

# D O N H . L I U

## S C H O L A R S P R O G R A M

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## BACKGROUND

Founded in 2014 by two past presidents of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”), the Don H. Liu Scholars Program, Inc. (“Program”) seeks to identify, cultivate and inspire future Asian American leaders within the legal profession in order to address the single most important reality facing Asian American professionals today – the barrier to advancement.

Asian Americans remain grossly underrepresented in positions of influence, leadership and power within the legal profession. The number of Asian American partners in law firms and general counsel in our largest corporations do not reflect the diversity found in today’s law school classes or the ranks of junior associates at law firms. It is the mission of the Program to increase these numbers.

In its inaugural year, the Program awarded \$15,000 each to its first two Don H. Liu Scholars (“Scholars”) and provided mentorship to ensure that each Scholar would start her career at a prominent law firm. In its second year, the Selection Committee will choose three new Scholars who possess the greatest potential to both excel in the classroom and succeed at a top law firm or Fortune 500 corporation.

To support these emerging Asian American leaders, the Program will continue to award each Scholar a \$15,000 scholarship (“Scholarship”). To qualify, each new Scholar must be a first year law student attending a New York City metropolitan area law school, have completed one full semester, and intend to practice in the New York City metropolitan area private sector following graduation. In addition to the Scholarship, the Program will provide the Scholars mentorship and assistance with internship placement and career development.

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## ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the Program and its Scholarship, each applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S. and of Asian descent;
- be enrolled full-time in a New York City metropolitan area law school;
- be the first in his or her immediate family to pursue a graduate or professional degree;
- have demonstrated exceptional academic and/or leadership accomplishments or show such promise through work and/or other activities;
- have demonstrated financial need; and
- intend to practice in the private sector in the New York City metropolitan area following graduation.

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## DEADLINE

The deadline to submit the Scholarship Application is **November 16, 2015**.

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## INFORMATION ABOUT PROCESS + DATES

- All applications are due November 16, 2015.
- All applications are considered the property of the Don H. Liu Scholars Program, Inc. and any materials submitted in support thereof will not be returned.
- All applicants who advance as finalists will be notified with additional details, including dates for a possible interview.
- The 2016 Don H. Liu Scholars will be notified no later than February 25, 2016.
- No other notice will be provided to applicants unless deemed required by the Executive Committee.

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## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Submit your completed application package to:

Don H. Liu Scholars Program, Inc.  
ATTENTION: Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 1377  
New York, NY 10150

with an electronic copy to DonHLiuScholars@gmail.com. All submissions must be received or postmarked on or before November 16, 2015 and only complete applications will be considered.

### 2. Required application materials:

- a. A completed application form;
- b. Two essays addressing the topics below;
- c. An official copy of applicant's undergraduate transcript;
- d. A statement from applicant's law school certifying enrollment as a full-time 1L;
- e. Résumé;
- f. Two letters of recommendation;
- g. A copy of applicant's official financial aid package from his or her law school, two years of applicant's family's most recent tax returns (even if applicant has declared to be financially independent), and a statement (no more than a paragraph) describing your financial need (with any supporting documents); and
- h. The Personal Certification form, signed and notarized.

### 3. Essay Topics

- a. The Don H. Liu Scholars Program seeks to identify and empower future Asian Pacific American (APA) leaders in the legal profession through a unique blend of financial support, legal internship and professional mentorship. The Scholars Program specifically targets disadvantaged APAs, particularly those who are among the first to attend professional or graduate school in their families. Using specific examples from your personal life, academic and extracurricular accomplishments, tell us why you are the best candidate to advance the mission of the Scholars Program.  
(Approximately 500 words.)
- b. Describe any personal challenges you've had to overcome before law school and why you would benefit from this program, or tell us anything else we should consider in reviewing your application.  
(250 – 500 words.)

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**APPLICATION FORM**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PERMANENT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHICH ADDRESS SHOULD BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE?**       **SCHOOL**       **PERMANENT**

**HOME PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOBILE PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**LAW SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPECTED YEAR OF GRADUATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU THE FIRST PERSON IN YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES?**

**PLEASE CHECK:**       **YES**       **NO**

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## PERSONAL CERTIFICATION FORM

I, the undersigned applicant, understand that if I am awarded the Don H. Liu Scholarship, I must be enrolled and in good standing as a full-time 1L in a New York City metropolitan area law school. I certify that I am a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident. I understand that I am required to apply the Scholarship proceeds to my law school tuition and related expenses only, that I must remain in good standing at my law school until graduation, and that I must comply with all other conditions and requirements of the Scholarship.

I understand that my failure to comply with all policies, conditions and requirements of the Scholars Program may result in the forfeiture of some or all of the Scholarship.

I understand that immediate family members of officers and directors of AABANY, or those of any officers or committee members of the Don H. Liu Scholars Program, are not eligible for the Scholarship. I also understand that all materials submitted in connection with my application will become the property of the Don H. Liu Scholars Program and that the Program reserves the right to issue public announcements regarding Scholarship recipients and to publish their essays and reports.

I certify that all statements and information contained herein and in all application materials submitted by me are true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I certify that the essays submitted with my application were written solely by me and are my original work.

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Signature of Applicant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to or acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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**MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:**