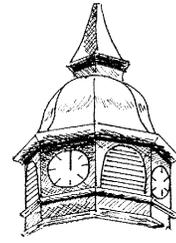




*The Prince William County
Bar Association, Inc.*

**Beat
the Odds®**



*The Prince William County
Bar Foundation, Inc.*

2026 BEAT THE ODDS APPLICATION

Beat the Odds Program Description

The Prince William County Bar Association, in association with the Prince William County Bar Foundation and local government agencies, proudly sponsors the nationally recognized *Beat the Odds*® program, originally developed by the National Children's Defense Fund for the benefit of local youth. This annual program recognizes and encourages the 31st Judicial District's youth to overcome significant obstacles that interfere with their ability to reach their full social and academic potential.

Each year a select group of candidates, nominated by agency caseworkers, probation officers, school personnel, and attorneys, submit applications to be considered for an award. The candidates are selected from local youth who have come into contact with the 31st Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the Court Services Unit, the Community Services Board, the local school systems and the Departments of Social Services of Prince William County or the Cities of Manassas or Manassas Park, and have overcome significant obstacles to achieve remarkable educational and social progress. These recipients are then honored at a formal celebration when the community gathers with the recipients and their friends and families at a formal awards banquet to hear their remarkable stories as they are presented with a scholarship or other educational or vocational award.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: **March 27, 2026, by close of business**

**SEND COMPLETED
APPLICATION TO:**

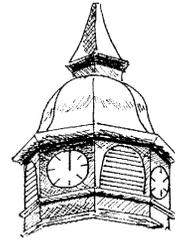
**Grace Lempp
7900 Sudley Road, Suite 700
Manassas, VA 20109
pwbeattheodds@gmail.com
Phone: 571-208-2375**

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS: **Mid-April 2026**



*The Prince William County
Bar Association, Inc.*

*Beat
the Odds®*



*The Prince William County
Bar Foundation, Inc.*

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2026 BTO AWARDS

Please submit the completed Nomination and Application package, with ALL attachments, NO LATER THAN MARCH 27, 2026 to:

Grace Lempp via email at pwcbeattheodds@gmail.com or
by mail to 7900 Sudley Road, Suite 700
Manassas, VA 20109
(571) 208-2375

Submit the Following by March 27, 2026:

- Nomination Form, completed and signed by the nominator;
- A **written statement** from the nominator describing how the nominee fits the criteria in the selected category described in the BTO Program Guidelines (attached) and how the specific award (Scholarship or Phoenix) would best support the future educational or career goals of the nominee;
- The application, completed and signed by the nominee;
- Release and Consent Form, signed by the nominee and Parent/Guardian;
- Consent to Media Interview Form;
- High school transcript; and
- One additional reference letter from a person selected by the nominee.

Instructions: Please answer the following questionnaire. All questions are required to be answered unless otherwise indicated. Attach additional sheets if needed.

NOMINATION:

For the reasons stated in the attached written statement, I _____(nominator),
with _____(agency) hereby nominate _____(nominee)
for a Beat the Odds® [] Scholarship Award [] Phoenix Award (**Check Only One**).

Nominator Signature Email Phone Number

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name Age Gender

Address Home Phone

City, State, Zip Cell Phone

High School Email Address

Guidance Counselor Principal

NAMES AND ADDRESS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FOSTER PARENT:

Name	Address	Phone Number	Relationship
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. What do you want for a future career or profession? What steps have you taken towards entering that career or profession? How do you think a scholarship award would help you in that pursuit?

3. What do you want to accomplish in your career? In your life?

4. List the schools you have attended and a person at each school whom you believe influenced your life. Why did that person have an effect on you?

8. Who has helped you during difficult times in your life? How did that person inspire, help, or assist you?

9. What life lesson(s) did you learn from your experience working with the Court Service Unit, the Community Services Board, the Juvenile Court or the Department of Social Services? If you did not have contact with these agencies, what other life lessons have you learned?

10. What was the turning point for you or the point where your life started to improve?

11. What is your favorite subject in school? What do you like about studying that subject?

12. If you had the chance to give advice to another person experiencing what you experienced, what would you tell them to help them?

13. Have you received any other scholarships or applied for any other financial aid? If so, what have you received and to where have you applied?

Nominee's Signature

Date

Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 31, Manassas, Virginia 20108
(703) 553-2520 Fax: 703-649-6446

Dear Nominee:

The Prince William County Bar Association (PWCBA) and government agency workers require your authorization to share information about you and to use photographs, films, vocal recordings, and information obtained about all the recipients of the Beat the Odds® awards for promotional or educational purposes. Signing the consent form at the bottom of this page allows your agency caseworkers and the PWCBA and their agents to share information about you and to use the records, photos, films, audio recordings or written information obtained to process your application, to produce the public awards ceremony, to promote this project, and hold the award ceremony. We will exercise appropriate and sensitive discretion in determining the nature and extent of the information released. **IF YOU DO NOT RETURN A SIGNED FORM YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PWCBA EVENT, NOR WILL THE PWCBA MAKE ANY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OR PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR AWARD SHOULD YOU RECEIVE ONE.**

Unless the nominee is 18 years or older, a parent or legal guardian must sign the consent form below. A valid consent form must be submitted with each application in order to be considered for an award.

Release and Consent Form

I, _____ (nominee), hereby ___ authorize ___ do not authorize my probation workers and/or social workers, the PWCBA, and their respective agents to share information about me and my case. I also authorize them to photograph, film, record me vocally, and use and release such photographic, film, audio and other written information submitted about me for purposes related to the Beat the Odds Program unless otherwise prohibited by law or applicable federal, state or local government agency policy.

I further specifically authorize records and other information obtained in the nomination and award process to be used at the public award ceremony and for promotional or publicity purposes including publication by mass media and on Internet sites unless otherwise prohibited by law or applicable state or local governmental agency policy. I understand and authorize my first and/or middle name and the initial of my last name to be used at the award event, in promotional material, and in all publications before and after the event unless otherwise prohibited by law or applicable federal, state or local government agency policy. This release is effective until revoked in writing by the undersigned nominee (if 18 years of age or older) or, if I am a minor child, by my parent or legal guardian and received by the PWCBA. Such revocation shall only be effective to prevent any expanded future use of the records and information.

Parent or Guardian of Nominee
[Nominee may sign if 18 years or older]

Date

Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 31, Manassas, Virginia 20108
(703) 553-2520 Fax: 703-649-6446

Dear Nominee:

News Reporters sometime want to interview award recipients. These interviews may result in an article and/or pictures being published. These media interviews are **optional** for every nominee. These interviews are not controlled or regulated by the Prince William Bar Association, Inc. or any federal, state, or local government agency that has worked with the nominee. If you are interested in participating in a media interview, you do so at your sole pleasure. We merely maintain a list of nominees and awardees that are interested in speaking with the press in the event the press inquires.

Please fill out the following media interview consent form below and return it with your Application. You may indicate whether you wish to be interviewed, but you must submit this form.

Consent To Media Interview Form

I, _____, wish do not wish to participant in a media
Nominee's name
interview with respect to my participation in the *Beat the Odds*® program.

With respect to this media interview, I:

CHECK ONE:

___ **Agree** to release my full name to the press.
or
___ **Do Not Agree** to release my full name to the press.

CHECK ONE:

___ **Agree** to have my picture taken.
or
___ **Do Not Agree** to have my picture taken.

This form must be signed by the Nominee, if 18 years or older, or by the Nominee's parent or legal guardian:

Parent or Guardian of Nominee
[Nominee may sign only if 18 years or older]

Date

THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

2026



Awards

AWARD SELECTION GUIDELINES

The Prince William County Bar Association (PWCBA) Beat the Odds® Program, in conjunction with the Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) **Beat the Odds® Awards**, focuses attention on the positive potential of the youth involved with the 31st Judicial District and residing in Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The PWCBA Beat the Odds® Committee is working with the local departments of Social Services, the Juvenile Court Service Unit, the J&DR Clerk's Office, the Community Services Board, and the local schools to select and honor youth who demonstrate the strength and determination to *Beat the Odds®*.

Objective:

The objective of the PWCBA's *Beat the Odds®* Program is to celebrate and encourage the positive potential of our community's youth who are able to overcome significant obstacles in order to achieve substantial social and academic progress to become positive and productive members of our society.

Background:

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) developed the Beat the Odds® program in 1990 as a means to celebrate and underscore the positive potential of our nation's youth. The Prince William County Bar Association began running the Beat the Odds® celebrations in 2001. The students honored have demonstrated academic excellence, personal achievements in their struggles to improve their own lives and the lives of others, and the strength and determination to accomplish this by beating the odds. The PWCBA celebrates the remarkable lives of these young people as well as the family, friends, teachers, and counselors who help them to achieve.

The Two Award Categories and Criteria:

The PWCBA has modified and expanded the award categories to respond to the unique needs of the children in the 31st Judicial District. In recognition of the fact that not all youth who have successfully overcome significant difficulties to establish themselves firmly on the road to success choose to go on to college and some may not be old enough to be contemplating this decision, the PWCBA has created an additional category of award to recognize youth who have positive goals and aspirations other than college. There shall be two levels of recognition, each level having separate criteria and corresponding awards consistent with the level of achievement and the recipient's educational and developmental goals. The award recipients shall be chosen according to the following guidelines by the PWCBA Beat the Odds® Committee and, in addition to an award, the recipients will be given two additional free banquet tickets for two

guest. When thinking of a youth deserving of these honors, keep in mind the following guidelines for the two different categories. These guidelines should be considered a **working outline for your written nomination statement**.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

I. Beat the Odds® Scholarship Awards. The Beat the Odds Scholarship awards are the first category of awards that are awarded to graduating high school students and first year college students. Nominees must be:

- A high school senior, enrolled in school in a public or private school with graduation imminent or be a student enrolled in his/her first year of college.
- Succeeding despite, but not limited to, hardships such as poverty, disability, homelessness or personal tragedy.
- Maintaining a grade point average showing marked effort, improvement or success.
- Participating in activities, formal or informal, which are helpful to others.
- A client or former client of the 31st Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court; the Court Service Unit; the Community Services Board; the Departments of Social Services of Prince William County or the Cities of Manassas or Manassas Park; or the local schools; or having demonstrated such other hardship, obstacle or life experience which, in the sole discretion of the PWCBA, qualifies the nominee for an award.

II. Beat the Odds ® Phoenix Awards. The Beat the Odds Phoenix Awards are the second category of awards for goods and/or services that are designed to advance the recipient's educational or career or life goals. Goods and/or services may include, but are not necessarily limited to, tuition, course fees, test fees, vocational training, books, computer equipment, audio-visual equipment and tools of a particular trade or occupation. The particular goods and/or services awarded to each recipient would be tailored to the needs, interests and goals of the individual recipient. The nominator would assist in tailoring the award to the recipient. The PWCBA Beat the Odds ® Committee envisions the recipients of this award as youth who may still be of high school age, but not ready for college, or who are contemplating a GED and/or vocational training. Nominees for the Beat the Odds ® Phoenix Award must be:

- Succeeding despite hardships that may include but shall not be limited to poverty, disability, homelessness or personal tragedy.
- A client or former client of the 31st Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court; the Court Service Unit; the Community Services Board; the Departments of Social Services of Prince William County or the Cities of Manassas or Manassas Park; the local schools; or having demonstrated such other hardship, obstacle or life experience which, in the sole discretion of the PWCBA, qualifies the nominee for an award.

Submitting a Nomination and Application:

When submitting nominations, the nominator must prepare a written statement of how this child fits within the above award guidelines and criteria, and return it with the rest of the Nomination and Application Forms to the Grace Lempp, President of the PWCBA, by March 27, 2026.

The nominator of the recipient of these awards will be expected to present the award to the honoree at the Beat the Odds® Banquet and will receive a free ticket to the banquet. Nominator must submit the nomination and supporting statement, along with the Nominee's Application, Release and Media Consent Form. This fully completed nomination and application package must be delivered by March 26, 2026 to:

**Grace Lempp
Via email at pwcbetheodds@gmail.com or
by mail to 7900 Sudley Road, Suite 700
Manassas, VA 20109
Phone: (571) 208-2375**

Contact Grace Lempp with any questions concerning the application. Failure to provide a complete application package may result in disqualification.

The Selection Process:

- The PWCBA Beat the Odds® Honoree Committee and the Bar Foundation Board will meet to review the nominations and select the award recipients.
- The PWCBA committee members will inform the nominators of the award recipients by phone and letters will be sent to the award recipients.
- Award recipients and their nominators will receive more information about the awards banquet when they are notified as an award recipient.
- For the banquet, complimentary tickets will be distributed to the recipients and their nominators, and additional tickets may be purchased prior to the event. Media representatives may be present at the event and may wish to speak with awardees who consent to an interview.