

Name: Courtney Jackson

Year: 2L

Anticipated Graduation: May 2021

Legal Interest: Environmental Law

I entered law school eager to join student organizations for professional development, networking opportunities, and community service. After expressing my enthusiasm to my peers, I was quickly told not to join any organizations until my second year. “Just get through 1L first,” they said. I kept this in mind as I spoke with leadership from different organizations, gathering information about each one so that I could make an informed decision about what to be involved in when 2L year arrived. One organization in particular stood out among all of the others — Phi Alpha Delta (PAD). The fraternity had a strong presence on campus and exuded professionalism. I learned that they were the largest law fraternity in the world, with members like President Carter, Justice Ginsburg, Johnnie Cochran and other notable attorneys, presidents, justices, and congressmen. Despite being told not to join an organization during 1L, I fervently joined PAD as a national and Cherry Chapter member.

This scholarship will be used to further my education in several ways. The most significant way that it will help is by lessening my financial burdens. Like most law students, I have outstanding student loan debt. In addition, I have unpaid medical bills that have gone to collections from a car accident I suffered in 2017. I am also starting to save for upcoming registration and application fees, such as the Certified Legal Intern application fee, Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam fee, Georgia Certification of Fitness application fee, and the Georgia Bar exam fee — totaling over \$1,000. I have tried to budget for these items, but student loans are barely enough to cover living expenses. This scholarship would help alleviate stress regarding my financial concerns, allowing me to focus more on my legal studies, which would lead to better grades. I would also use this scholarship to purchase books next semester so that I do not have to request as much for a book voucher, and ultimately pay less back in loans.

I have and will continue to contribute to the success of PAD by fulfilling the fraternity’s motto – “Service to the Student, the Law School, the Community and the Profession.” Over the past year, I have participated in various events that have demonstrated my commitment to this mission.

I have served other students by encouraging them to take advantage of the many benefits and opportunities that come with being a PAD member, such as exclusive scholarship, internship, and networking opportunities. I also encourage student participation in our themed events, such as Game Night, which helps foster comradery and belonging among students. Further, I have served the law school by helping to strengthen the Cherry Chapter as an active member in the society. The law school benefits from having successful organizations on campus, which are only as strong as their members and stakeholders. There is strength in numbers, which is why I attend as many meetings and events as possible. My participation in events such as the Private Practice Panel, Networking Dinner, Veteran’s Appreciation Lunch, and the Other Side of the Bar Attorney Panel, not only benefits me, but the organization and law school as a whole. In addition, when volunteer opportunities arise, I am more than happy to help. I created the flyer and helped man the table for the PAD snack fundraiser, helped welcome and escort attorneys to the recent attorney panel, and helped set up food for the reception portion of the event. I am extremely invested in the fraternity and do what I can to contribute to its success.

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In the future, I hope to be more involved in community service events and suggest more opportunities to get involved. As an attorney, I plan to serve the profession in many ways such as participating in panels, presenting webinars, and contributing to scholarships such as this one. It has been an honor to be a member and I am thankful for the supportive alumni who are eager to give back and make this scholarship opportunity possible.