



Karen Pedersen Stevens Scholarship Application

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOLARSHIP: In 2008, Women Lawyers of Sacramento (“WLS”) established a memorial scholarship in honor of Karen Pedersen Stevens. A passionate advocate for women’s rights, Karen Pedersen Stevens began her successful career and journey soon after graduating from Vassar College in 1966. While working at the State Capitol, she was instrumental in helping the Senate Judiciary Committee draft California’s “no-fault” divorce law. In 1973, she graduated from McGeorge School of Law, and immediately began her involvement in promoting women in the profession. Karen Pedersen Stevens was a founding member of California Women Lawyers, and she later served as a president of Women Lawyers of Sacramento. Her service and dedication to the legal community included her participation on the Attorney General’s Women’s Rights Task Force, State Bar’s Board of Governors, California Young Lawyers’ Board of Governors, and UOP McGeorge School of Law Board of Directors. Karen Stevens was also active in local bar activities, serving on the Judiciary Committee and as a Sacramento County Bar Association (SCBA) board member and officer. She resigned from her position as First Vice President on SCBA’s board of directors to concentrate on fighting her brief, but courageous, battle with pancreatic cancer. In 2007, SCBA selected Karen Stevens as the posthumous recipient of the Distinguished Attorney of the Year Award.

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP: Up to \$2,000

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: March 31, 2025

CRITERIA*: This scholarship will be awarded to a financially needy student who is currently a first or second year law student (or third year in a four-year program). The successful candidate will have an interest in pursuing a legal career in family law and/or has assisted women and/or children (i.e. dissolution process, adoptions, etc.). Special consideration will be given to individuals who have a desire to start their own family law practice.

APPLICATION: Please complete the fillable PDF form and e-mail it to WLS Grants and Awards Committee at wlsgrantsandawards@gmail.com, with a copy of your current resume by the submission deadline.

ATTACHMENTS: Please make sure that your last name and the scholarship name are included in the names of any attachments. Note that applicants may apply for multiple scholarships, but must submit a separate application for each.

Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____	Email: _____	
Law School: _____	Law School Year: _____	

**Please note the following change to the eligibility guidelines:*

To be eligible for consideration in 2025, students must not have been awarded the same scholarship in 2024. But students who received an award for one of the five scholarships offered by WLS in 2024 may still apply to the other four scholarships offered by WLS in 2025.

List and describe affiliations with past and present organizations:

Describe how you meet the criteria for the scholarship:

