TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ENDOWED FUND

NAME OF ENDOWED FUND (OSOTF[^1])

El-Zeneiny-Aboulnasr Scholarship

INTRODUCTION

This fund was established in 2004 by Dr. Tyseer Aboulnasr in honour of her mother, Mrs. Dawlat El-Zeneiny, who was her role model. Mrs. El-Zeneiny was a pioneer furthering her education, working as a teacher and later as a school principal in Egypt, well before a women's right to work became accepted anywhere in the world. As a school principal, she saw herself as fully responsible for her students in a holistic way, not just for their in-class education. In many cases, she took students into her home to help them at times of difficulty. Mrs. El-Zeneiny was always a woman of principle. She did what she believed was right and never gave up in fighting an injustice. Through her life, she taught her children, including Dr. Aboulnasr, the value of education and the massive responsibility of educators, a responsibility for which they will be held accountable. She was the one person who instilled in them the understanding about human rights and the simple realities that they are indeed "rights" and not privileges to be given to those we like and denied from those we do not like. It is hoped that the recipient of this scholarship will reflect her spirit of serving others and standing up for what is right.

As a professor of engineering at the University of Ottawa, Dr. Aboulnasr has relied significantly on the expertise of Law professors in teaching a course on professional practice, expertise varying from rights in the workplace to privacy and patent law. They have been critical in helping her understand many social justice and responsibility issues and advocate for them publicly.

"I will always be grateful for how my connections with the Faculty of Law have in many ways shaped how I approach issues that vary from technology to human rights. I will always be grateful for lawyers in general and human rights lawyers in particular as the only safeguard that our society has to ensure there is due process even when that due process is not in line with a specific government position on a specific issue. They are likely the last ones that will stay there to defend society’s outcasts when everyone else walks away."

The donor thanks the Government of Ontario, which helped to create this fund through its generous matching contribution.

PURPOSE OF FUND

To provide financial assistance to undergraduate students registered at the Common Law Section of the Faculty of Law, who demonstrate an involvement in human rights and social justice.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Eligibility Criteria:

The applicant must:

1. be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident or a person with the protected/refugee status;

2. be registered as a full-time undergraduate student at the Common Law Section of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa;

3. be an Ontario resident, as per OSAP[^2] rules;
4. demonstrate financial need, as determined by the Financial Aid and Awards Service of the University of Ottawa;

5. be in good academic standing as defined by a minimum CGPA of 6.0; and

6. be registered in at least one class related to the fields of human rights and social justice at the Common Law Section and/or demonstrate an involvement in human rights and social justice. All else being equal, preference will be given to applicants with a particular interest in human rights and social justice issues affecting Muslim Canadians.

**Value of the Award:** Minimum $1,000, maximum $1,500

**Number of Awards:** Variable

**Frequency of the Award:** Every two or three years (when funds are available)

**Level of the Award:** Undergraduate

**Application Contact:** Financial Aid Administrator, Common Law Section

**Application Deadline:** October 31

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Applications must be made through Online Scholarships and Bursaries, which can be accessed through [https://scholarships.uottawa.ca](https://scholarships.uottawa.ca), and should include:

1. the Financial Questionnaire;
2. an unofficial copy of the applicant's University of Ottawa transcript.
3. the Curriculum Vitae on Online Scholarships and Bursaries;
4. a letter (max. 500 words) written by the applicant detailing his/her involvement in human rights and social justice;
5. a letter of reference confirming the applicant's involvement in human rights and social justice.

[1] OSOTF: Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund

[2] OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program