



RHODE ISLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL
WILLIAM C. CLIFTON, SR. CLERKSHIP PROGRAM
APPLICATION

All application materials, including this form, should be submitted via email to Cliftonclerkship@riag.ri.gov. Applications must be submitted no later than January 15, 2026. All finalists will be invited to interview before final selections are made. Applicants may direct questions about applying to Cliftonclerkship@riag.ri.gov.

Eligibility

First and second-year law students at ABA accredited law schools are eligible for the William C. Clifton, Sr. Clerkship Program. Each Clifton clerk will receive a stipend of approximately \$4,000 for the 10-week period of the Clerkship and will be responsible for all taxes and other required deductions.

Student Information

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Mr./Ms.
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Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Law School Information

Name of law school	City	State
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Expected graduation month and year: _____

In 2025 – 2026 I am enrolled as a: First year student Second year student

Required Application Materials

In addition to this (1) form, you must submit a (2) resume, a (3) short cover letter, (4) unofficial law school transcript, (5) two references (one of which should be an academic reference) and a (6) personal statement. If you have not received fall semester grades by the time of your submission, you must supplement your application with your updated transcript within one week of receiving your semester grades.

Personal Statement

Please provide a 500 word personal statement responding to the prompt below. Your response should be submitted as a separate document which is double spaced and in size twelve font. Your name should also be included as a header in your response.

The William C. Clifton, Sr. Clerkship Program honors the legacy of former Rhode Island District Court Judge William Clifton, Sr. Judge Clifton grew up in segregated San Antonio, Texas, and went on to graduate from California State University and UCLA Law School. He began his legal career as a staff attorney for Clark County Nevada Legal Services before moving to Rhode Island where he became the first African American Special Assistant Attorney General. Judge Clifton continued serving his community in government roles as legal counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Education and the state's Public Utilities Commission. He also co-founded a successful law firm and served as Assistant City Solicitor for Cranston, Rhode Island. Throughout his life, he gave his time and energy to causes larger than himself including serving as president of the Providence Branch of the NAACP, and on the boards and committees of many civic organizations. Upon being named to the District Court, Judge Clifton presided with distinction and was known as a consummate jurist, admired for his intellect and judicial temperament, and respected by colleagues, court personnel, lawyers, and litigants.

Please write about how your background or life experiences have shaped your pursuit of a legal career and whether they have compelled you to serve your community as Judge Clifton did.