



OPA CERTIFICATION SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

OPA is offering two Certification Scholarships for the 2017/2018 fiscal year– 1 for PACE® and 1 for PCCE™. The application deadline is August 31st and the winning scholarships will be awarded at OPA's annual Convention in November. Don't miss this opportunity – apply today!

Each of the scholarships includes funds to cover:

The Exam Application Fees*;
Choice of one of the two Online Review Study Courses**; and
The Study Manual***

*The candidate will be reimbursed by OPA for the costs associated with the above. For the costs of the exam, OPA will provide half of the reimbursement after proof of payment for the exam and the second half upon proof of taking the exam (passing the exam is not a requirement for reimbursement).

**Recipient may choose between either the API online review course or the PEG online review course for the chosen exam, but no remaining scholarship funds will be issued if the recipient chooses the cheaper online review course option.

***In the event that the recipient of the scholarship has already purchased the study manual, in lieu of the manual, the scholarship funds may be used to cover the cost of the Practice Exam offered through NFPA.

To be eligible to apply for either scholarship, you must:

- 1) Be a current Member of OPA;
- 2) Renew your Member status for one year after being awarded the scholarship;
- 3) Use the scholarship funds and take the exam no later than April 30, 2018***;
- 4) Meet the education/experience requirements to be eligible to sit for the exam;
- 5) Agree to either:

Write an article for OPA's Paragram describing the experience studying for and taking the exam or describing how winning the scholarship and/or achieving your certification has impacted your professional career within six months of taking the exam;

OR

Agree to assist the current Certification Ambassador in facilitating the next Certification Workshop held in February.

***Applicant may request one three OR six month extension from the OPA Board, if extenuating circumstances arise.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by OPA's Certification Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee. Finalists will be notified by September 30th, in time to make arrangements to attend the OPA Annual Convention where the winning scholarships will be awarded.

Questions about the scholarships or the application process should be submitted to OPA's Certification Ambassador, Linda Odermott, RP® at ldsoermott@gmail.com.



2017/2018 CERTIFICATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current OPA member? Yes _____ No _____ How many years have you been a member? _____

I have participated in OPA events by: _____

AGREEMENT**

I agree to continue my membership in OPA for the next year: Yes _____ No _____

I have reviewed the eligibility requirements for the exams and I believe that I am eligible to sit for:

PACE® _____ PCCE™ _____

If I receive a Scholarship, I agree to take the exam no later than April 30, 2018* Yes _____ No _____

If I receive a Scholarship, I agree to write one article for the Paragram within six months of taking the exam OR to assist the current Certification Ambassador in facilitating the next Certification Workshop held in February:

Yes _____ No _____

[*One three or six month extension may be requested from the OPA Board prior to the six month exam deadline, should extenuating circumstances arise.**If recipient fails to renew their membership for one year, or fails to take the exam within the six month deadline (and does not request an extension), or fails to provide a Paragram article/assist with the Certification Workshop, the scholarship recipient forfeits any scholarship benefits and may be required to reimburse OPA any funds that have been dispersed on their behalf.]

STATEMENT

In 500 words or less, discuss one of the following topics and include as an attachment to your application:

How you believe passing the PACE® or PCCE™ exam and obtaining the RP® or the CRP™ designation will impact your professional career;

OR

How voluntary certification helps to promote the ethical and professional standards of the paralegal profession.

I hereby declare that all information included in this entry is factual and accurate Yes _____ No _____

Signature of Candidate

Date

**INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH YOUR STATEMENT AND MAIL TO
OPA BY THE AUGUST 31ST DEADLINE**

OPA - Attn. Certification Scholarship Review Committee
PO Box 28264



Portland, OR 97228