

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STRAKER BAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES APPLICATION
DEADLINE FOR THE HARRY J. PEARCE
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SCHOLARSHIP**

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN – March 5, 2019 - The D. Augustus Straker Bar Foundation, Inc., announced today that the application deadline for its annual Harry J. Pearce Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship is **Monday, April 8, 2019**. The Straker Foundation awards scholarships to minority students seeking financial assistance in the pursuit of a degree in law. The Foundation will award one scholarship at the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association’s Corporate Counsel Breakfast, on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the Skyline Club in Southfield, MI.

On May 16, 1989, Harry J. Pearce, former general counsel of General Motors (“GM”), authored a letter to GM’s outside counsel requesting that diverse lawyers be utilized on GM’s legal matters. At the 2017 Corporate Counsel Breakfast, the Straker Bar Association honored Mr. Pearce for his efforts and recognizing the “butterfly effect” his letter had amongst other general counsels and law firms. Mr. Pearce recognized D. Augustus Straker and the Association for its efforts to reinforce the principle that the legal profession benefits from diverse lawyers and presented a substantial gift to the Straker Bar Foundation. The gift has endowed the Harry J. Pearce Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship. The Foundation will award one scholarship to a student of color who is in their third (or final) year of law school. The successful applicant must clearly articulate their vision for advancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

To qualify for the Straker Scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an ABA certified law school program, be a student member of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, and in their third (or final) year of law school in 2018-2019 school year. An application form should be completed and submitted via email to strakerlawba@gmail.com no later than **Monday, April 8, 2019**. Students may contact their respective Law School Deans of Student Services or go to the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association’s website at <http://www.strakerlaw.org> to download an application.

Successful applicants must: (1) demonstrate scholarly dedication, (2) be involved in school and community activities, and (3) clearly articulate their vision for promoting legal practice opportunities for people of color and to facilitate equal justice, while describing an action of Harry J. Pierce that inspired them, in a written essay of two pages.

The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association was formed on October 4, 1990, as a special purpose bar association recognized by the State Bar of Michigan. It was founded as a proactive organization of African-American attorneys with the mission of promoting legal practice opportunities for people of color and to facilitate equal justice for all citizens. Membership includes a diverse coalition of lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals. The D. Augustus Straker Bar Foundation is a non-profit corporation established for charitable and jurisprudential purposes and to provide a source of educational scholarships.

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D. AUGUSTUS STRAKER BAR FOUNDATION, INC.
HARRY J. PEARCE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SCHOLARSHIP
Law Student Application

Please complete the following information. Your completed application must be received no later than Monday, April 8, 2019 to stakerlawba@gmail.com.

Name:	
Address:	
Secondary Address*:	
[*Also include a secondary address and telephone number where you may be contacted if necessary]	
Telephone Number(s):	Email Address:
Home:	Primary:
School:	Alternate:
Mobile:	
Law School:	G.P.A. or Class Rank:

Only students in their third (or final) year in the 2018-2019 school year are eligible to apply. Your application should be accompanied by your resume (including school and community activities). Your application will be judged on its quality and content. **No additional writing samples will be considered.**

The Scholarship winner will be notified by Friday, April 19, 2019, and the scholarship will be awarded Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the Skyline Club in Southfield, MI during the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association's Corporate Counsel Breakfast.

Applicant's Signature

Date