

**Widener University  
School of Law**

**Debt Management  
Guide**

**&**

**Financial Aid  
Sourcebook**

Widener University School of Law is committed to providing our students with the information that will allow them to be a well educated consumer when making decisions about how to finance their legal education. You will be billed for your tuition and fees prior to each semester. The amount of the semester bill will vary and is based on your program, number of credits, start date at Widener and the type of course. How you will pay this bill when it arrives is going to depend on your individual situation. You may plan to pay out of your current resources, use scholarship and/or grant funding, borrow educational loans or a combination of these options.

## *Why this publication is important to you!*

This publication highlights pertinent information about the financial aid process in general, types of aid available, our application procedures, and a calendar of financial aid deadlines. It is designed to provide you with answers to the most frequently asked questions concerning financial aid at Widener University School of Law. This booklet is updated annually to provide you with the most current information.

In this book, you will also find information on debt management, average costs, loan limits and scholarships. After reviewing this book if you have additional questions that are not answered, please contact the Financial Aid Office:

### **Delaware Campus**

4601 Concord Pike

Wilmington DE 19803-0474

**Phone:** (302) 477-2272

**Fax:** (302) 477-2034

[lawfinaide@mail.widener.edu](mailto:lawfinaide@mail.widener.edu)

### **Harrisburg Campus**

3737 Vartan Way

Harrisburg PA 17110-9380

**Phone:** (717) 541-3961

**Fax:** (717) 541-1964

[lawfinaidhb@mail.widener.edu](mailto:lawfinaidhb@mail.widener.edu)

## FINANCIAL AID

- January** Earliest month to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- February** Widener University School of Law financial aid application packets available.
- March 15** **Recommended date for returning students to file the FAFSA application at <https://fafsa.ed.gov> for the 2014-2015 academic year** to ensure that the Law School will receive the analysis by the priority filing deadline and give the application timely consideration when awarding institutional aid. **Returning students** who file their FAFSA forms after this date risk being considered a **LATE FILER** for institutional aid.
- March 24** Endowed scholarship deadline for returning students. All applications and supporting material must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office or postmarked by this date. (See pages 25 through 28 of this publication for more details)
- April 1** Priority service deadline for the 2014-2015 academic year for *returning students*. Returning students wishing priority consideration for institutional and campus-based aid must have a **complete application file\*** in the Financial Aid Office by this date.
- May 1** Earliest date to complete a Federal GradPLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at <https://studentloans.gov> A credit check is required and may expire prior to processing if done before this date.
- May – October** Primary period for analysis and origination /certification of student loans.
- June 2** **Recommended date for students to have a complete file (including signed MPN's) in order to have funds available by the start of the fall semester.**
- September 1 – 30** Students who missed the priority service deadline may appeal for consideration for institutional need based assistance. Funds will be awarded only after all eligible **“ON TIME”** applicants are considered and if any remaining funds are available. Students who wish to be reconsidered for merit based assistance, or students appealing the loss of a merit award may submit their appeal at this time.
- September 30** Deadline for submission of all appeals for institutional aid.

*\* A student's file is considered complete for institutional aid purposes when the student has completed a Law School Financial Aid Data Form and submitted it to the Financial Aid Office. The student must also complete and submit an **error free** FAFSA form to the Department of Education. The Dept. of Education must analyze the FAFSA, and the results must be returned to the school before your file is considered complete.*

➤➤For step by step instructions on how to apply for Financial Aid, please turn to page 7◀◀

# Major Sources of Financial Aid

## The School

Scholarships, grants, and loans are awarded from Widener Law School funds. These funds are only applicable to the fall and spring semester of the academic year.

### **Widener Scholars Program**

A limited number of scholarships are offered to entering students on the basis of superior academic achievement prior to entering the Law School. These scholarships are awarded by the Office of Admissions at or soon after admission and may be continued for the entire School of Law career of the recipient if he/she achieves suitable law school grades. To recognize outstanding achievement for the first year of law school, the Widener Scholars Program awards a substantial amount of scholarship funds. Criteria for these awards include academic excellence and promotion of diversity in the profession.

The Financial Aid Office reviews all students after their first year to determine their eligibility for the Widener Scholars Program.

### **Dixon Scholars Program**

The Dixon Scholars Program is an agreement between the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and the Harrisburg campus. Students from the 14 State Universities who are admitted to the Express Admissions Program or the 3 + 3 Early Admissions Program are eligible for Dixon scholarships. These scholarships will cover at least 30% of a student's annual tuition and fees for the fall and spring semesters. It is renewable for the entire Juris Doctor program provided the recipient achieves the required GPA.

### **Widener Scholars Loan Program**

Beginning with the second year of study, students whose academic performance meets the requirements will be offered Widener Scholar Loans. These loans carry a fixed interest rate of 5%, no interest accrues during enrollment and grace period, and payment is deferred until six months after graduation.

### **Widener Endowed Scholarships Program**

Alumni and friends of the Law School have donated several endowed scholarships. The scholarship committee, based on the criteria determined by the individual donors, awards these scholarships annually. A list of the endowed scholarships currently available can be found in the Appendix. Many of these awards require individual applications that may be obtained on the Endowed Scholarship page of the Widener University School of Law website.

### **Dean's Grant Program**

The Dean's Grant program provides small grants to assist students with a financial need in covering the costs associated with their legal education. Students who complete their financial aid applications by the stipulated deadline are considered for this program. Applicants must demonstrate *exceptional financial need* to be awarded a grant from this law school program.

## **The Government**

The Federal Government provides funds for loans and employment opportunities. Many state governments provide grants and loans to their own state residents; some states restrict the use of such assistance to institutions within their borders unless the program of study is not offered within their state.

### **The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Programs**

The Federal Direct Loan programs were created with the purpose of making long term loans available to students to help them meet educational expenses. Students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education at a fixed interest rate depending on the program.

#### **Direct Unsubsidized Loan**

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program is a **non need-based** program and does not require a credit check. Graduate students may borrow up to \$20,500 per year from this program. The aggregate for this program (including undergraduate debt) is \$138,500 of which no more than \$65,000 can be from the subsidized\* loan program. The Department of Education calculates a fixed interest rate on an annual basis and that interest rate will apply for the life of the loan. The interest rate calculation is based on the 10 year Treasury Note sold at the last auction prior to June 1 plus 3.60 percent. Interest for the 2013-2014 academic year is fixed at 5.41% and accrues from the day the loan is disbursed. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates or ceases at least half-time enrollment. Students may elect to make interest payments while in school, or have the unpaid interest capitalized once they enter repayment.

In addition to interest, the student pays a 1.072% loan origination fee that is a percentage of the principal amount for each Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan received. The U.S. Department of Education deducts the fee before the student receives any loan money, so the loan amount the student actually receives (net) is less than the amount that must be repaid (gross).

Gross Amount of Disbursement – 1.072% Origination Fee = Net Amount that will disburse to school.

$$\textit{Example: } \$4,250 \times 98.928\% = \$4,204$$

Students must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for a Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan on <https://studentloans.gov> to borrow funds through this program.

*\* The Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated the Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for Graduate and Professional students for periods of enrollment beginning on or after July 1, 2012.*

## Federal Direct GradPLUS Loan Program

Widener University School of Law recommends that students needing additional funding after borrowing the maximum Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan apply for a **Direct GradPLUS Loan**.

The Graduate PLUS Loan does require a credit check. *The credit check is based on credit history, not credit score. Lack of a credit history does not negatively affect your ability to be approved.* Students not able to borrow on the strength of their own credit history will be offered an endorser (co-signer) option. Please refer to the credit section of this guide for information on reviewing and understanding your credit.

A student may generally borrow up to their cost of attendance minus all other aid received. The U.S. Department of Education calculates a fixed interest rate on an annual basis and that interest rate will apply for the life of the loan. The interest rate calculation is based on the 10 year Treasury Note sold at the last auction prior to June 1 plus 4.60 percent. The interest rate for the 2013-2014 academic year is fixed at 6.41%. Students may elect to make interest payments while in school, or have the unpaid interest capitalized once they enter repayment. Repayment begins six months after graduation or when a student ceases half time enrollment for all GradPLUS loans disbursed after July 1, 2008. GradPLUS loans disbursed prior to July 1, 2008 begin repayment 60 days after graduation or when a student ceases at least half time enrollment.

There is a 4.288% origination/default fee charged at each disbursement. The U.S. Department of Education deducts the fee before the student receives any loan money, so the loan amount the student actually receives (net) is less than the amount that must be repaid (gross).

Gross Amount of Disbursement – 4.288% Origination Fee = Net Amount that will disburse to school

$$\text{Example: } \$16,000 \times 95.712\% = \$15,314$$

Students who wish to borrow from Graduate PLUS Loan Program will need to complete a “Request for a Graduate PLUS Loan” on <https://studentloans.gov>. In addition, new borrowers will need to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) on the same site. Students **should not** complete a Direct GradPLUS Loan MPN and/or the “Request for a Graduate PLUS Loan” (which includes a credit check authorization) **prior to May 1, 2014**. If it is completed before May 1<sup>st</sup>, the required credit check may expire and funds will not disburse.

## Federal Work – Study Program

Under the Federal Work–Study Program eligible students can work on campus or off campus at a public or private nonprofit organization or government agency and the work must be in the public interest. Eligibility is limited to students who complete their application by the *priority filing deadline* and demonstrate **sufficient financial need**. The number of awards made each year is dependent upon the availability of funds. Priority is given to returning students.

Returning students interested in this program should indicate their interest in question 31 on the FAFSA in addition to other Widener required paperwork.

## **Private Sources**

### **Private/Alternative Loan Programs**

Private/alternative loan programs are available to assist students for expenses not covered through other financial aid programs. Widener University School of Law recommends that students first attempt to access a Federal Direct Unsubsidized or GradPLUS loan prior to applying for a private/alternative loan. These loans require a credit check and students not able to borrow on the strength of their own credit **may be** offered a co-signer option. A student may generally borrow up to their cost of attendance minus all other aid received. *Interest rates on these loans vary (most change on a quarterly basis) and generally have no interest rate cap.* Students may elect to make interest payments while in school, or have the interest capitalized. Most lenders will charge a front-end or back-end fee to borrow the loan. *It is important that a student borrower investigate both the interest rate and fee structure before choosing a lender.*

### **Monthly Payment Plan**

Under the Widener University payment plan students have the option to spread their overall charges for the summer, fall and spring semesters over a 3 or 4 month period. Please contact the Office of the Bursar in Harrisburg, 717-541-3905, or Delaware, 302-477-2207, for specifics concerning the program.

### **Outside Scholarships**

Many organizations, outside of Widener University School of Law, offer scholarships, fellowships or low-interest loans to assist students in funding their legal education. Please check our website for a file containing detailed information on over 100 scholarships offered by organizations other than Widener Law School. *Instructions for accessing the file are in the Appendix of this publication.* The Financial Aid Office also recommends that you take advantage of the free internet scholarship search engines available. A list with popular free websites can be found in the Appendix as well. A student should never pay an organization or individual to perform a scholarship search or a deposit for a scholarship

### **Veteran Benefits**

You may be eligible to receive educational benefits through the Veterans Administration depending on the length of your military service and the start and end date of that service. Veterans interested in any chapter of Veterans Affairs Education Benefit should contact the VA to determine eligibility and/or the process to transfer from the Montgomery GI Bill to the new program. For more information contact the Veterans Administration at 1-888-442-4551 or [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill). Widener Law participates in the Yellow Ribbon program for veterans who are 100% eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.

### **International Students**

There is limited availability of financial aid for foreign nationals to study in the United States, with the possible exception of citizens of Canada and Mexico. All international students admitted will be considered for Widener's merit based scholarships. However, most grants, scholarships, and loans from public and private sources are restricted to U.S. citizens. If you are an eligible non-citizen, you may be eligible for federal financial aid programs, such as Federal Direct Loans, and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility. Some organizations offer private loans to international students, although most require a credit-worthy U.S. citizen as a co-signer.

## How Financial Aid Works

### Cost of Attendance

All colleges and universities participating in the Federal Student Aid Programs are required to determine standard costs of attendance (COA) for students attending their institution. The estimated expenses include a student's direct educational costs, tuition and fees, as well as necessary living expenses.

**The figures below were the standard costs used for the 2013-2014 academic year for first year students attending the Law School in the Juris Doctor program.** *Students in other education programs at the Law School will have similar living expenses, but their tuition is based on the program and can be found in the current Guide to Payment and Fees available on our website.*

2013-2014 COST OF ATTENDANCE				
	<u>OFF CAMPUS/APT.</u>		<u>COMMUTER</u>	
	Regular Division	Extended Division	(Living with Parents or Relatives)	
	Regular Division	Extended Division	Regular Division	Extended Division
Tuition & Fees	\$39,640	\$29,112	\$39,640	\$29,112
Books	1,550	1,240	1,550	1,240
Room & Board	10,791	10,791	4,500	4,500
Personal Expense	3,771	3,771	3,771	3,771
Transportation	3,060	3,060	3,060	3,060
Loan Fees	1,181	1,181	1,181	1,181
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$59,993</b>	<b>\$49,155</b>	<b>\$53,702</b>	<b>\$42,864</b>

Graduating JD students will have an additional component added to their cost of attendance to cover the cost of a first bar exam. Individual budgets may be altered to account for unusual or emergency situations that a student may encounter. **These adjustments can only be made to expenses necessary for the student's education.** The student must fully document any request for an increase in expenses.

### Need and How it is Determined

Several Federal financial aid programs are restricted to students who demonstrate *financial need*. A student's eligibility for Federal Work-Study is limited to their computed *financial need* and funds available.

To determine a student's *financial need* and *exceptional financial need*, the Financial Aid Office analyzes the student's financial resources and expenses. The primary instrument used to obtain this information is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must complete this form to be considered for Federal Student Aid. The Department of Education uses the data provided on the FAFSA to determine a student's *expected family contribution (EFC)*. Need is determined by subtracting the expected family contribution (EFC) from Widener University School of Law's *cost of attendance (COA)*.

**Example:**

Law School Cost of Attendance:	\$59,993*
- <u>Expected Family Contribution (EFC):</u>	<u>\$ 2,000**</u>
= Financial Need (Federal):	\$57,993

Now that the student's *financial need* has been determined, the student's eligibility for Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work-Study can be determined, and the student *exceptional financial need* can be calculated.

**Example:**

<i>Financial Need:</i>	\$57,993
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan:	20,500
- <u>Federal Work Study:</u>	<u>2,000</u>
= Exceptional Financial Need:	\$35,493

**The Financial Aid Package**

When students apply for and receive financial aid, the aid is awarded in the form of a *package*. The package is generally a combination of scholarships, loans, and work-study that fit together to cover all or part of a student's financial need. The actual mix of the package will vary according to each student's need and academic ability. Academically superior students will generally receive a portion of their package in the form of a merit scholarship; while students with greater financial need may receive need based funds provided they meet the criteria.

In the previous section, the student in the example had their financial need calculated as:

Financial Need:	\$57,993
Aid Package:	
Direct Unsubsidized Loan:	20,500
Dean's Grant:	2,000
Federal Work Study:	2,000
<u>GradPLUS Loan:</u>	<u>33,493</u>
Total Aid Package:	\$57,993

Students may elect to cover the expected family contribution (EFC) from non-need based loan programs. This student could borrow an additional \$2,000 in GradPLUS loan funds.

\*Based on 2013/2014 academic year off-campus cost of attendance.

\*\*A law student's EFC is calculated using only their income and asset information reported on the FAFSA. All law students are considered independent for Federal Financial Aid.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

- 1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** - This application **MUST** be submitted to the processing center by all students wishing to apply for Federal Aid (*Federal Direct Loans, GradPLUS Loans and/or Federal Work- Study*). The FAFSA may be completed online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. You can also apply using a paper application that can be obtained by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. **Students must complete a new FAFSA for each academic year they wish to receive federal aid.** Be sure to indicate Widener's appropriate school code for the campus you will attend.

Delaware campus - B04724

Harrisburg campus- E00656

\*\*\*\*\* The IRS and Department of Education are offering students the opportunity to download their 2013 Federal Tax Information directly into the appropriate FAFSA questions. Students are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to complete their FAFSA as it will make the process easier and provide more accurate data. Instructions within the FAFSA will help you determine if this tool is available to you.

*Students interested in Federal Work Study should answer Yes to Question 31, on the FAFSA.*

- 2. Widener Law Data Form** - To apply for financial aid administered by Widener Law School, students are requested to submit this form to the Financial Aid Office. This form provides the Financial Aid Office with important demographic information and allows you to indicate your intention to borrow federal loan funds. It may be obtained in the Financial Aid Office or it can be downloaded from the Widener University School of Law Financial Aid web pages.
- 3. Loan Applications**

### **Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan MPN (Master Promissory Note)**

#### Incoming Students and New Borrowers

All *incoming students* and *new borrowers* must complete a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan MPN at <https://studentloans.gov> for the 2014-2015 academic year if they would like to borrow Federal loan funds.

- ❖ You will need to have your Personal Identification Number (PIN) available to electronically sign your MPN. This is the same PIN you would have used to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you can't locate your PIN or are a new federal student aid applicant, you may reset or obtain a new PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).
- ❖ To apply for a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan go to <https://studentloans.gov>. You will need to "Sign In" using your PIN from your FAFSA. Select "Complete Master Promissory Note" and then select Subsidized/Unsubsidized.

The application process is complete once you have electronically signed the MPN with your PIN.

- ❖ When completing the Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized loan MPN you will notice that you do not need to enter a requested loan amount. The Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized MPN is a serial note that is valid for ten years and the borrower authorizes the school annually to increase the aggregate limit. Please complete the box on Widener's Institutional Data Form to provide that information.

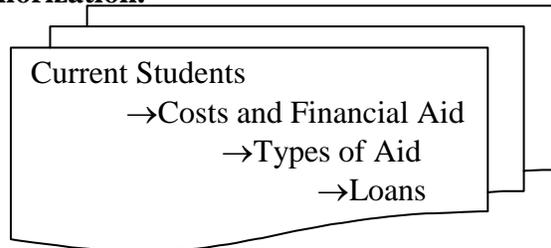
### Returning Students

Your 2013-2014 Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized MPN is valid for ten years and you authorize the school to increase the aggregate limit. Please complete the box on Widener Law's Data Form to provide that information.

### **Federal GradPLUS Loan Application and MPN (Master Promissory Note)**

*All students* who wish to borrow a Federal GradPLUS Loan will need to "Request a GradPLUS loan" at <https://studentloans.gov> regardless of prior borrowing. The GradPLUS application authorizes a credit check and allows the student borrower to request a loan amount for the 2014-2015 academic year. New Borrowers will need to complete a MPN for the loan. Students who previously borrowed may need to complete a new MPN. Additional instructions can be found following this path on our website <http://law.widener.edu>:

**You should not complete the Request for a GradPLUS application until after May 1, 2014. Applying prior to May 1, 2014 may impact the timely disbursement of funds due to expiring credit authorization.**



- 4. Verification Paperwork** - *Some* students are selected for a process called verification. These students will be contacted in writing to request additional information. If selected, please provide the information in a timely manner.
- 5. Entrance Counseling** – First year JD students are required to attend an in-person entrance counseling session as part of Orientation Week. Students enrolled in the Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) or LLM programs may complete their entrance interview online at <https://studentloans.gov>. First year JD students who complete entrance counseling online are still required to attend the mandatory in-person entrance counseling session.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Be organized. Keep copies of the documents used to apply for financial aid, including tax returns, FAFSA confirmation page and scholarship applications.
- Be sure to apply for all programs by the dates published in the calendar at the front of this publication and to furnish any supporting documentation to the Law School when requested.
- Be involved in the active pursuit of funds to finance your legal education. Please see the Appendix of this publication for outside scholarship opportunities and Internet resources.
- Returning students who complete their application files after the published deadlines (LATE FILERS) will have their files reviewed in the order they were received and will be considered for institutional aid only after all timely files are reviewed.
- If requested, a Tax Return Transcript must be obtained from the IRS to comply with federal regulations. In the event that tax returns for the current year will be filed late or not at all, written notification must be submitted by the student, stating the reasons for the delay or why no return will be filed.
- Failure to submit required documents will usually result in denial of eligibility to receive financial assistance.

**NOTE:** If you would like to obtain further information, or if you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid in either Delaware or Harrisburg.

## Debt Management - The Bottom Line

We want our students to be informed about the financial aid available to them. In keeping with that theme, the good news is that for the vast majority of students, regardless of their financial situation, there are sufficient funds to attend and complete their education at Widener University School of Law. The reality, however, is that most of the available funds come in the form of loans, and these loans must be paid back. Because of this, it is important that students make informed decisions concerning the expenses they will incur during their legal education.

While it may seem advantageous to live in an apartment or in off-campus housing while in school, it may make better financial sense to live with family, if feasible, and not accrue the debt necessary to pay rent. If it is not feasible, then living with a roommate is suggested to reduce loan debt. These decisions are personal and individual, but keep in mind that in the end it is the student who will be responsible for repaying their education debt.

Some questions to ask yourself when deciding how much to borrow includes:

- What should I know about the loan programs (interest rates, repayment terms, fees)?
- What can I do to reduce the amount I borrow, yet still concentrate on my studies?
- What type of career am I looking to pursue after graduation (public interest, government or private practice)?
- What impact will my loans have on my future?

The student in our example had an academic budget of \$59,993, and a financial need of \$57,993. If this student borrows **\$48,977** for the first year of law school and we assume that this student will maintain a constant level of borrowing during his or her three years of law school, and we estimate that tuition and living expenses will increase at the average rate of 5% per year, we can obtain a reasonable estimate of his or her law school education debt at graduation. With an average increase of 5% the cost of attendance for this student would be \$59,993 in the first year, \$62,993 in the second year, and \$66,143 in the third year.

**Example:** *With these figures in mind our student would incur the following debt:*

<b>Student Debt:</b>				
Loan Type	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	<b>Total Debt</b>
Unsubsidized Loan	20,500	20,500	20,500	61,500
GradPLUS Loan	28,477	29,901	31,396	89,774
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$48,977</b>	<b>\$50,401</b>	<b>\$51,896</b>	<b>\$151,274</b>

## Loan Repayment

Now that we have an estimate of the student's total law school debt, we can estimate his or her repayment schedule. The repayment schedule below is based on a standard 10-year and extended 20-year repayment schedule for the Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, and GradPLUS loans.

**Note:** For purposes of this analysis we have used the current prevailing interest rates for the Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans (5.41%), and the GradPLUS Loan (6.41%).

<b>Loan Type</b>	<b>Amount Borrowed</b>	<b>120 mo. Payment</b>	<b>Total Repayment</b>	<b>240 mo. Payment</b>	<b>Total Repayment</b>
Unsubsidized Loan	61,500	665	79,764	420	100,783
GradPLUS Loan	89,774	1,015	121,831	665	159,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$151,274</b>	<b>\$1,680</b>	<b>\$201,595</b>	<b>\$1,085</b>	<b>\$260,283</b>

As we can see by this example, law students have the option to accrue a significant amount of debt while attending law school. **It must be noted that not all students incur this level of debt and we are not recommending that students borrow at this level.** However, we want you to be aware of the level of debt that you may incur, and hope that you seriously consider what this debt may mean when you begin your career. *Assuming that the student in the example has a starting salary at graduation of \$55,000\*\* the projected standard 10-year monthly payment would constitute 37 % of their gross income. If the student uses the extended 20-year repayment plan the monthly amount would constitute 24% of their gross income.*

There are other repayment options that the student in the example could utilize such as Income Based Repayment – IBR or Income Contingent Repayment – ICR. Both repayment options offer a repayment plan that uses Adjusted Gross Income to establish the monthly repayment amount as well as loan forgiveness options. Student borrowers should be aware that any repayment option that extends your repayment period will result in additional accrued interest that must be paid.

\*\*Salary information provided by the Access Group's Wise Borrower Education Series

## DEBT MANAGEMENT AND BORROWING CHOICES

While the debt profile described on the preceding page is one that can be managed, albeit with some difficulty, it is not what most students entering their legal education envision. Unfortunately, the debt level described above is increasingly becoming the norm rather than the exception. It is vitally important that you understand that incurring debt at or above the level of our example is ultimately a matter of choice.

If the same student makes the ***choice*** to limit their borrowing to the level indicated in our expense budget for a student living with family (commuter budget), we end up with a significantly more manageable student loan repayment. Please note that a student who lives in an apartment or on-campus is not required to borrow to the maximum of their cost of attendance.

Example: Regular Division student deciding to live on a Commuter cost of attendance:

Law School Cost of Attendance:	\$53,702*
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC):	2,000**
= Financial Need (Federal):	\$51,702

\* Based on 13/14 academic year Commuter cost of attendance

\*\* A law student's EFC is calculated using only their income and asset information reported on the FAFSA. All law students are considered independent for Federal Financial Aid.

Now that the student's *financial need* has been determined, the student's eligibility for Federal Direct Loans and Work Study can be determined, and the student's *exceptional financial need* can be calculated.

Financial Need:	\$51,702
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan:	20,500
- Federal Work Study:	2,000
= Exceptional Financial Need:	\$29,202

A student with a calculated *exceptional financial need* of \$29,202 might have an aid package similar to the one below:

<i>Financial Need:</i>	<i>\$51,702</i>
<i>Aid Package:</i>	
Direct Unsubsidized:	20,500
Federal Work Study:	2,000
Dean's Grant:	2,000
*GradPLUS Loan:	27,202
Total Aid Package:	\$51,702

Students may elect to cover the expected family contribution (EFC) from non-need based loan programs. This student could borrow an additional \$2,000 in GradPLUS loan funds.

The student in this example had an academic budget of \$53,702, and a financial need of \$51,702. If this student reduced their borrowing to **\$45,722** for the first year of law school, and if we assume that this student will maintain a constant level of borrowing during his or her three years of law school, and we estimate that tuition and living expenses will increase at the average rate of 5% per year, we can then obtain a reasonable estimate of his or her law school education debt at graduation. With the package estimated over a three-year law school program our student would incur the following debt:

Student Debt				
Loan Type	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Total Debt
Unsubsidized Loan	20,500	20,500	20,500	61,500
GradPLUS Loan	25,222	26,483	27,807	79,512
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$45,722</b>	<b>\$46,983</b>	<b>\$48,307</b>	<b>\$141,012</b>

## Loan Repayment

Now that we have an estimate of the student's total law school debt, we can estimate his or her repayment schedule. **The repayment schedule below is based on a standard 10-year and extended 20-year repayment schedule for the Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized (5.41%), and GradPLUS (6.41%) loans.\***

Loan Type	Amount Borrowed	120 mo. Payment	Total Repayment	240 mo. Payment	Total Repayment
Unsubsidized Loan	61,500	665	79,764	420	100,783
GradPLUS Loan	79,512	899	107,905	589	141,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$141,012</b>	<b>\$1,564</b>	<b>\$187,669</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>	<b>\$242,052</b>

As we can see by this example, law students have the option to borrow less and reduce the overall cost of their legal education. **The student who, under the same conditions, has the resources to borrow only to the level of the commuter expense budget will pay \$116.00 less per month on the 10-year repayment and \$76.00 on the 20-year repayment plan for their education. The total cost of education for this student will be \$13,926.00 less over the 10-year repayment schedule or \$18,231 less over the 20-year repayment schedule.**

There are other repayment options that the student in the example could utilize such as Income Based Repayment – IBR or Income Contingent Repayment – ICR. Both repayment options offer a repayment plan that uses Adjusted Gross Income to establish the monthly repayment amount as well as loan forgiveness options. Student borrowers should be aware that any repayment option that extends your repayment period while result in additional accrued interest that must be paid.

The amount of debt that you will incur will depend on a number of factors. A significant number of those factors are in your control. Decisions about where you will live, what kind of transportation you will use, how much you will save from summer employment as well as how much time you will invest in researching alternative sources of funding will all help to determine your overall student loan debt. While there are a number of factors that you cannot control (tuition, fees, etc.), the amount you ultimately borrow will be up to you.

## Understanding Credit

A credit report is a summary of the information contained in an individual's credit history. Creditors use this information to evaluate the likelihood that the individual will repay future loans. A credit report is created from payment information and credit account information that creditors/lenders report to the three authorized credit-reporting agencies. A person begins to build credit by having a credit card, consumer loan, student loan, some form of personal credit, utility bills or renting an apartment. It is good practice to review your credit report for inaccuracies and to protect against identity theft.

### How to Get a Free Credit Report

As part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, consumers are able to request one free credit report from each of the three authorized credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion in a 12 month period. These reports can be requested from one central location, [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or by calling 877-322-8228. Consumers can request, view and print one, two or all three credit reports via this secure web site. These reports are **free**. Any other websites will require you pay for the credit reports.

It is good practice to review your credit report for inaccuracies and to protect against identity theft. You should review your credit report annually to insure it is free of errors, to clear any delinquent or defaulted accounts and to update necessary information. Please visit the website for specific questions. You **will not** be able to receive your credit score with the free reports unless you pay for it separately.

Please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) for specific questions regarding the program. The website provides good information that is helpful when reviewing your credit reports.

### TERMS TO UNDERSTAND

**Collections** – failure to make payment on a delinquent or defaulted account may result in the creditor or lender contacting an agency or moving your account into their department that specializes in collecting payment from delinquent accounts. *It will affect your credit score negatively.*

**Credit Inquiries** - requests for your credit report and credit score.

- A *hard inquiry* is a request by a creditor/lender to pull your credit report and credit score that has been authorized by you, the potential borrower. These inquiries take place when a borrower wants a new credit card or is interested in a car loan. **Hard inquiries do affect your credit score.**
- A *soft inquiry* is request from prospective employers, inquiries made by current creditors, and companies wanting to offer a new credit card to view your credit report. **Soft inquiries do not affect your credit score.**

**Credit Report** - a summary of the information contained in an individual's credit history. Creditors use this information to evaluate the likelihood that the individual will repay future loans. A credit report is created from payment information and credit account information that creditors/lenders report to the three authorized credit reporting agencies. A person begins to build credit by having a credit card, consumer loan, student loan, or some form of personal credit.

**Credit Score** - a quick, accurate, consistent and objective method that uses statistical models to determine a borrower's future credit risk. The higher the credit score the more likely a borrower is to repay a future loan. Credit scores can range from 300 to 850, but each lender/creditor determines its cutoff points and underwriting criteria for potential borrowers.

**Default** - non-payment of a loan or credit card balance.

The lender, guarantee agency, or creditor may require full payment of the debt in addition to associated fee and fines. Federal Direct Loans are put in default status after 270 days of non-payment.

**This status will affect your credit score negatively.**

**Delinquency** - failure to make payment on a due/past due account typically characterized in thirty day increments of lateness. For example 30 days delinquency, 60 days delinquency, etc.

**This status will affect your credit score negatively.**

**Installment Accounts** - an account where an amount is borrowed at once and paid back to the lender/creditor in set amounts over a set period of time with either a fixed or variable interest rate.

*Examples include:* mortgages, education and car loans.

**Revolving Accounts** - accounts that allow you to add and carry forward debt until you reach a pre-determined maximum amount. Interest accrues on the balance at some point in time during the billing cycle. Examples include: credit cards, retail charge accounts, finance accounts and personal lines of credit. There may be fees associated with use of the card.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q)** *When is the financial aid application deadline?*

**A)** Entering students do not have a specific deadline, however, they are encouraged to apply as early as possible as some programs have limited funding. Financial aid is processed on a first come first served basis. Returning students have a priority filing deadline of April 1, 2014.

**Q)** *What info will I need to fill out the FAFSA application?*

**A)** In order to fill out the FAFSA you will need a copy of your 2013 Federal Tax Return or use the IRS Data Retrieval tool that is available for the 2014-2015 academic year application. *As a law student you are considered an independent student and your parental information will not be considered.* You will be asked for your driver's license number and your social security number on most financial aid paperwork. If you have not completed your federal tax return, you can complete the FAFSA with estimated information and W-2s.

**Q)** *What forms do I have to fill out?*

**A)** All students wishing to apply for aid must complete a FAFSA, a Widener Law Data form, a Federal Direct Master Promissory Note if you plan to borrow Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans and if desired a Direct GradPLUS Loan Request and MPN (master promissory note). Some students will also need to submit additional paperwork upon request.

**Q)** *What is the maximum amount that I can borrow per academic year?*

**A)** Most graduate students will be eligible to access \$20,500.00 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan and may be eligible to borrow additional funding in a GradPLUS loan. This amount will vary based on the program and academic year of the student. Please reference the section in this book titled "How Financial Aid Works" to see sample amounts a student would be eligible to borrow.

**Q)** *Will I have to make payments on prior federal loans while in school? If not, when does payment start and at what interest rate?*

**A)** No. You are not required to make payments on previous federal educational loans when you are in school and attending at least half-time. When you return to school as at least a half time student, you will be eligible to request an in-school deferment from your lender. This deferment will only be good as long as you are enrolled at least half-time. You can request the form from your lender (most servicers have the form available for download on their websites) and submit it to the Registrar's Office for completion once classes begin.

The deferment will stop once you graduate or drop below half-time status and you will begin your repayment on your prior loans. There is no penalty to make payments on accruing interest while you are in school, although you are not required. If you choose this option, you will only be responsible for the principle and any remaining interest when you are finished school.

Contact your lenders regarding private loan (non-federal) repayment requirements.

**Q)** *I was working full time last year and quit to return to school. How will that affect my eligibility?*

**A)** The FAFSA does analyze your previous year's income and assets. If you are not eligible for any need based aid, you have the right to request that we use your anticipated income for the current year. To file an appeal, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

**Q)** *Do I have to complete a new application each year?*

**A)** Yes. Every student intending to apply for financial aid must complete a new FAFSA and a new institutional data form each year.

**Q)** *What is the difference between a subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan?*

**A)** Interest does not accrue on a subsidized loan while a student is in school. However, interest will begin accruing on unsubsidized loans from the date of disbursement. The amount of funding a student may be eligible for will vary according to the student.

**Q)** *I borrowed subsidized loans in the past. Will I be eligible to borrow subsidized loans for the 2014-2015 academic year?*

**A)** The Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated subsidized loans for graduate students for loan period beginning on or after July 1, 2013.

**Q)** *What types of financial aid are available?*

**A)** This will vary based on the student. Please refer to the section titled "Major Sources of Financial Aid" in this book.

**Q)** *How do I appeal my financial aid award?*

**A)** In order to appeal any financial aid award decision, you may write an appeal letter to the Director of Financial Aid. Appeals for budget increases should include a detailed budget plan and be accompanied with relevant documentation. Need based appeals are considered in October. By federal regulation, students requesting adjustments that will affect federal funding, including loans, must complete the verification process prior to any decision regarding the appeal.

**Q)** *What scholarships are available for law students?*

**A)** Please see the scholarship and grant section of this book for information on academic scholarships provided by Widener Law School. We suggest that students complete individual scholarship searches for outside funding. An online password protected listing of outside scholarships is provided to students; refer to the Appendix for instructions. Alumni and friends of the Law School have donated several endowed scholarships. These scholarships are awarded annually by the Scholarship Committee based on the criteria determined by the individual donors. Applications are available to current students in the spring.

The Admissions Committee manages all endowed and merit scholarships for entering JD students.

**Q)** *I was awarded a scholarship from a private outside organization. Do I need to inform the financial aid office?*

**A)** Yes. All outside financial aid must be included in your package. Outside scholarships are typically forwarded to the institution to be applied towards your tuition.

**Q)** *What if the amount of my Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans and any other financial aid does not cover the cost of my tuition, what should I do?*

**A)** You may want to consider borrowing a GradPLUS loan or plan to utilize the payment plan.

**Q)** *What impact does the result of my credit report have on my ability to borrow educational loans?*

**A)** If you have adverse credit history, you may have difficulty obtaining a GradPLUS loan to cover living expenses or tuition balances. Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans do not require a credit check.

**Q)** *What is adverse credit history?*

**A)** Adverse credit is defined as the applicant being 90 days or more delinquent on a debt or having been subject to a default determination, bankruptcy discharge, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or write-off of a Federal Student Aid debt. The absence of any credit history is not considered adverse credit.

**Q)** *What are my options when I am declined? (from <https://studentloans.gov>)*

**A)** If the student is turned down for credit, the student may choose to appeal the decision or re-apply with an *endorser (co-signer)*.

**Q)** *If I choose to appeal the credit decision due to extenuating circumstances? (from <https://studentloans.gov>)*

**A)** If you believe there are extenuating circumstances related to the adverse credit information listed that should be considered in evaluating your eligibility for a Direct PLUS Loan, you may send documentation to Applicant Services explaining your situation. You must explain in detail the extenuating circumstances that you believe mitigate the adverse credit information in your credit record. If appropriate, include documentation to support your explanation.

Studentloans.gov recommends that you contact the school's financial aid office as soon as possible to let them know whether you plan to pursue a Direct PLUS Loan by obtaining an endorser or submitting documentation of extenuating circumstances.

**Q)** *If I am declined and decide to document extenuating circumstances (appeal), how long will this process take?*

A) Applicant Services will contact you. Once all documentation has been received, a determination will be made and provided to you within 7-10 business days.

**Q) How do I begin an appeal?**

A) If you believe there are extenuating circumstances related to the adverse credit information that should be considered in evaluating your eligibility for a Direct PLUS Loan, you may begin the appeal process in one of two ways:

1. Log in to <https://studentloans.gov> and select "Document Extenuating Circumstances" on the left navigation bar. Follow directions. Applicant Services will contact you with further instructions.
2. Contact Applicant Services between 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Applicant Services may be reached toll-free, at 1-800-557-7394. The hearing impaired toll-free TDD number is 1-877-461-7010.

**Q) Where can I get a copy of my credit report?**

A) You can visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228 to request one free credit report from each of the three authorized credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian and Transition in a 12 month period. **It is recommended that you review your credit before you start the application process for the GradPLUS loan.**

**Q) Does the school require entrance and exit interviews?**

A) Yes. Even if you have attended another institution, you are required to complete a new entrance and exit interview. Entrance interviews are held during your orientation, while exit interviews are scheduled approximately a month prior to your graduation. If you have additional specific questions, you can always make an appointment to see a counselor.

**Q) Does Widener University School of Law have a Loan Repayment Assistance Program?**

A) Yes. We have a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for graduates that are within three years of their graduation. This program is directed at recent graduates who secure a position working for a non-profit organization that provides legal services that benefit the community, underrepresented groups, or indigent people. Information is provided to students after graduation.

**Q) How is my expected family contribution (EFC) calculated?**

A) When a student completes and submits the FAFSA a calculation is automatically done based on the information provided. Your expected family contribution is calculated as follows.

1. Student's Income (will include spouse if applicable) - Expenses & Allowances = Available Income
2. Student's Assets (will include spouse if applicable) - Asset Protection Allowance = Net Assets
3. (Available Income x Assessment Rate) + (Net Assets x Assessment Rate) = EFC

*Q) How, when, and where are financial aid funds disbursed?*

**A)** Financial aid cannot be disbursed until 7 days before the start of classes for any semester. All funds are disbursed to Widener University School of Law. If a credit balance exists after disbursement, the Bursar's Office will create an electronic refund check, which is generally available 10 – 14 days after the disbursement, but cannot be released before the first official day of classes. Please be aware that there will be a delay in processing and receipt of funds if your paperwork is not filed until August or later. Contact the Office of the Bursar for setting up direct deposit of refund checks.

It is recommended that students have access to emergency funds should their loan funds be delayed. While Widener University School of Law will wait for tuition to be paid, books will need to be purchased and rent will need to be paid. It makes for a less stressful first month if access to emergency funds is available.

*Q) If I do not need the full loan amount offered to me, do I have to borrow that amount?*

**A) No.** The Financial Aid Office always encourages students to only borrow what they need. If you have applied for more than you need, funds can be sent back to your lender at any time. Once your loan is processed, you will receive an email indicating that you have an electronic award agreement available for viewing. The loan amount processed will be indicated. You may request the reduction by making the adjustment on the award letter. At this time, you can reject all or part of your financial aid package.

*Q) How can I view my online award letter?*

**A)** You can view and/or print your online award letter from Widener's student portal Campus Cruiser. Campus Cruiser can be accessed by a tab on our website <http://law.widener.edu>. Log in to Campus Cruiser, select WebAdvisor and then scroll down on the left to Financial Aid, My Award Letter. Additional Information is available on our Public Office Page titled **Financial Aid-Law Center** (<http://law.widener.edu/LawFinAid>).

*Q) Do I need to print out my online award letter and return it to the Financial Aid Office?*

**A) No.** The only time that you need to return your award letter to our office is if you wish to reduce or reject an award.

*Q) What should I do if I have questions that are not answered in this section?*

**A)** Please contact your campus' Financial Aid Office via the information listed on the first page of this publication.

## Resource Links

The extent of scholarship and grant information available on the web is staggering. The addresses listed below are intended to serve as a starting point. These sites offer links to numerous financial aid and scholarship web pages. Any credible scholarship or grant will not require a down payment to guarantee the award. Be wary of organizations that charge a fee to conduct a scholarship search on your behalf.

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) Centralized service to request free annual credit reports

<https://studentloans.gov> Direct Loan Processing Site

<http://fafsa.ed.gov> Free Application for Federal Student Aid

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) Department of Education

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) Scholarship Search Engine

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) Princeton Review Information (will receive promotional materials from Sallie Mae)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com) College View Scholarship Search (will receive promotional materials from Sallie Mae)



# APPENDIX



## Widener University School of Law Endowed Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on-line in the Financial Aid section of <http://law.widener.edu>. **Applications must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office on or before March 24, 2014.** To be considered for need based awards, students must complete a FAFSA. Please note the Year/Division criteria for each scholarship references what your status will be in the 2014-2015 academic year.

***The Dean Alfred Avins Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a rising third year RD or ED student from each campus with the highest combined GPA in Constitutional Law I and II. (*no application needed*)

***The Bank of America Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to an economically disadvantaged resident of Wilmington, Delaware. If a student cannot be found who is a resident of Wilmington, the scholarship may be awarded to an economically disadvantaged student from the state of Delaware.

***The Howard M. Berg Scholarship:*** Available to full-time Delaware campus law students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, character and service to the law school.

***George C. Blissman Scholarship:*** Available to Harrisburg campus law students specializing in or having an interest in the field of tax law.

***The Chadwick Scholarship:*** Awarded to 2RD, 3RD, 2ED, 3ED, and 4ED who are grew up in and are current residents of Delaware County, PA. These scholarships are made available through the generosity of the Delaware County Bar Association from its E. Wallace Chadwick Memorial Fund. Selection is based on academic achievement, school and community service and financial need. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Harvey Alan Chernoff Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a Delaware campus student who excels in Constitutional Law, demonstrates financial need, maintains an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, and demonstrates an interest in the pursuit of *pro-bono* representation service.

***The Esther F. Clark Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to a student attending the DE campus with highest combined average in Evidence and Criminal Procedure. (*no application needed*)

***The Honorable James C. Crumlish Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to an incoming Harrisburg law student based on a combination of academic merit, financial need and potential for service to the community. This award is established and sponsored by the Franklin Homeowners Insurance Company. (*no application needed*)

***The Honorable Joseph W. De Furia Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a 3RD or 4ED student on the Delaware campus. Selection is based on academic achievement, service to the Law School and demonstrated effectiveness in dealing with people.

***The Delaware Association of Lawyers' Spouses Scholarship:*** Available to 2RD, 2ED, 3RD, 3ED and 4ED students. Selection is based on an overall GPA equal to or greater than a 2.3 and a demonstrated contribution of law-related service to the Delaware community. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Edmund Domrowolski Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to a Harrisburg campus student entering his or her 2<sup>nd</sup> year that has demonstrated a commitment to public service and has financial need.

***The Honorable William Duffy Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD and 4ED Delaware campus students. Selection is based on financial need and academic merit, with eligible students holding a minimum 2.75 GPA. Preference is to be given to a student who works or volunteers in one of the Widener University School of Law clinics, or is currently active as a volunteer in a community service or nonprofit organization. Current and previous recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship each year.

***The Nancy and Howard Finkelman Scholarship:*** Available to MARRIED 2ED, 3ED and 4ED students. Selection based on financial need and an overall CGPA of above 2.0-3.0. You must have successfully completed Evidence and at least one elective in Trial Advocacy. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Friends of Widener University School of Law Scholarship:*** Created by community leaders in Delaware, this merit scholarship is given to a resident of Delaware selected for admission to the School of Law. The award recognizes scholarly achievement in the attainment of the undergraduate degree. *(no application needed)*

***The Honey F. Golby Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD or 4ED Delaware campus students. Selection is based on financial need, school and community activities, and demonstrated scholastic achievement. The family and friends of the late Honey F. Golby, former Delaware Deputy Attorney General, established this scholarship in her honor.

***The Zelda Herrmann Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a female JD student attending the Delaware campus in their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, significant traits of leadership and is likely to make a substantial pro bono contribution as a practicing attorney. Students in the regular or extended division may apply.

***The Honorable Ned L. Hirsh Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2ED, 3ED or 4ED students. Selection based on financial need, an overall cumulative GPA of above 2.0-3.0, and an interest in pursuing a career in Civil Litigation. The scholarship was established in 1988 in tribute to Judge Hirsh, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, by friends and members of his family. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Pamela K. Karpouzis Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to an incoming student on the Harrisburg campus who entered the law school through the TAP program. Preference will be given to a female student entering the extended division. Award based on demonstrated academic performance in the TAP program. *(no application needed)*

***The Fairfax Leary, Jr. Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD or 4ED students with a demonstrated interest in Commercial Law. Selection is based on demonstration of interest in the areas of commercial law, commercial transactions, or banking and an overall GPA of 2.5. Established in 1990 by alumni and friends in honor of the School of Law=s Distinguished Professor Leary. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Paul Isaac Leiter Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to extended division students. Selection based on demonstrated financial need and ability to perform in the law school program. The scholarship was established in memory of former student, Paul Leiter, by his parents.

***The Thomas Lodge Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2RD or 2ED students who have demonstrated commitment to the delivery of public interest legal services as demonstrated through community activities and employment prior to and during law school.

***The George K. Miller Scholarship:*** Awarded annually to a JD student who has overcome a personal or academic challenge and persevered in their studies while attending Widener Law. Applicant must be a New Jersey resident entering their second year at the Delaware campus. See application for specific criteria and residency requirements.

***The Charles P. Mirarchi, Sr., Esq. Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to extended division students in good standing, perceived meritorious and exhibiting those special qualities which enable the student to work full-time while attending law school. This scholarship was established by the family and friends of the late Charles P. Mirarchi, Sr.. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Bruce M. & Elizabeth M. Monroe Intellectual Property Scholarship:*** Awarded to a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> year student who has demonstrated academic achievement in the following courses: Copyrights, Patent Law, Patent Practice and Unfair Trade Practices or similar future course offerings in intellectual property. (*no application needed*)

***The Angela and Victor Piccone Memorial Scholarship:*** Awarded to an incoming student from the Philadelphia area who has overcome difficulties in their life and/or in entrance into law school. (*no application needed*)

***The Dean Anthony J. Santoro Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD or 4ED students. Selection is based on high scholastic standing and demonstrated superior leadership abilities. Established by the faculty of the School of Law in 1989. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Alexander V. Sarcione, Jr. Endowed Scholarship:*** Available to a student enrolled in the extended division on the Delaware campus. Selection is based on financial need and academic merit, with eligible students holding a minimum 3.00 GPA. Current and previous recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship each year.

***The William I. Schaffer Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 3RD, 4ED students. Selection is based on scholastic achievement and a student who is completing his/her entire legal education at Widener Law School. The scholarship was established in 1982 in tribute to William I. Schaffer, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, by members of his family. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Taishoff Family Endowed Scholarship:*** Awarded to an incoming student on the Delaware campus with an outstanding academic record. The student shall demonstrate a commitment to public service through prior employment or volunteer activities, with a priority given to those honorably discharged from military service. *(no application needed)*

***The John C. Warrington Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to a student who demonstrates financial need and who is fully matriculated. Established in 1992 by his family, classmates and friends. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

***The Bernard S. Wildstein Memorial Scholarship:*** Available to 2RD, 2ED, 3RD, 3ED and 4ED students. Selection based on academic achievement and service to the community. Open to Widener University School of Law students attending either campus.

## Widener University School of Law Guide to Outside Scholarship Opportunities

In order to assist our students in the pursuit of outside sources of funding, the Financial Aid Office has researched and made available on our website information regarding more than 100 scholarship opportunities offered by organizations other than Widener University. These organizations offer scholarships, grants or low-interest loans to students who meet specific criteria determined by each organization. The criteria may vary from requiring residency of a certain state and attending law school, to having a disability, or having been born into a specific ethnic background. Students are encouraged to consider applying for these scholarships, if they meet the criteria, to supplement other financial aid available. Please use this information as a starting point for your search for additional funding.

Access to the scholarship information is password protected and only available to Widener University School of Law current students and accepted applicants. The instructions to access the file are below. Please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office at [lawfinaidde@mail.widener.edu](mailto:lawfinaidde@mail.widener.edu) or [lawfinaidhb@mail.widener.edu](mailto:lawfinaidhb@mail.widener.edu) if you have any questions or difficulties accessing the file.

### HOW TO ACCESS THE OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE FILE:

1. Go to <http://law.widener.edu/>
2. Select Admissions
3. Select Costs and Financial Aid
4. Select Types of Aid
5. Select Scholarships
6. Select Outside Scholarships
7. You will be prompted for the user name and password.

**User Name: lawmoney**  
**Password: widener**

The scholarships are categorized as the following:

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ❖ Pink highlighted scholarships   | Pennsylvania residents            |
| ❖ Orange highlighted scholarships | Non-Pennsylvania residents        |
| ❖ Yellow highlighted scholarships | General scholarships              |
| ❖ Green highlighted scholarships  | Diversity scholarships            |
| ❖ Blue highlighted scholarships   | Specialized scholarships & awards |

### **Reservation of Rights**

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, Widener University School of Law expressly reserves the right, whenever it deems advisable, to modify or cancel any policy or program described or implied in this publication.

### **Policy of Non-Discrimination**

Widener University School of Law does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, handicap, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital status, or parental status in the administration of any of its financial aid programs