



## **Scholarship Essay Guidelines Entries Due March 1, 2020**

The Offices of the Gee Law Firm is now accepting applications for the 2020 "Scholarships for the 21st Century Scholar." Awards will range from \$500 to \$1,000 dollars each. All students attending high school within the Richmond Metropolitan and South Central Virginia areas who have been accepted into an institution of higher learning or a post-secondary program of study are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit a 500-700 word essay on one of the topics below along with a photo (head and shoulders), which can be uploaded to the application form. By submitting the application form, you grant the Gee Law Firm permission to use your photo for promotional purposes in conjunction with the Gee Law Firm Scholarship fund. Application and essay deadline is midnight on March 1, 2020.

Essays should be submitted online as an attachment to the application which can be found at [geelawfirm.com](http://geelawfirm.com). Go to the "about us" tab and scroll down to "The Gee Law Firm Annual Scholarship" on the left. Applicants must fill out the form completely and provide two references from teachers, counselors, pastors, or other members of the community who are not related to the applicant. Essays may also be mailed but must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2020. Mail essays to: Gee Law Firm Scholars, 4719 Nine Mile Road, Henrico VA 23223. Award winners will be notified by April 15, 2020. Essays should be typed using 12pt. pitch with Times New Roman, Calibri or Ariel fonts. Choose one of the following prompts. Be sure to address each part of the question. Good Luck!

### **Essay Prompts**

1. According to scholars, race is primarily a social construct that has been embraced by those in power to justify inequities within society. In recent years, the issue of race in America has come front and center; however, today, much of our understanding of race and race relations does not come by personal experience, but by an acute awareness, influenced by the media, public policy, and social and political movements. Which of these entities has had the greatest influence in shaping your understanding of race, and how has it informed your day to day interactions, not only with people of other cultures and ethnicities, but also with family members, friends and acquaintances.
2. In overcoming adversity, it has been said that the true measure of experience is not what happens to you, but how you deal with it. Write about a time when you experienced a major setback. How did you handle it and what did you learn from it? What advice would you give someone who may be having a similar experience?
3. There are some prevailing attitudes in America among older generations who feel that the young people of today will not be prepared to compete in a global world. How would you refute those attitudes? What qualities do you possess that would prove you have what it takes to compete in a global world, and how would you use those qualities to succeed?