

Oliver Linwood Perry Jr. Scholarship

Oliver Linwood Perry Jr. was born in Norfolk, Virginia. He attended public schools in Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1972 and earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina, School of Law in Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Perry practiced law in South Carolina for four years, and worked for several major insurance firms during the 1980s. He briefly opened a private practice in 1991, but soon returned to the insurance industry. Mr. Perry acquired a reputation for his knowledge and capabilities in the field of fidelity and surety law. He was a member of the Virginia and South Carolina Bar Associations and was a longtime member of the Fidelity and Surety Committee of the American Bar Association. He was also a member of the ABA's Tort and Insurance Practice Session and the Surety Claims Institute. In addition, Mr. Perry was a selected member of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity. He participated in the Big Brothers program and was a birth-right member of the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Mr. Perry's questions to his father, Oliver Linwood Perry Sr., about his tribal affiliation led the elder Perry to "help others discover their heritage" and he "played a key role in re-organizing the tribe during the mid-80's and securing state recognition." Tragically, Oliver Perry Jr. passed away from injuries sustained in a car accident during the Christmas holidays in 1998.

To honor their son's legacy, the Perry family established the Oliver Linwood Perry Jr. Scholarship at the University of Virginia in order to recruit Native American students to UVA. When the Supreme Court ruled that race- and ethnicity-based scholarships were unconstitutional, the Perry Scholarship ceased to be offered at UVA. In 2012, the University of Virginia revitalized the Oliver Linwood Perry Jr. Scholarship and amended it so that it could be awarded to an incoming student that has demonstrated a history of service with Native American communities. The University of Virginia is excited about reviving the Perry Scholarship and believes the new language honors the original intent of the Perry family and maintains the values of the original scholarship by awarding those who serve the communities the Perry family cares so much about.

****Please include a letter of recommendation from a tribal leader who can support your involvement with Native American communities. This letter should come from someone who can also speak to your character and academic achievements.***

Equal Opportunity Statement

In accordance with federal law and the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Scholarship Program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.