

# **THE HARRIS Y. COTTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**AWARDED BY  
THE COUNTY PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, INC.**



**PROSECUTOR SCOTT COFFINA  
BURLINGTON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
49 RANCOCAS ROAD  
MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY 08060**

# **THE HARRIS Y. COTTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

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ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF  
NEW JERSEY, INC.**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The County Prosecutors Association of the State of New Jersey, Inc., is a non-profit corporation which annually awards scholarships to law students and college and graduate students.

Each scholarship is a one-year grant in the amount of \$3,500 paid directly to the recipient. Persons may not reapply for succeeding years.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a New Jersey resident accepted for admission to a law school. The applicant must have an interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crimes prosecutions. The applicant must also demonstrate financial need.

Applications must be postmarked or emailed by September 4, 2020. Personal interviews of finalists will be conducted. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decision in October 2020.

**Applications should be sent to:**

**Prosecutor Scott Coffina  
Burlington County Prosecutor's Office  
49 Rancocas Road  
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060  
[SCoffina@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:SCoffina@co.burlington.nj.us)**

## **Harris Y. Cotton (1929-1997)**

**Harris Cotton was a caring, compassionate and giving person with a tremendous spirit and a great sense of humor. He was considered to be the Dean of Prosecutors in the State of New Jersey.**

**Harris Cotton was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Villanova University and received a degree in Biology. He had once considered being a doctor but told a reporter in 1980 that he “couldn’t get into medical school and tending bar just didn’t seem like a good kind of future.”**

**He joined the Army during the Korean War. He became a lab technician performing autopsies in Japan and Korea. Upon returning from his military stint, he lived in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and commuted to Woodbury, New Jersey, for a bartending job. He subsequently enrolled in Rutgers University Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1958.**

**Harris Cotton had a strong legacy of respect for personal rights. His father, Charles Camp Cotton, a staunch Civil Rights supporter and counsel to the NAACP, had served as the Gloucester County Prosecutor from 1940 to 1945. Following in his father’s footsteps, Harris Cotton served two five-year terms as the Gloucester County Prosecutor. The first term was from 1975 to 1980 when it was still a part-time position. His second term commenced in 1991 and ended in 1997. He died at the age of 68, 40 minutes before his second term officially ended.**

**Harris Cotton was a strong advocate for protecting individual rights. Under his watch, specialized Units in the Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office, such as the Domestic Violence Unit and the Hate Crimes Unit, received the type of support needed to aggressively combat criminal acts that serve to undermine basic personal rights. As a tribute to Harris Cotton, a vanguard of individual rights, this scholarship was established by his friends and colleagues in his memory.**

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**Application**

**I. Personal History of Applicant**

( ) Mr.      ( ) Miss      ( ) Ms.      ( ) Mrs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
                            Last Name                              First Name                              Middle Name

Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
  Number and Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City                              County                              State                              Zip Code

Current mailing Address  
(If different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
  Number and Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City                              County                              State                              Zip Code

Phone Number(s):      (    )      \_\_\_\_\_      (    )      \_\_\_\_\_  
  Home    Mobile

Date of Birth:      \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status ( ) Single ( ) Married

Dependents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Age

Present occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you served in the Armed Services? Yes ( ) No ( )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Branch Dates of Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Discharge Date Rank at Discharge

Have you served in any law enforcement capacity? Yes ( ) No ( )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Dates of Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position

**II . Applicant's Educational Background (Circle School for which Scholarship Application is submitted and attach proof of acceptance or attendance)**

**A. Secondary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name and Address of High School**

**B. Undergraduate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name and Address of College/University**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Anticipated Year of Graduation** **Degree**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Major Field of Study** **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

**C. Graduate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name and Address of Institution**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Anticipated Year of Graduation** **Degree**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Major Field of Study** **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

**D. Law School:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name and Address of Institution**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Anticipated Year of Graduation** **Degree**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Major Field of Study** **Cumulative Grade Point Average**

**III. Financial Information (Provide Figures Pertaining to the Academic Year for which Scholarship Application is Submitted)**

**A. Estimated Cost of Education, including Tuition, Room & Board and books.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Applicant's Current Yearly Salary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Spouse's Current Yearly Salary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**D. All Other Sources of Income or Support, including parental :** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**E. All Other Grants, Financial Aid and Scholarships:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**F. State any Other Information Relevant to Applicant's Financial Need:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Special Honors or Prizes**

Specify any special recognitions, honors or prizes which you have achieved including academic work, the arts, athletics, and community service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **V. Resume & Personal Statement**

Attach to and submit with your Application a copy of your Resume and a typed Statement of your educational and career objectives. Your statement should describe your interest in pursuing a career as a prosecutor with an emphasis in Domestic Violence or Hate Crimes Prosecutions.

Date Completed \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature