August 22, 2023

Attn: Director of Financial Aid and/or President/Chair of La Raza Students Association:

Accompanying this letter is the Hon. Mario G. Olmos Memorial Scholarship Application. Since 1980, La Raza Lawyers Association of Fresno (LRLA) has awarded scholarships to deserving law students who have demonstrated academic achievement, leadership ability, involvement in the Latino community, financial need, and ties to California’s Central Valley. Subsequently, beginning in 1991, LRLA has awarded these scholarships in memory of the Honorable Superior Court Judge Mario G. Olmos, a Fresno County jurist and respected community leader who was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1990 at the age of 43. Judge Olmos epitomized the ideals of honor, courage, leadership, and public service through his achievements as a student, volunteer, lawyer, and judge. We will announce the names of the 2023 scholarship recipients at an annual banquet or as determined by our Executive Committee.

We are excited to announce that this year’s banquet will be held at Pardini’s in Fresno on Friday, November 3, 2023.

LRLA scholarship recipients are expected to be present at the banquet to receive their awards. Each recipient and one guest will receive complimentary entry into the annual banquet. Photographs and short biographies of the recipients will also be included in the banquet program.

Please distribute and/or post this letter and attached application as soon as possible because completed applications must be received on or before Monday September 11, 2023 at 5pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact LRLA Secretary, Marco Aguiar at maaguiar@fresnocountyca.gov.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Vasquez
Olmos Scholarship Committee
Name:_________________________________________________________________________________________

Home Address:_________________________________________ City: ___________ State: ____ ZIP: ______

Home Telephone: __________ Cell Phone: ___________ Email: ____________________________

Mailing Address:_____________________________________ City: _______________ State: _____ ZIP:_________

Name of Law School Presently Attending: __________________________________________________________

Law School Address:___________________________________ City: _______________ State: _____ Zip: ______


(Expected Graduation Date (Mo/Yr): _______________)

Estimated Yearly Tuition: $_________________ Estimated Yearly Cost of Books and Supplies: $_______________

Other Education Related Expenses: $______________  [Please list these expenses on a separate sheet of paper.]

Applicant’s Annual Income: $______________  [Please list on a separate sheet of paper income derived from all sources, including, but not limited to, income from employment, spouse’s employment, parents’ financial assistance, financial aid, grants, other scholarships, gifts, etc.]

Provide the names and ages of all dependents, including spouse, for which you provide financial support: __________

Please provide a typed personal statement of three pages or less, 12 point font, in which you respond to the following questions:

1. What do you consider to be the most significant event in your life, and how did this event impact your desire to attend law school?

2. What community organizations or activities have you participated in or are currently participating in to advance the social, economic or legal equality for the underserved, minorities, and women?

3. How do you plan to use your law school education to advance the social, economic, and legal equality for the underserved, minorities, and women of the San Joaquin Valley/Central Valley?

4. If you are a past recipient of this scholarship, please specify the year you were awarded the scholarship and articulate why you feel you should be considered for another scholarship.
You may attach up to three letters of recommendation from non-relatives. The application and the letters of recommendation should be emailed to Marco Aguiar at maaguiar@fresnocountyca.gov and must be received on or before September 11, 2023 at 5pm. The letters of recommendation may be emailed separately if they are received by this date.

By signing below, I affirm that all information contained in this application and in any attachments submitted in support thereof are true and correct. I also acknowledge and agree that any false statement or misrepresentation of any material fact submitted for the purpose of determining my eligibility for this scholarship will result in disqualification and that I will be required to repay any scholarship monies received. Also, by signing below I am agreeing that if awarded a scholarship, La Raza Lawyers Association may use any photos taken of me at the banquet or provided by me, for promotional purposes.

_________________________________________  ___________________________
Applicant’s Signature                              Date
Depending on the number of scholarships awarded, the scholarships can vary in amount. Most recently the amounts have varied from $1,000 to $5,000.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be presently enrolled in the first, second, third or fourth year of legal study.

Applicants who have been accepted to a law school, but who are not enrolled during the current academic year are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Applicants who have previously been admitted to law school, but who are no longer enrolled during the current academic year, without good cause, are not eligible to apply for this scholarship. If applicable and good cause exists, please explain: (a) the basis for the present leave of absence from enrollment; (b) the anticipated duration of such leave of absence; and (c) the date of anticipated re-enrollment:

DEADLINE:

Applications must be received on or before September 11, 2023 at 5:00 pm and e-mailed to: maaguiar@fresnocountyca.gov.

Questions can be directed to Marco at maaguiar@fresnocountyca.gov or by phone at (559) 712-0617. Email inquiries are preferred. Applications and more information are available at larazalaw.com.

NOTE:

If awarded a scholarship, the recipient will be requested to submit a current photograph along with a release to utilize the photo in the annual program, and short biography, on or before October 6, 2023 for inclusion in the banquet program, and will be expected to attend the Banquet on November 3, 2023.