



## **M. Katherine Baird Darmer Equality Scholarship 2026 Application**

The M. Katherine Baird Darmer Equality Scholarship Fund was named in memory of the late M. Katherine Baird Darmer, an activist, law professor, and champion of change for the LGBTQIA+ community in Orange County and beyond. The Fund, which is sponsored by the Orange County Lavender Bar Association Foundation (OCLBA Foundation), will award one or more scholarships of up to \$5,000 each calendar year to an academically qualified law student who has demonstrated commitment to advancing equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex community in Orange County. Determinations regarding the amount and number of awards are at the sole discretion of the scholarship committee appointed by the OCLBA Foundation.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be considered for the Darmer Equality Scholarship, an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a current or incoming law student.
- Demonstrate commitment to advancing equality for the LGBTQ+ community in Orange County.
- Be available, if requested, to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee.
- Able to attend OCLBA's Anniversary Party on July 22, 2026 to Accept Scholarship.

### **REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Please read through all of the materials provided before contacting us with questions. Questions may be emailed to [info@oclba.org](mailto:info@oclba.org). No phone calls please.

All applicants must submit the following materials to be considered:

- Completed application form.** You must use the attached application form. Please answer every question. If a question does not apply to you, write "N/A".
- Personal statement** (typed, 1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins). Please address the following topics in your statement:
  - Describe what role you have played in advancing equality for the LGBTQ+ community.
  - Discuss what motivated you to go to law school.
- Two (2) short essays** (typed, combined 3 page maximum, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins).
  - Essay #1: Describe the differences and similarities, as you see them, between the LGBTQ+ equality movement in Orange County and in other parts of California and the country.
  - Essay #2: Describe one compelling issue facing the LGBTQ+ community today and the role that law students and attorneys should play in addressing it.



- Transcripts for all colleges and law schools attended.** Photocopies of official transcripts and online print-outs of grade reports which include your GPA may be used.
- Résumé**, which details your complete work and community service history.
- The names, phone numbers, and email addresses of **two (2) references** that the scholarship committee may contact as part of its review of your application. The references should be familiar with your academic and/or LGBTQ+ advocacy work (no family members or friends).

**All required materials must be submitted in a single email no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2026.** Please e-mail your materials in Word format or PDF to [info@oclba.org](mailto:info@oclba.org). Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

**Optional Application Materials — Letters of Recommendation**

All applicants are strongly encouraged (but not required) to submit **no more than two (2) letters of recommendation**. The authors should be familiar with your academic and/or LGBTQ+ advocacy work (no family members or friends) and the letters should be specific as to the author’s knowledge of your strengths and abilities and explain why the author is recommending you for the Darmer Equality Scholarship. These should be **emailed directly by the author to [info@oclba.org](mailto:info@oclba.org) no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2026.**

**TIMELINE**

Due to the volume of applicants, please do not inquire as to the status of your application. We also cannot provide feedback on applications declined for a scholarship.

<b>Deadline for Receiving Application Materials:</b>	<b>Friday, May 22, 2026</b>
<b>Notifications Made By:</b>	<b>Friday, June 5, 2026</b>
<b>Award Presented:</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 22, 2026</b>

***Notice to Applicant:*** *In the event that the applicant receives a scholarship award from the Darmer Equality Scholarship Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation, the applicant agrees to provide follow-up information as reasonably requested, including official transcripts and whether or not the applicant eventually earned her/his degree, and furthermore agrees to allow the Darmer Equality Scholarship Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation to use her/his name and eventual success in obtaining her/his degrees in brochures and other informational literature describing the Darmer Equality Scholarship Fund and the involvement of OCLBA, OCEC, donors, and the Foundation with the Darmer Equality Scholarship Fund.*



## M. Katherine Baird Darmer Equality Scholarship Application Form

Please type or print legibly in black or dark blue ink.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

2. Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

8. Marital / Relationship Status:  Never Married  Married  Partnered  
 Separated  Divorced  Widowed

9. Do you have any children?  No  
 Yes, their age(s) are: \_\_\_\_\_

10. I am a member of :  Orange County Lavender Bar Association  
 Orange County Equality Coalition

11. Describe your ties, if any, to Orange County and/or California.  
(Only use the space provided below)



**EDUCATION**

12. Please complete the following even if this information is included elsewhere in your materials. Attach an additional sheet, if necessary.

High Schools (Name and Complete Address)	Date(s) Attended	Diploma/GED (Y/N)	Date Awarded	Unweighed GPA	Weighed GPA

Undergraduate Colleges/Universities (Name and Complete Address)	Date(s) Attended	Degree Sought	Major	Cumulative GPA

Law School (Name and Complete Address)	Full Time/Part Time	Legal Area of Interest	Expected Graduation Date	Cumulative GPA

**TEST INFORMATION**

13. LSAT:

\_\_\_\_\_ Score  
Date taken/ To be taken

\_\_\_\_\_ Score  
Date taken/ To be taken



**COMMUNITY SERVICE, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, HONORS & AWARDS**

14. Please list no more than seven of your community service and extracurricular activities **in the order of their importance** to you. *(Only use the space provided below)*

Activity	To-From Dates Involved	Hours Per Week	Positions Held or Honors Won

15. Briefly describe any academic honors and awards earned during college or law school (if already enrolled).  
*(Only use the space provided below)*



**CERTIFICATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, under penalty of perjury, certify that the foregoing is true and correct. I will promptly inform the scholarship committee, in writing, if there is any change in the facts provided in this application or any change in my plans for school, including changing schools, and any change in legal status. I understand that my award may be adjusted accordingly. I understand that providing false, misleading or incomplete information will be the basis for denial or revocation of scholarship funds. I further agree to follow all terms and conditions stated in the cover letter and application for the Darmer Equality Scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Parent (if applicant is under 18)**

**CHECKLIST:**

- Application – completed and signed
- Personal statement
- Two (2) short essays
- Transcripts for all colleges and law schools attended
- Résumé
- Contact information for two (2) references
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (*optional*)

**All application materials must be sent by email to [info@oclba.org](mailto:info@oclba.org) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026.**