



## For Immediate Release

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## **DRI Announces Recipients of 2016 Diversity Law Scholarships**

*Association of 22,000 Defense Attorneys Recognizes Law Students from Texas and Connecticut*

**CHICAGO – (June 6, 2016)**— DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar has awarded \$10,000 scholarships to Hector Chavana of Houston and Diane Rojas of New Canaan, Connecticut as part of its annual Law School Diversity Scholarship Program. The scholarships are open to rising (2016–17) second- and third-year African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, LGBT and Multi-Racial students. All rising second- and third-year female law students are also eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity.

The goal of these scholarships is to provide financial assistance to two worthy law students from ABA-accredited law schools to promote, in a tangible way, the DRI Diversity Statement of Principle.

The scholarships are awarded annually to applicants who best meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated academic excellence
- Service to the profession
- Service to the community
- Service to the cause of diversity

Hector Chavana is a second-year student at South Texas College of Law in Houston. He graduated *cum laude* from the Honors College of the University of Houston in 2000. Chavana is the student editor of Construction Law Journal and has been recognized as a Dean’s Merit Scholar; a Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Scholar; and an Association of Corporate Counsel Scholar. He has spoken before the Houston City Council on the need for more equitable election districts and was an organizer for the Immigration Youth Detention Protest. Chavana was published in the anthology *Ban This!* focusing on Arizona’s discriminatory immigration policies.

Diane Rojas is a second-year student at the University of Connecticut School of Law and holds a B.S. from Haverford College in psychology. She is president of the Corporate and Securities Law Society which provides opportunities for students to meet and learn from practicing attorneys in the corporate world. Additionally, she is Editor-in-Chief of the Connecticut Insurance Law Journal ; vice president of the Latino Law Students Association; and a mentor of the Women Law Students Association. She also participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, a free service to help families complete their tax returns.

“Hector and Diane are perfect representatives of the type of person we seek for these scholarships,” said Rosevelie Marquez Morales, chair of DRI’s Scholarship Review Committee. “They are top students, have high-level involvement in legal profession organizations, and provide great service to their communities. We are very proud to have them as our 2016 scholarship winners.”

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### **About DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar**

*For more than fifty-five years, DRI has been the voice of the defense bar, advocating for 22,000 defense attorneys, commercial trial attorneys, and corporate counsel and defending the integrity of the civil judiciary. A thought leader, DRI provides world-class legal education, deep expertise for policy-makers, legal resources, and networking opportunities to facilitate career and law firm growth. For more information, log on to [www.dri.org](http://www.dri.org)*