Cleary Scholars Program

At Cleary, championing diversity, equity and inclusion is one of our core values and is central to how we approach our legal practice. Cleary recognizes the value of supporting and maintaining a diverse community with many different perspectives and experiences as we serve clients around the world.

In support of our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, we have launched Cleary Scholars, a program designed to create opportunity and access for law students to enter and succeed in private legal practice and help mitigate the cost of law school. Cleary Gottlieb welcomes talented law school students to join our diverse community and collaborate with our lawyers on an exciting range of matters across our world class practice, while creating meaningful relationships with colleagues and clients.

2L Scholars Program

Our 2L Scholars Program offers a unique opportunity to students who have completed their second year of law school (class of 2025) to join one of Cleary’s U.S. offices as a summer associate. Each summer’s 10-week program will include:

— In-depth legal training, mentoring, and substantive client work experience.
— The opportunity to earn up to $40,000 (less withholding taxes) in scholarships ($20,000 upon receiving and accepting an offer to return as an associate following your 2L summer; $20,000 upon joining the firm as a first-year associate), in addition to a weekly salary (currently $4135/week).

The application process is open to all law students, regardless of race, color, citizenship, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, military service, disability, religion, or any other characteristic or condition protected by applicable law. We strongly encourage law students across a variety of backgrounds that are underrepresented in the private practice of law, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, to apply. Candidates must attend an ABA accredited law school. Scholars may not split their summer with another law firm or other organization.

Candidates will be assessed on the following factors:

— Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
— Demonstrated interest in Cleary’s practice
— Academic and leadership achievements
— Application (including personal statement)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Timeline: Applications will be accepted online from Thursday, June 1 through Friday, June 30.

Guidelines: Selected candidates who receive an offer will have 14 days to respond to the scholarship offer.

Requested Application Materials:

— Resume
— Law school transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable and second semester grades should be provided as a supplement if not available when application is submitted)
— Undergraduate transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable)
— Contact information for two professional and/or academic references
— Personal Statement (limited to 500 words or fewer) addressing the following:
  • your interest in the Cleary Scholars Program
  • your office of interest
  • your interest in and commitment to helping to build a more inclusive legal industry

Applications will be accepted between Thursday, June 1, 2023 and Friday, June 30, 2023 and should be submitted to:

Submit Application Here

clearygottlieb.com