

The Claudine Ruiz Scholarship Application

Awarded by
The San Diego Deputy District Attorneys Foundation (SDDDAF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit



About the Claudine Ruiz Scholarship

When she died in 2014, Claudine Ruiz had been working as a Deputy District Attorney in the San Diego County District Attorney's Office for 14 years. Ms. Ruiz overcame many obstacles on her way to becoming an outstanding and dedicated trial lawyer. She earned an undergraduate degree (BA) in international studies from American University in Washington, D.C. in 1994; a law degree (JD) from the University of San Diego in 2000; and, while carrying a full case load as a prosecutor, a masters in law degree (LLM) from Chapman University in 2010.

Ms. Ruiz was best known for her tireless work in the District Attorney's Family Protection Division. She successfully handled several high-profile cases with integrity and grace. For her accomplishments, the San Diego District Attorneys Association awarded Ms. Ruiz an Outstanding Achievement Award, and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors recognized her for her significant contribution to public safety. In addition to her talent as an attorney, Ms. Ruiz is always remembered as a loving and caring mother, wife, friend, and colleague.

The San Diego Deputy District Attorneys Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that founded the Claudine Ruiz Scholarship in memory of our friend and colleague. The scholarship honors Ms. Ruiz by awarding funds to support and encourage law students seeking a career in criminal justice.

Eligibility

Scholarships are limited to USD Law students who have demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in criminal justice.

Award

One student will be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000.

Application Procedure

Please email the items listed below to the San Diego Deputy District Attorneys Foundation at sandiegoddaf@gmail.com by **September 14, 2025 at 11:59 pm**. In the subject line, please write "CRSF Application – [YOUR NAME]."

- **The completed application form.**
- **Answers to the four questions in the application.**
- **A resumé.**
- **A copy of your most recent transcript.**

Additional Information

The CRSF committee may interview scholarship finalists via Zoom. The scholarship awardee will be announced September 21. The awardee is invited and encouraged to attend the Deputy District Attorneys Association Awards Banquet the evening of September 27, 2025.



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OFFICIAL APPLICATION

NAME (FIRST MIDDLE LAST):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

CURRENT LAW STUDENT STATUS: ___ FIRST YEAR/1L
 ___ SECOND YEAR/2L
 ___ THIRD YEAR/3L

Please limit the following to a total of 1,000 words. You may allocate the 1,000 words among the four questions as you see fit.

Question 1: Please explain your interest in a career in criminal justice.

Question 2: Describe one of your academic achievements and why it is important to you.

Question 3: Describe one of your extracurricular activities and why it is important to you.

Question 4: Please tell us what sets you apart from other applicants. This may include obstacles you have overcome, experiences you have had, or any other information you think we should know.