

July 27, 2020

Honorable Michael J. Chmiel  
President  
Illinois Judges Foundation

Dear Mike:

I am writing on behalf of the Illinois Judges Foundation Harold Sullivan Scholarship Committee. As you know, the Committee met last week to consider the applications for the 2020 scholarship awards. Typically, two winners are selected based upon their responses to the essay question, community service and financial need.

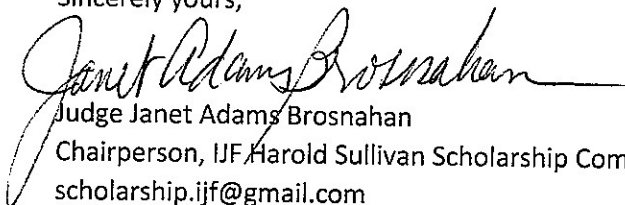
I am pleased to report that we received extraordinary participation in the competition this year. Twenty-six (26) applications were received. **All** nine Illinois law schools were represented. This is unprecedented, at least during my involvement over the past several years. The applications were striking for more than the sheer number of them. The quality of the applicant pool was exceptional, and the Committee noted that many applicants expressed compelling financial need. Several have had their income impacted by the pandemic. Others conveyed debilitating health care costs, massive loans, the concurrent burdens of childcare costs and housing costs with the costs of a legal education, etc.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has clearly affected the financial standing of the law schools as well as the students. Every year, we ask the law schools to pledge matching funds if one of their students is selected. This can potentially increase the value of our \$5000 scholarship to \$10,000. This year, several law schools that have historically pledged matching funds were unable to do so.

With these unprecedented circumstances in mind, the Committee requests that an additional \$5000 be earmarked for scholarship awards this year. This additional allocation would allow the Illinois Judges Foundation to award two \$5000 scholarship (as usual) **and** two \$2500 scholarships. We feel the two additional \$2500 scholarship would have a meaningful impact during these trying times.

We will slightly delay our announcement of the winners so that you and the Executive Board can discuss this request. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Judge Janet Adams Brosnahan  
Chairperson, IJF Harold Sullivan Scholarship Committee  
scholarship.ijf@gmail.com