



AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

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SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) is pleased to announce it will award scholarships during the 2023-24 academic year to selected Minnesota high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education.

PURPOSE: The principle aim of this scholarship program is to provide financial support to Minnesota high school students currently in grade 12 who have an interest in pursuing post-secondary education with some focus on social studies, civics, debate, political science, public speaking, teaching, or law.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Any Minnesota high school senior who has a strong interest in social studies, civics, debate, political science, public speaking, teaching, and/or the law and plans to pursue a post-secondary education.

AMOUNTS TO BE AWARDED: Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per student may be awarded to up to ten (10) students.

HOW TO APPLY: The following items must be submitted:

- 1) A completed application form (see attached), including a statement from the applicant of his/her future goals, hopes, and plans.

2) Completion of an essay, not to exceed 1,000 words, by the applicant about one of the following questions:

- What, in your opinion, is the most important part of the U.S. Constitution, as amended? In your answer explain why that part is personally important to you.
- If you could change one thing about our legal system, what would it be? In your answer explain why that change would be meaningful to you.
- It has been said that “every generation has a calling.” Explain your generation’s calling and explain why it is meaningful to you.
- Should Americans’ current popular political views have significance to U.S. Supreme Court justices when deciding constitutional issues in cases before the Court? In your answer explain why this issue is significant to you.
- Describe one personal experience you have had with the legal system. In your answer explain why that experience was meaningful to you.
- What makes it difficult for political leaders in the United States to compromise and reach consensus? In your answer explain if you believe this situation can be improved and, if so, how this issue is meaningful to you.

3) A letter of support from an academic supervisor, teacher, or debate/mock trial coach, no longer than two (2) printed pages in length, that includes a description of the student’s academic qualifications and accomplishments, and a statement explaining why the author believes the student is deserving of a scholarship.

The Committee may request additional information to complete its evaluation.

WHERE TO SEND MATERIALS: Materials may be submitted either electronically or by regular mail. If electronic, send to nicole@mn-abota.org. If by regular mail, send to:

*Geraghty, O'Loughlin & Kenney, P.A.
c/o David C. Hutchinson
Wells Fargo Place – Suite 2750
30 East Seventh Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101*

DEADLINE TO APPLY: **March 1, 2024.** The application package must be postmarked or e-mailed on or before this date.

WHO SELECTS RECIPIENTS? ABOTA's Scholarship Committee will decide who will receive scholarships and how much each student will receive. The Scholarship Committee is comprised of lawyers who are officers and members of the Minnesota Chapter of ABOTA. (Information about ABOTA is at the end of this document.)

WHAT CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO SELECT RECIPIENTS? Selection of scholarship recipients will be based on these criteria:

- Evaluation of information in the application forms; and
- Evaluation of information in the letters of recommendation, and
- Evaluation of the essays.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- If there is a question prior to the submission of an application package, the question should be submitted by the student applicant and/or faculty sponsor via e-mail to nicole@mn-abota.org.
- There is no limit to how many students from any particular high school may apply for a scholarship, but the Scholarship Committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards to no more than two (2) students from each school.
- Scholarship awards may be used for tuition, fees, and/or other costs directly related to post-secondary, undergraduate study.

WHAT IS ABOTA?

Founded in 1958, ABOTA is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges. ABOTA and its members are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

ABOTA membership consists of more than 7,300 lawyers—equally balanced between plaintiff and defense—and judges spread among 96 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are 142 lawyers in the Minnesota Chapter of ABOTA.

ABOTA is an invitation-only organization. Members must have at least five years of active experience as trial lawyers, have tried at least 10 civil jury trials to conclusion and possess additional litigation experience. Members must also exhibit the virtues of civility, integrity and professionalism by following our Code of Professionalism and Principles of Civility.

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