

# Founders Scholarship

## TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

**Description:** Three scholarships in honor of founding members Martin Allen, Bob Wessels and longtime TACA supporter Trisha Hall were established in 1996 to commemorate TACA's 20th anniversary. Founders Scholarships shall be used to attend the TACA Annual Education Conference. TACA will waive the conference registration fee. The TACA Treasurer will reimburse the scholarship recipient for travel, meals and lodging associated with the conference according to the Travel Policy up to an amount not to exceed \$750.

### **Eligibility:**

1. Scholarships established and funded by the Texas Association for Court Administration, or a court related entity, are available to members of TACA in good standing. "Good standing" is defined as a member who is current in the payment of annual membership dues and an employee of the judiciary as defined in the by-laws of the association. Additional eligibility requirements may be outlined in the individual scholarships.
2. Only one scholarship per applicant shall be awarded annually. A recipient may only receive the individual scholarship once, with the exception of the Goodwill Scholarships.
3. Representation of need shall be made on an annual basis and shall not be automatic consideration of subsequent annual scholarship awards.
4. Phase completion of an approved education program (i.e. ICM), may be a deciding factor in the award of a subsequent annual scholarship award, in order to complete a program.
5. Unless good cause is shown, once an applicant has fulfilled all of the required phases of an approved program, the applicant is ineligible for any further scholarships, with the exception of the Goodwill Scholarship.

### **Application Process**

6. Applications for the Founders Scholarship should be submitted to the TACA Chair.
7. The deadline for applications for scholarship awards shall be May 1st of the current year.
8. All applications must be accompanied by an essay, of not less than 50 words, describing the applicant's contribution to TACA and the profession of court administration, the reason they desire the scholarship and their career goals.
9. All applications must be approved by the applicant's immediate supervising judge(s).
10. All application requests based on representation of need must be accompanied by a certification of unavailability of funds.
11. All applications must be signed by the applicant affirming his/her commitment to assist where needed in the professional development of court administration; and/or assist the association at the annual conference.
12. Applicants must certify attendance at the education program for which the scholarship was awarded. Certification may be in the form of a copy of a certificate of attendance; or a letter from the program's sponsor confirming the applicant's attendance; or a letter from the applicant's immediate supervising judge(s) confirming the applicant's attendance.
13. Applicants must sign a Commitment Contract with TACA, for a two (2) year personal commitment to serve on the Education Committee and/or any other committee as set forth in the by-laws of the association.

### **Distribution of Awards**

**TACA will waive the conference registration fee. The TACA Treasurer will reimburse the scholarship recipient for travel, meals and lodging associated with the conference according to the Travel Policy up to an amount not to exceed \$750. Reimbursement for this scholarship must be received by the TACA Treasurer within 90 days of the date the scholarship was presented to the recipient.** Scholarships reimbursement information not received within this time will be forfeited. Upon good cause, an extension of this period may be approved by the Board of Directors. A recipient leaving their position within court administration is no longer eligible to use the scholarship.

# Founders Scholarship

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

COURT/COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TACA MEMBER SINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ PDP YR COMPLETED: \_\_\_\_\_ IF NOT, YR EXPECTED: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER PROGRAMS: \_\_\_\_\_

**All applications must be accompanied by an essay, of not less than 50 words, describing the applicant's contribution to TACA and the profession of court administration, the reason they desire the scholarship and their career goals.**

Upon receiving a TACA scholarship, I understand a Commitment Contract will be executed between TACA and me. Part of my commitment is to assist where needed in the professional development of court administration and/or assist the association at the Annual Education Conference. The funds provided by this scholarship are necessary for me to comply with Government Code 74.106 (a), and/or to enhance my professional education by attending an approved educational program as set forth in the Scholarship Guidelines. My county will not pay these expenses or will only pay part of them. I understand that this scholarship is no longer valid if I leave court administration prior to utilizing this scholarship.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this application to:**  
**Wendi S. Pearson, TACA Chair**  
**Taylor County**  
**300 Oak Street, Suite 404**  
**Abilene, TX 79602**  
[pearsonw@taylorcountytexas.org](mailto:pearsonw@taylorcountytexas.org)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:**  
**May 1, 2018**