

## SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

The study of law is a demanding pursuit. All too often, merit scholarship programs simply exacerbate the pressure to succeed that many law students already feel. We, at Brooklyn Law School, are sensitive to this stress. Although we are not in a position to free students entirely from the fear of losing their merit scholarships, the scholarship renewal standard we have established is quite liberal and should provide some peace of mind.

Initial merit scholarships are renewable **in full** for each subsequent year of enrollment, provided that you maintain a cumulative academic rank within the **upper 80%** of your graduating class (all full-time and part-time students with a common anticipated graduation date) at the end of each spring semester.

If you fall below the upper 80% of your graduating class at the end of the first year, but improve in your second year to finish the year with a cumulative rank in the upper 80%, your scholarships will be restored to the full amount you received in your first year.

*Note to Part-time Students:* For purposes of determining which first year part-time students will be eligible to retain their scholarships for the second year, these students will be merged with all first year full-time students at the end of the spring semester of the first year to establish an academic rank order of the entire class. To determine scholarship retention for the third and fourth years of enrollment, upperclass part-time students will be merged with all full-time and part-time students who have a common anticipated graduation date at the end of each spring semester.

While we feel that this minimum academic rank requirement is generous, it nevertheless is exact. Rounding a rank that is different in any amount from the required renewal rank cut-off is not permissible for scholarship renewal.

Grades earned in the summer session between the last completed spring semester and the upcoming fall semester are not considered in determining academic rank eligibility for scholarship renewal. Furthermore, changes in rank that occur in the summer as a result of student attrition between the end of a spring semester and the start of the next fall semester are not considered for scholarship renewal.

Be advised, moreover, that Brooklyn Law School's enrollment prediction models only provide an approximate count of the scholarship awardees who will enroll. Normally, there is considerable fluctuation in this count in late spring and early summer as students finalize their law school plans. Thus, we never know the exact count of entering merit scholars until the first day of the fall semester. In most years, the final count of first-year merit scholars is fairly close to our enrollment goal. However, for reasons beyond the School's control, there have been years in which substantially more prospective students accepted our scholarships than our enrollment models predicted. Given this uncertainty, it is possible in any year that the number of merit scholars enrolling could exceed the maximum number for whom it is mathematically possible to renew their scholarship for the second year.

## **Past Performance**

For the 2009, 2010 and 2011 entering classes, recipients of major merit scholarships, as a percentage of all first-year students, amounted to 46.8%, 70.8% and 58.0%, respectively.

For the 2008, 2009 and 2010 entering classes combined, there were a total of 806 first-year merit scholarship students. Of this group, 688 of them, or 85.4%, ranked in the upper 80% of their anticipated graduating class at the end of the first year.

Of those 688 students who finished the first year ranked in the upper 80% of their class, 665 of them, or 96.7%, maintained their rank in the upper 80% at the end of the second year.

For the students who entered in 2010, the law school GPA cut-off at the end of the first year was 2.912 for the upper 80% of the class.

## **Reward for Extraordinary Achievement**

Although students only need to maintain a cumulative rank that places them within the upper 80% of their class at the end of each spring semester to renew the full amount of their original scholarships, Brooklyn Law School rewards merit scholars who perform substantially better than the upper 80%.

Specifically, students who entered the Law School with a Carswell, Richardson, or Lisle Scholarship and who rank in the **upper 2%** of their class at the end of the spring semester of their first year will be upgraded to receive a Prince Scholarship for their second year. Students who entered with either a Richardson or Lisle Scholarship and who rank in the **upper 5%** of their class at the end of the spring semester of their first year will be upgraded to receive a Carswell Scholarship for their second year. Students who entered with a Lisle Scholarship and who rank in the **upper 10%** of their class at the end of the spring semester of their first year will be upgraded to receive a Richardson Scholarship for their second year. No other upgrades are permissible. No rounding of a rank is permissible.

In the event that a student who is awarded an upgraded scholarship completes the second year with a cumulative rank that falls below the minimum required for the renewal of that upgraded amount or any other upgraded amount, the student's scholarship for the next year will be renewed at the original amount received in the first year of enrollment, as long as a cumulative rank of at least the upper 80% has been maintained.