

New scholarship will provide assistance for a single-parent, female law student

A new scholarship opportunity is available for single-parent, female law students. Starting in September, the Kansas Bar Foundation (KBF) will accept applications for the Equal Justice Scholarship. It is being offered along with eleven other KBF scholarships. The Equal Justice Scholarship will provide one student from the University of Kansas School of Law or Washburn University School of Law with assistance in paying tuition or other costs associated with attending law school.

The Equal Justice Scholarship was established by Katherine L. “Kathy” Kirk, an attorney with the Law Offices of Jerry K. Levy PA in Lawrence. Prior to being in small firm practice focusing on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), personal injury, professional negligence, and family law, she served as the first ADR coordinator for the Kansas Supreme Court.

Kirk has been an active member of the Kansas Bar Association and the Kansas Bar Foundation. She served as president of the Kansas Bar Foundation during 2013-14 and chair of the KBF Scholarship Committee from 2014-2017.

During her term as KBF president in 2013, Kirk started making plans to establish a scholarship that would assist a single, female parent. After a career in public education, Kirk became a student herself. She attended Washburn University School of Law and recalls the experience of trying to juggle being a mother and a student.

“Shortly after entering law school, I was facing divorce and the care of three school age children. Several things really boosted my morale and energy. I was given the chance to be a research assistant. Then, I was honored to receive a scholarship from the women’s law student association. Both things came at times when it meant I could provide extras for my children,” Kirk explained.

Volunteer and community service are important to Kirk. In 2008, she traveled to Jordan for a three-month stay to train judges, lawyers, and other professionals in civil mediation. As part of the ABA’s Rule of Law Initiative, Kirk was selected for this volunteer project that provided assistance in establishing rules and regulations for the mediation process. One of the requirements for the Equal Justice Scholarship is that the student is active in community and or law school activities. Kirk stated that service to others provides numerous benefits.

“I grew up in a community and household where volunteerism was expected; it was a normal part of life. I have found throughout life that service to others not only enhances and expands my life, it brings great joy. No matter what I have faced that caused stress in my life, reaching out to others has never failed to

provide a new perspective. “

Individuals or organizations can contribute to the scholarship fund by contacting Anne Woods at 785-861-8838 or at awoods@ksbar.org. Donations can also be made at <https://www.ksbar.org/donations/> and then selecting the Equal Justice Scholarship option.

A complete listing of KBA scholarship opportunities can be found at <https://www.ksbar.org/scholarships>. The deadline to submit an application is October 26.