



2017 Scholarship Application Announcement and Instructions

Submission Deadline: July 31, 2017

The Puerto Rican Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Inc. (“Scholarship Fund”) is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship. The Scholarship Fund was established to promote diversity within the legal profession by providing scholarships to students of Puerto Rican and Latino descent attending ABA-accredited law schools in New York State. Applicants must be enrolled during the 2017-2018 academic year. This year we will be awarding scholarships of up to \$6,500.00 each, to be used for legal education and related expenses, to applicants who demonstrate the following:

- ✓ Academic Excellence
- ✓ Community Involvement
- ✓ Dedication to the Advancement of Minorities through the Legal Process
- ✓ Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion within the Legal Profession

Applicants must be:

- Of Puerto Rican and/or Latino descent; and
- Enrolled at an ABA-accredited law school in New York State for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit all of the following:

- Cover letter discussing how their academic, personal, and professional accomplishments qualify them for a Scholarship Fund award
- Completed 2017 Scholarship Application, attaching additional sheets as necessary to provide complete answers
- Resume
- Most recent transcript (*note: students entering their 1L year may submit transcripts from their undergraduate institution or most recent post-graduate institution*)
- Class registration or other proof of enrollment for the 2017-2018 academic year



**PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.**

- Essay of 2,500 words or less discussing the importance of having Puerto Rican and Latino attorneys in the legal profession
- Four letters of recommendation, one from each of the following:
 - Dean, Associate Dean, or Professor at his or her law school (*note: students entering their 1L year may submit a recommendation from a Dean, Association Dean, or Professor from their undergraduate or post-graduate institution*);
 - Law student who is a member of LLSA or the Puerto Rican Bar Association;
 - An individual who is personally acquainted with the applicant, but not related by blood, marriage, or adoption; and
 - A former employer of the applicant.

Submission Deadline

Completed applications must be **received by July 31, 2017**. Scholarship recipients will be notified in advance and officially announced at the Scholarship Fund's annual Scholarship Gala, to be held on Friday, October 20, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Abigail Kirsch, Pier 60, Chelsea Piers, New York, NY. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

All applications, essays, and required materials must be submitted in PDF format to Stephanie Correa, Esq. at corresponding-secretary@prbany.com **and** 5 hard copies with 5 USB drives or CDs:

Carmen A. Pacheco, Esq., President
George Santana, Esq., Chair
Puerto Rican Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Inc.

c/o Pacheco & Lugo, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
340 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11201



PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The Puerto Rican Bar Association was founded in 1957 by a group of Puerto Rican and Latino attorneys who began gathering socially to offer one another both personal and professional support in an era when it was difficult for Puerto Rican and Latino attorneys to be accepted as members in established bar associations. At that time, the Puerto Rican Bar Association focused its efforts on addressing the concerns of a rapidly growing Puerto Rican community and the legal services it required. Today, the Puerto Rican Bar Association is one of the oldest and largest ethnic bar associations in New York State representing the interests of attorneys, judges, law professors and students who share a common interest in fostering professional development in the legal community generally and addressing issues that are important to the Puerto Rican and other Latino communities.

The idea of a bar association that would meet the needs of Latino attorneys existed many years prior to 1957. As early as 1934, a few attorneys servicing the Puerto Rican community began to organize and subsequently formed the Pan-American Lawyers' Association. Subsequently, in the mid 1940's, the Spanish-American Bar Association was organized which, in 1957, became the present day Puerto Rican Bar Association. The original incorporators of the Puerto Rican Bar Association were Rafael Descartes, Francisco Rodriguez Jr., Bart Ortiz, Sixto Laureano, and Oscar Gonzalez Suarez. Among the members of the committee who drafted the original Bylaws were Felipe N. Torres, Chairman, who was the first Puerto Rican New York City Family Court Judge and who previously had served as the first Puerto Rican Assemblyman from The Bronx; Oscar Garcia Rivera, Sr., the first Puerto Rican New York State Assemblyman representing East Harlem, and the first President of the Puerto Rican Bar Association; Emilio Nuñez, who was the first Latino judge and who later served as a Justice of the New York State, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department; and attorneys Jose Quiñones, Roberto Lebron, Sr., Luis Garcia, and Manuel Nelson Zapata.



PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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2017 Application

Deadline for submission of completed applications: **July 31, 2017**

PART A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Date of Birth: _____
Month/day/year

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address Apt/Unit #

City State Zip Code

Permanent Address: _____
Street Address Apt/Unit #

City State Zip Code

Email Address: _____ Phone No.: _____

Ethnicity: _____
Check as many as applies: Puerto Rican Hispanic Multi-Racial African American
 Asian American Native American Caucasian Other: _____.

Prior Convictions:
Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor? Yes No
Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? Yes No
Have you been convicted of a DUI? Yes No
If "yes" to any of the above, please provide an explanation.



PART B. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

High School: _____

City State Zip Code

Undergraduate Institution: _____

City State Zip Code

Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards or Special Recognition: _____

Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Service: _____

Undergraduate Institution: _____

City State Zip Code

Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards or Other Special Recognition: _____

Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Service: _____

Graduate Institution: _____

City State Zip Code

Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards or Special Recognition: _____

Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Service: _____

Graduate Institution: _____

City State Zip Code

Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Degree Earned: _____

Honors, Awards or Other Special Recognition: _____

Extracurricular Activities: _____

Community Service: _____

Law School: _____



City State Zip Code
Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____
Degree Earned: _____
Honors, Awards or Special Recognition: _____
Extracurricular Activities: _____
Community Service: _____

Law School: _____

City State Zip Code
Dates of Attendance: _____ Date of Graduation: _____
Degree Earned: _____
Honors, Awards or Other Special Recognition: _____
Extracurricular Activities: _____
Community Service: _____



PART C: COMMUNITY SERVICE

In no more than 1,000 words, please describe how your volunteer and/or community service has impacted you and your community. In your response, please include dates of service, the name(s) of the organization(s), and the position(s) held with each organization.



PART D: FAMILY BACKGROUND

1. Are you Puerto Rican or of Puerto Rican descent? Yes No

If “yes” then please state from which “*pueblo*” your family originated and tell us, in 1,000 words or less, what you know about your *pueblo*. If “no” then go to question 2. below.

2. Are you or your family from Latin America? Yes No

If “yes” then please state from where you or your family immigrated in Latin America. Please tell us, in 1,000 words or less, what you know about your family’s country and/or province.



PART E: APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I am or will be enrolled as a law student in good standing at an ABA-accredited law school in the State of New York for the 2017-2018 academic year; that the answers contained herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge; and that **I will use all money awarded to me by the Scholarship Fund for my legal education and related expenses.** I understand that the Scholarship Fund will be relying on my representations herein in determining whether to award a scholarship to me.

Signature: _____

Date: _____