academic performance;
3. Community and public service, and
4. Details as to the reasonable likelihood that you will in the future provide and contribute highly professional legal services to the citizens of Rhode Island.

Please complete and return the application and personal statement, along with the information required below, to tgallo@ribar.com or to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, 41 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI 02920, so as to arrive by **March 31, 2025**. The personal statement should convey something about your personal education and background, your personal and family situation, why you believe you would be a worthy recipient of the scholarship, or any other information you feel would be helpful to the Scholarship Committee in considering your application.

It is important that you address in detail in your application and in your personal statement, each of the guidelines listed above. In particular, please keep in mind that applicants have the burden of demonstrating their financial need to our Scholarship Committee. **A detailed explanation of the extent to which you can or cannot obtain family financial assistance in your first year in law school should be submitted as part of your personal statement.**

You should arrange to have the registrar of your college or university forward a copy of your academic transcript to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation.

Two letters of recommendation are required from persons who know you. One of the letters should be from a school official familiar with your academic record. Identify the persons writing these letters on the application and request that they forward their letters directly to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation.

You must also forward to us a copy of the Submission Summary report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2025-26, as well as a copy of your most recent Federal Tax Return. Please white out all Social Security numbers.

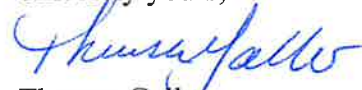
Finally, attached is a form entitled "Scholarship Financial Package." Once you have been admitted to the law school you plan to attend, you must immediately complete, sign, date, and return the enclosed form to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation. If, however, you have been admitted to one or more law schools and have not yet chosen which one you will attend, you must complete, sign, date, and return a separate Financial Package form for each law school which has accepted you

and which you might possibly attend. You must also thereafter advise the Rhode Island Bar Foundation of any subsequent choice by you to attend a law school which has admitted you. All such up-to-date and completed Financial Package forms must be returned to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation as soon as possible.

The Committee reserves the right to decline to consider an incomplete application. If you have any questions, please call the Rhode Island Bar Foundation office at (401) 421-6541 or email tgallo@ribar.com.

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation welcomes your scholarship application and extends best wishes as you plan to enter law school.

Sincerely yours,



Theresa Gallo
Program Director

2025-26 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE RHODE ISLAND BAR FOUNDATION: THE THOMAS F. BLACK, JR. SCHOLARSHIPS; PATRICE A. TARANTINO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP; NICOLE J. BENJAMIN SCHOLARSHIP; AND THE PAPITTO OPPORTUNITY CONNECTION SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Full Name _____
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

(Please be sure that this name is the same on all application materials)

Date of Birth _____
 Place of Birth _____
 Citizenship _____

Date your RHODE ISLAND Residency began _____

2. Present Mailing Address

Street _____
 City _____
 State & Zip Code _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

3. Permanent Mailing Address
 (Address where you can be contacted at any time)
 After what date should we use this address? _____

Street _____
 City _____
 State & Zip Code _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

4. List name and location of high schools attended and year of graduation.

5. List all colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools attended on a full-time basis.

School	Dates of Attendance	Degree	Date	Major	Class Rank/Quintile

6. List scholastic or academic honors including scholarships, fellowships, prizes, honor societies, etc.

7. List and briefly describe three non-academic activities which have been important to you.

8. List Law Schools to which you have applied as a full-time student:

9. Have you completed a FAFSA or other Financial Aid Form: _____

(A copy of the completed FAFSA/Summary Submission Report is required)

10. Annual Income _____

(please attach a copy of your most recent tax returns)

11. List names and addresses of your parents:

Father		Mother	
Name	_____	Name	_____
Street	_____	Street	_____
City	_____	City	_____
State/Zip Code	_____	State/Zip Code	_____
Telephone	_____	Telephone	_____
Email	_____	Email	_____

12. Were you employed during the academic year as an undergraduate? _____ Positions held _____

No. of hours per week: Fr. Yr. _____ Soph. Yr. _____ Jr. Yr. _____ Sr. Yr. _____

13. State your last four positions of employment.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason for Leaving</u>

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | YES | NO |
| 14. Has your academic career been interrupted for one or more terms? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. In an academic setting, have you been subject to disciplinary sanctions, or are charges pending? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Have you been convicted* of a felony? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Have you been convicted* of a misdemeanor (except drunkennes, simple assault, speeding, minor traffic violations, or disturbing the peace) within the last five years? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Are any charges pending which, if you were to be convicted, would require your answer to either of the two previous questions to be "yes"? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If any answers are "yes", please give details on reverse side of this sheet.

*without the conviction later being vacated

19. List all dates you have taken or will take the LSAT: _____

20. Date(s) registered with CAS: _____

21. Have you ever applied for admission to a Law School in a prior year or ever attended Law School? If so, please explain:

22. List names of the two people submitting recommendations:

Name	_____	Name	_____
Street	_____	Street	_____
City	_____	City	_____
State/Zip Code	_____	State/Zip Code	_____
Telephone	_____	Telephone	_____
Email	_____	Email	_____

23. If you would like to be considered for the Papitto Opportunity Connection Scholarship, please check here and also answer the question on the following page.

24. If you would like to be considered for the Nicole J. Benjamin Scholarship, please check here and also answer the question on the following page.

25. How did you hear about these scholarship opportunities? _____

**NOTE: This application must be received by March 31, 2025.
The Financial Package Form(s) must be completed as soon as possible
once you make a decision and/or when you hear from schools regarding financial aid.**

Send materials to: Rhode Island Bar Foundation, 41 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, RI 02920

Telephone: (401) 421-6541 **Email:** tgallo@ribar.com

If you need additional space, please attach.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided on this application form and in any attached materials is true and complete.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Reminder -- the following items are needed to complete your application:

- ❖ **Personal Statement**
 - If applying for Papitto, submit additional statement (see #23)
 - If applying for Benjamin, submit additional statement (see #24)
 - If applying for Tarantino, no additional statement needed
- ❖ **SAR report from FAFSA**
- ❖ **Two letters of recommendation**
- ❖ **Official Transcripts**
- ❖ **Copy of your most recent tax returns**

❖ **Financial Package Form(s) are due upon receipt of financial aid from schools**

THE PAPIITTO OPPORTUNITY CONNECTION LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**2025**

Founded in December 2020, the Papitto Opportunity Connection was formed by Barbara Papitto as a continuation of the long-time commitment she and her late-husband Ralph have made to creating educational opportunities and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in Rhode Island.

By checking Box #23 on the Scholarship form and answering the prompt below, you are indicating that you would also like to be considered for this Scholarship.

Please explain your commitment to actively promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in society. Please provide specific examples of strategies you have undertaken, or intend to undertake, within both the legal profession and the broader community. Consider how you believe your unique background, experiences, and perspectives have contributed, or will contribute, in your endeavors to foster a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.
(Please use a separate sheet; maximum word count: 1,000)

THE NICOLE J. BENJAMIN SCHOLARSHIP**2025**

Founded in 2023, the Nicole J. Benjamin Scholarship was established by Past Bar Foundation President John A. Tarantino in recognition of the many leadership skills and contributions of Bar President Nicole J. Benjamin. Nicole has served as the Board Chair of Leadership Rhode Island and as Vice Chair of the Roger Williams University School of Law Board of Directors. She is a past recipient of a Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, and she founded the Leadership Academy of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

By checking Box #24 on the Scholarship form and answering the prompt below, you are indicating that you would also like to be considered for this scholarship.

Please tell us what you believe is necessary for a person to be an effective leader. Please also explain your leadership skills and activities and why you feel you possess the qualities of a good leader.
(Please use a separate sheet; maximum word count: 1,000)