



The Richard Linn American Inn of Court Mark T. Banner Scholarship Application Form

The Richard Linn American Inn of Court is proud to offer the Mark T. Banner Scholarship. This scholarship is part of The Richard Linn American Inn of Court's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers of high ethics, civility, and professionalism, and especially those from diverse backgrounds.

Eligibility

Law students who are enrolled in a JD program at an ABA-accredited law school in the United States and who will continue in that program through the Fall semester 2025 are eligible to apply for the Mark T. Banner Scholarship.

Selection Criteria

Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Mark T. Banner Scholarship review board based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to the pursuit of a career in IP law. An ability to demonstrate commitment to the pursuit of a career in IP law is an essential requirement;
- Commitment, qualities and actions toward ethics, civility, and professionalism;
- Academic merit (undergraduate, graduate and law school);
- Written and oral communication skills determined in part through a telephone interview for finalists;
- Leadership qualities and community involvement; and
- Member of a historically underrepresented group in IP law (including race, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability). The applicant should discuss how diversity has impacted their pursuit of a career in IP law and how the applicant has faced and overcome the challenges associated therewith. Diversity is considered but is one element among several in the award decision.

Financial Award

The recipient of the Mark T. Banner Scholarship will receive \$10,000 payable for their/her/his Fall 2025 semester of law school.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted from now through 11:59 p.m. (CST) on December 6, 2024. The winner will be notified by April 2025, and the award will be announced at the Linn Inn of Court's annual dinner in Summer 2025. Applicants should submit the following documents **as a single PDF** format file for consideration:

- Completed Mark T. Banner Scholarship Application Form (this form);
- Resume;
- Academic transcripts (law school, undergraduate/graduate school);
- Three-page (maximum) statement describing (a) how ethics, civility and professionalism have been a focus of the candidate; (b) how diversity has impacted the candidate; and (c) the candidate's commitment to the pursuit of a career in IP law; and
- Contact information for three references (this form).

Finalists for the scholarship will be interviewed in late Winter 2024 /Spring 2025.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Law School: _____

Year of Graduation (expected): _____

Law School GPA/Class Rank: _____

Undergraduate University and Degree: _____

Undergraduate GPA/Class Rank: _____

Evidence of Commitment to IP: _____

Please briefly explain under what historically under-represented category in IP law, if any, you fall within (e.g., race, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, etc.):

REFERENCE 1: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

REFERENCE 2: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

REFERENCE 3: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Electronic or Original Signature of Applicant¹

Application materials, formatted as a single PDF file,
should be submitted by e-mail to:

Mark T. Banner Scholarship
c/o The Richard Linn American Inn of Court
marktannerscholarship@linninn.org

Please include "Banner Scholarship" in the Subject of all emails to the Inn.

Please visit www.linninn.org for more information about Mark T. Banner and
The Richard Linn American Inn of Court.

¹ The applicant represents by the applicant's signature that the applicant understands that (a) selections for scholarships by the Inn are final and not subject to review by the American Inns of Court Foundation, (b) all materials submitted by applicants shall become the property of the Linn Inn, for disposal or to be retained as the Linn Inn sees fit, and (c) awards of scholarships shall include Inn press releases, may reveal information about the applicant from the application process, and may become known to the applicants' fellow students, law school faculty and administration, family, friends and others.

Origins of the Mark T. Banner Scholarship



The Richard Linn Inn is a labor of love. The engagement of Inn members in the activities of the Inn gains them not prestige, time, or money, but joys and opportunities. Mark T. Banner, a founding Master of the Inn, passed on in the Inn's formative first year, before we had the chance to enjoy his contributions to the Inn at any length. The Inn names its scholarship and awards the scholarship to those who deserve to receive it in the name of Mark T. Banner, however, for many reasons - in honor of his passion in the practice, to accelerate more "Marks" into our field, to help fill the hole his absence leaves behind, and to remind us all, donors and recipients, of not only the tasks of gaining civility, ethics and professionalism in ourselves and others, but also the joys and the opportunity the Linn Inn scholarship surely provides.

The son of a Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, and the youngest in a family of lawyers including four IP lawyers, Mark T. Banner channeled into his IP legal practice all the wit, intellect and passion of an experienced, savvy, fun-loving family who argued IP law at the dinner table. Mark loved life and was a born litigator, with an uncanny ability to phrase memorable, compelling arguments in words of life's experiences, and that drove home key points from complicated legal and factual patterns. He applied his gifts in litigating tirelessly, but also in educating nationally. Once a Chicago Transit Authority bus driver, he taught Patent Trial Advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center using images of buses on city streets, and the message that for best litigators, "All Roads Lead To Trial."



Mark wowed juries. He had a presence at an appellate podium the bench called "astounding." He rose in heated ABA debates to rooms that would quiet because his insightful views would be memorably phrased. His abilities as a teacher were called a "privilege" to experience.

His purposes in teaching lawyers who in the future would compete with him, rather than just devoting himself completely to handling a first-level litigation practice, committing full-tilt to leading high level ABA activities, and always having time for friends, family, and a Rob Roy, he best described himself:

This is a labor of love. ... It has to be. As any adjunct professor of law today knows, teaching ... while engaged in a full-time law practice in today's environment is not something that earns one more prestige with your peers, more time with your family, or more money. What it does earn is the sheer joy of helping younger and eager students progress in their professional development. ... We are grateful for the opportunity ... and most of all to meet and work with the many young professionals who make this labor of love so rewarding.

The teaching of civility, ethics and professionalism that occurs within the Inn is a matter of Mark's labor of love, and naming our Inn scholarship for Mark, we remind ourselves and recipients of the "sheer joy" of right thinkers in "helping younger and eager students progress in their professional development" and "the opportunity" it surely is "to meet and work with the many young professionals who make this labor of love so rewarding."