

**ALAMEDA – CONTRA COSTA TRIAL LAWYERS’ ASSOCIATION**  
**DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP**

The Alameda Contra Costa Trial Lawyers’ Association (“ACCTLA”) is pleased to announce the creation of an annual Diversity Scholarship. The scholarship is a one-time award of \$5,000 and will be given to at least one second- or third-year law student who brings diverse perspective and is interested in practicing in the areas of plaintiff’s litigation, criminal defense or family law in Alameda and/or Contra Costa counties.

The ACCTLA is a group of trial lawyers who practice in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and predominantly represent plaintiffs in tort matters (such as personal injury lawsuits and employment matters), criminal defense, family law or general civil litigation. The ACCTLA promotes excellence in advocacy and works towards improving access to justice for persons who suffer injury or civil damage, who are accused of a crime or wrongdoing, or who seek assistance in resolving family law issues. The ACCTLA seeks to accomplish its goals through training, education and effective communication, while also actively encouraging and facilitating mutual support, cooperation and camaraderie among members.

The ACCTLA recognizes that there is a need to increase the diversity among those who practice in the areas of plaintiff’s litigation, criminal defense, or family law. The ACCTLA considers diversity to be a broad term that can encompass race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability status, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, veteran status, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, language, geography, overcoming personal hardship, etc. By no means is the foregoing list intended to be all-inclusive.

The ACCTLA recognizes that diverse lawyers are chronically underrepresented in the Plaintiff’s bar and trial lawyers’ bar and believe that it is essential to do what it can to remedy the lack of diversity so that consumer litigants, employees, criminal defendants, and family law litigants can have the opportunity for diverse representation and so that diverse perspectives contribute to the practice of law in these areas.

To promote and encourage the participation of people with diverse perspectives in plaintiff’s litigation, criminal defense and family law, the ACCTLA has created a diversity scholarship, in the amount of \$5,000, which will be awarded annually to at least one second or third-year law student that demonstrates an interest in becoming a plaintiff’s lawyer, criminal defense or family law lawyer. Successful applicants must also show a commitment to serving the Alameda or Contra Costa County communities and explain how their background will help advance diversity in these practice areas. Successful applicants should be able to attend the annual ACCTLA Judge’s Night dinner in January 2024 (exact date to be determined) at which the winner will be recognized.

**To apply:** Interested applicants should send a resume, one letter of reference, and an essay (no more than 4 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12 pt font) explaining why you want to practice in plaintiff's litigation, family law or criminal defense. The essay should include information describing how your background and/or experiences would help us meet our goal of increasing diversity in these practice areas. Moreover, the essay should illustrate your commitment to serving low income, underprivileged or traditionally underrepresented communities, and explaining how the scholarship will help you achieve your goals.

All applications are due by October 1, 2023 and should be submitted electronically to [acctrilawyers@gmail.com](mailto:acctrilawyers@gmail.com). The Diversity Scholarship Committee will review the applications, interview promising applicants, and select finalists who may be interviewed by the Executive Board of ACCTLA. The scholarship recipient will be recognized at the annual Judge's Night in January 2024.