



ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-16

The Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship, which is administered through Equity Foundation, provides financial assistance to third-year and fourth-year law students who wish to advance equal rights and justice for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals. Those who demonstrate this goal through the selection process and meet the criteria of eligibility will be considered for funding.

HISTORY

Bill and Ann Shepherd began a legacy of justice in action shortly after daughter Susie came out to them in 1972. At that time, Bill Shepherd was in the 34th year of a 56-year career as a respected general practice lawyer, and Ann Shepherd had turned from editing elementary and high school parent-teacher newspapers to fine arts volunteerism with the Portland Opera Guild. Four years later, the Shepherds were deeply committed to fighting for gay and lesbian civil rights. In 1976, Bill founded the Portland Town Council Legal Resource Committee, forerunner of the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association (OGALLA). That same year, Ann was appointed to a two-year term on then-Gov. Straub's Task Force on Sexual Preference. In 1977, with Chuck and Rita Knapp, they co-founded Parents of Gays, which later affiliated with the international organization Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, PFLAG.

Until his death in 1995, Bill Shepherd provided low-cost legal counsel to same-sex couples who wanted to ensure their partners optimal decision-making and inheritance rights. For her part, Ann Shepherd "mothered" countless gays and lesbians rejected by their families and churches, and worked with confused parents to heal the wounds of misinformation and judgmentalism. Ann and Bill fought every anti-gay ballot measure and candidate that crossed their path, and in 1985, the Shepherds received the first of many prestigious awards from the community, the Lucille Hart Award from the Right-to-Privacy PAC.

Despite health setbacks and a stroke on Thanksgiving Day 2000, Ann continued to work assiduously for freedom and justice, and was named The Vollum Humanitarian of the Year by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in 2001 – and joyfully served as Grand Marshal of Portland's Gay Pride Parade that year.

The Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship was founded by the late Jeff Rose, Mr. Portland Leather 1993, and Susie Shepherd, International Ms Leather 1989. Shepherd Scholars, as befits their namesake, are committed to continue bearing the torch of equal rights.

CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, a candidate must

1. Be committed to equal rights and justice for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons;
2. Be a citizen of the United States;
3. Be a student at an accredited law school;
4. Demonstrate the potential to complete his/her law program successfully; and
5. Demonstrate the intent to practice law and promote the rights of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

METHOD OF SELECTION

The scholarship committee, which may be composed of members of Equity Foundation, and/or members or friends of the sexual minorities communities, will review each candidate's application. A personal interview may be arranged for finalists. The recipients of the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship will be chosen upon completion of the application and interview process. Successful candidates will have demonstrated: 1) ability to meet the eligibility guidelines and 2) clarity of educational objectives. Financial need will be considered.

Applications are available from Equity Foundation and from all Oregon law schools

Equity Foundation
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E-mail: info@equityfoundation.org

Completed applications must be returned to Equity Foundation and **MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015**. The Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship will be awarded to the recipient(s) at the Class Act concert/decadent dessert revue benefitting the scholarship fund, to be held on Friday evening, April 24, 2015, at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave., in downtown Portland.

ONGOING COMMITMENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

As you consider whether to apply for the scholarship, please keep in mind that the scholarship committee anticipates that Shepherd scholars will give back to the scholarship program and g/l/b/t community. We expect local scholarship recipients to attend fundraising events and to otherwise support the scholarship committee in its endeavors in whatever form is most appropriate for the individual applicant. For most applicants, this commitment is simply a reflection of the work they are already doing and part of their plans. If, however, you feel this type of commitment is not one you can or wish to make, we ask that you reconsider your application for the scholarship.

Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship



Application for 2015-16 Academic Year

All information obtained from this application will be held in strictest confidence, to be used only for the purpose of selecting the recipient(s) of the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

The scholarship committee, in making its recommendations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or national or ethnic origin.

Instructions

Please type or print legibly!

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Street No., Apt. No., etc.)

(City)

(State)

(ZIP)

Telephone: (Home) () _____ (Cell) () _____

(Work) () _____ Days/Hours: _____

Student ID No.: _____ Email: _____

Are you a United States citizen? Yes No

What ties you to the state of Oregon? _____

In what accredited law school will you soon be a third-year or fourth-year student? _____

Enrollment status: Full-time Part time → Please attach a copy of transcripts.

Do you plan to pursue admission to the Oregon State Bar upon graduation? Yes No

If no, in which state do you plan to take the bar exam? _____

After graduation, how do you plan to use your education to advance equal rights and justice for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community? _____

II. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Undergraduate or other college(s): _____

→ *(Please submit transcripts.)*

Degree(s) received: _____

Date degree(s) received: _____

What life experience(s) motivated you to pursue an education in law? _____

List any activities or volunteer work experiences in which you have participated that you feel are important:

List any special awards or honors you have received:

List any specialized training, courses, workshops, etc., that you have had beyond the education disclosed above:

List three references and state their relationship to you. Please include telephone numbers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

III. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED

A. What will next year at school cost you, including tuition, room and board, books and all other school-related expenses?

\$ _____

B. How much money will you have available, including income you expect to earn from any employment, loans and assets, to pay for next year at school? Please itemize:

Employment: \$ _____

Scholarships: \$ _____

Loans: \$ _____

Parents/Partner: \$ _____

Other (specify): _____ \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

C. What is your anticipated financial need during the 2015-16 academic year? (For most people, this will be the amount in A minus the amount in B.)

\$ _____

List any other scholarships/loans for which you have applied or that you have received for the above time period:

Do you plan to work during the period of time for which you are seeking this scholarship?

Yes No

Employer: _____

Number of hours per week: _____

IV. PERSONAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In 250 words or less, please state on an attached sheet why you should be awarded a Shepherd scholarship.

2. Also, please attach two (2) letters of recommendation, one from a law school instructor and the other from your person of choice, speaking to your history of involvement in the sexual minorities communities.

V. ATTESTATION

I have read and understand the criteria of eligibility and the method of selection regarding the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship. I understand that if I am a recipient of this scholarship, my name may be published in local legal, as well as g/b/l/t news and other publications, and may be announced at events publicizing the scholarship and its recipients. *I also understand and agree that if awarded this scholarship, I will take a bar examination and practice law.* I further understand that as a recipient of this scholarship, I will be expected to perform public service duties to advance equal rights and justice for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, and to support the ongoing work of this scholarship fund.

I verify that all of my responses on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____