ROD OF IRON
TRUSTS & ESTATES COUNSEL
YOUR CONCERNS. OUR ADVOCACY.

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The Vance Thompson Memorial Scholarship

"Because He Knows You Can"

Notice of Scholarship

Award Amount: $1,000

About the Scholarship

The Vance Thompson Memorial Scholarship "Because He Knows You Can" was established by Rod of Iron Trusts and Estates Counsel in honor of Vance Thompson, a father, guide, and quiet force in the lives of everyone around him. Vance shared wisdom and encouragement by simply showing up, and he had an unshakeable belief in the good in people. One of his favorite quotes was by Confucius, "The man who says he can and the man who says he can't are both correct."

This scholarship exists because of what he gave. It is awarded each year to a high school senior who has faced real challenges, found their strength outside of the classroom, and kept going anyway.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled as a high school senior in San Francisco or Alameda County
- Has demonstrated achievement or talent outside of academic performance, such as music, art, community involvement, or other meaningful pursuits.
- Has faced significant personal challenges and demonstrated the perseverance to overcome them.

Note: No minimum GPA is required. This scholarship is open to any eligible student who may not have excelled academically but have shown strength, creativity, and resilience in other areas of their lives.

Application Materials Available: First Tuesday of September
Application Deadline: Last day of November (5:00 p.m.)
Winner Announced: Mid-December

How to Apply

To request application materials, send an email to: < ora@rodofironlawfirm.com >
Subject Line "VT Scholarship; Application"; Application materials will be sent to you directly.

Application materials become available on the first Tuesday of September each year. Requests are accepted on or after that date. Requests submitted before that date will not be fulfilled.

Application Components
The complete application consists of two parts:

Part 1 - Questionnaire
Applicants will complete a short questionnaire covering the following:

- Full name and contact information
- Name and location of your high school
- Extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, or leadership roles
- Work or volunteer experience
- Interpretation of the quote “The man [person] who says he can and the man [person] who says he can't are both correct."

Part 2 - Essay
Applicants must submit an original essay responding to the following prompt:

“What is one thing you believe that most people your age do not, or one thing you think society (as a whole) gets wrong? Where does that belief come from, and how does it shape the way you live?”

- Essays must be between 500 and 750 words
- Essays must be the original work of the applicant (No AI)
- The winning essay will be published on the firm website

Selection Process
Applications are reviewed by an independent panel of three professionals. No attorney or employee of Rod of Iron Trusts and Estates Counsel participates in the selection process. The panel evaluates each application on the following criteria:

- Clarity and depth of interest in the legal field
- Quality of written communication
- Demonstrated self-awareness and personal reflection in the essay
- Background, experience, and personal motivation

The panel’s decision is final. No attorney or employee of Rod of Iron Trusts and Estates Counsel participates in the selection process. The winner will be notified directly and announced in mid-December of each year.

The Award
One award of $1,000 will be granted each year. The award is paid directly to the selected student.

Questions? Contact us at ora@rodofironlawfirm.com