

THE OSCAR W. RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**AWARDED BY
THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
OF NEW JERSEY SCHOLARSHIPS 501(c)(3)**



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GENERAL INFORMATION

The County Prosecutor's Association of New Jersey Foundation Scholarships 501(c)(3) is a non-profit corporation which annually awards scholarships to law students and college and graduate students.

Each scholarship is a one-year grant in the amount of \$3,500 paid directly to the recipient. Persons may not reapply for succeeding years.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission to a law school. The applicant must have an interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need.

Applications must be postmarked or emailed by July 17, 2026. Personal interviews of finalists will be conducted. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision in August 2026. Please use the following link to download a copy of the application:

<https://ocponj.gov/cpanjscholarshipapp/>.

Applications should be sent to:
OSCAR W. RITTENHOUSE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
c/o Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
119 Hooper Avenue
P. O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191

OR

Emailed to:
nmoncrief@co.ocean.nj.us

Oscar W. Rittenhouse (1930-1979)

Oscar W. Rittenhouse, known to his friends and colleagues as Bill, was a remarkable man; a prosecutor with a deep commitment to fair play and justice for all; a dedicated and sensitive community leader; and a warm and caring human being.

Bill Rittenhouse was born June 4, 1930 in Somerville, New Jersey. His family lineage was among the oldest in Hunterdon County, tracing back to pre-revolutionary days. He began his education in the local school system in Clinton, New Jersey and after graduation from Clinton High School received his B.S. at Cornell University and L.L.B. at Harvard Law School. His education was interrupted by service as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army in Korea from 1953 until 1955 when he was discharged with the rank of Captain.

He entered the private practice of law in Hunterdon County in 1959 and continued therein until 1975. During that period, he served as an attorney for numerous municipalities and municipal boards. In 1966, he was selected as Hunterdon County delegate to the New Jersey Constitutional Convention. Bill's other contributions to his community included membership on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Hunterdon Medical Center and the Board of Trustees of the Grandin Library and service as an Elder in the Clinton Presbyterian Church.

He was initially appointed as Prosecutor of Hunterdon County in 1968 by Governor Richard Hughes. At that time, the position was part time. He served in that capacity until 1973 when he once again returned to devote full time to his private practice.

In 1975, he was selected by Governor Brendan Bryne to become Hunterdon County's first full-time Prosecutor and served in that position with distinction. He was chosen by his peers as President of the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey to serve from 1978-1979. In 1979, he was requested by the National District Attorneys Association to head a presentation on juvenile delinquency prevention at its mid-winter meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. It was following that presentation en route home, that he met an untimely death in a tragic airplane accident.

His life, cut short at age 48, was an inspiration for those who knew him. To share some of that experience with others, his friends and colleagues have established this scholarship in his memory.

II. Applicant's Educational Background (Circle School for which Scholarship Application is submitted and attach proof of acceptance or attendance)

A. Secondary: _____
Name and Address of High School

B. Undergraduate: _____
Name and Address of College/University

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

C. Graduate: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

D. Law School: _____
Name and Address of Institution

Anticipated Year of Graduation **Degree**

Major Field of Study **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

III. Financial Information (Provide Figures Pertaining to the Academic Year for which Scholarship Application is Submitted)

A. Estimated Cost of Education, including Tuition, Room & Board and books.

B. Applicant's Current Yearly Salary: _____

C. Spouse's Current Yearly Salary: _____

D. All Other Sources of Income or Support, including parental: _____

E. All Other Grants, Financial Aid and Scholarships: _____

F. State any Other Information Relevant to Applicant's Financial Need: _____

IV. Special Honors or Prizes

Specify any special recognitions, honors or prizes which you have achieved including academic work, the arts, athletics, and community service.

V. Resume & Personal Statement

Attach to and submit with your Application a copy of your Resume and a typed Statement of your educational and career objectives. Your statement should describe your interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor.

Date Completed ____/____/2025

Applicant's Signature