

West Virginia State Bar Public Interest Scholarship

All entering first-year law students with a desire to serve in the public interest field are invited to apply for the West Virginia State Bar Public Interest Scholarship.

Scholarship Benefits

- The scholarship pays **full tuition and fees** each year for a student of outstanding academic merit and leadership potential who demonstrates a strong commitment to providing civil legal services or criminal defense to those who cannot otherwise afford legal representation and who pledges to pursue such work in West Virginia for at least 3 years.
- The scholarship program **prepares recipients to enter public interest work**. Recipients are mentored by faculty, practitioners in the field, and peers, and participate in WVU Law's vibrant public interest organization, the Public Interest Advocates (PIA). (Thanks in large part to the PIA, WVU Law is ranked #11 in the nation for public interest law.)
- After their 1L and 2L years, recipients can apply for **paid summer PIA Fellowships** with West Virginia public interest organizations.

Students who are selected for this scholarship are expected to serve for 3 years at a West Virginia public interest organization. The 3-year period of service begins upon graduation from WVU Law or, if the student is hired as a judicial clerk, upon completion of their clerkship(s).

West Virginia public interest organizations at which a graduating student might serve include:

- **Legal Aid of West Virginia** (<https://legalaidwv.org/>)
- **Mountain State Justice** (<https://mountainstatejustice.org/>)
- **West Virginia Senior Legal Aid** (<http://www.seniorlegalaid.org/>)
- **Child Law Services** (<https://www.childlawservices.org/>)
- **Appalachian Mountain Advocates** (<http://www.appalmad.org/>)
- **Disability Rights of West Virginia** (<https://www.drofww.org/>)
- **West Virginia Public Defender Services**
(<https://pds.wv.gov/about/Pages/default.aspx>)

While at WVU Law, students selected for this scholarship are expected to fulfill several requirements, including, but not limited to, vigorous participation in the PIA, meeting regularly with their mentors, and serving as an upper-division peer mentor to other recipients in their 1L and 2L years.

The Selection Committee aims to award this scholarship to students who will become leaders in the West Virginia public interest community and who will follow through on a plan to pursue a public interest career path. This commitment can be demonstrated through prior public interest work or volunteer experience (not necessarily legal in nature).

Among the criteria that will be used to select the scholarship recipient are one's:

- Academic record
- Leadership record
- History of involvement in public interest work
- Level of commitment to a public interest career
- Financial need

All students, whether in-state or out-of-state, are eligible to apply for this scholarship. To apply, please submit a typed essay of no more than 750 words addressing the criteria described above to wvulaw.admissions@mail.wvu.edu.

In order to be considered for this scholarship, you must give the Selection Committee permission to review to your application for admission. Accordingly, you should use the scholarship essay as an opportunity to provide additional evidence of your commitment to public interest work. Your essay should help us to understand how your past experiences have informed your commitment to a public interest career and how this will contribute to your potential as a public interest leader in West Virginia.

If you believe other materials, such as an updated resume, would be relevant to the Selection Committee's review, you may submit them as well to wvulaw.admissions@mail.wvu.edu.

Deadline to apply: March 15, 2022
Submit materials to wvulaw.admissions@mail.wvu.edu