

OLIVER HILL/SAMUEL TUCKER PRE-LAW INSTITUTE



July 5, 2026 – July 10, 2026

**The University of Richmond
410 Westhampton Way
Richmond, Virginia 23173**

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In 2000, the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) formed the Millennium Diversity Initiative (MDI). In 2001, at the request of the MDI, the Young Lawyers Conference implemented the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute (the “Institute”). Named for legendary civil rights attorneys Oliver Hill and Samuel Tucker, the Institute reaches future lawyers at an early age to provide them with exposure and opportunity to explore the legal profession, at no cost to the participants. In 2010, the VSB Diversity Conference was established and was subsequently approved for funding through the VSB in 2016. The Institute now falls under, and is funded by, the VSB Diversity Section and Young Lawyers Section. *

The Institute reaches future lawyers at an early age to provide them with exposure and opportunity to explore the legal profession, all at no cost to the participants. For one week, students are introduced to the legal profession by living on a college campus and attending a number of mock classes (complete with overnight reading assignments) and seminars on career opportunities in the law, test taking strategies, and the college admissions process. The students meet with law school professors, judges, guest lecturers, and state and local bar association members. At the end of the week, the students participate in a mock trial based on pre-written trial materials used in national trial competitions. The Institute culminates in a graduation banquet where a prominent member of the Bar is the featured speaker.

This year’s Institute will be held **Sunday, July 5, 2026 to Friday, July 10, 2026** at the University of Richmond. We invite you to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable and exciting week. Please complete the attached application in its entirety.

If you have any questions, please send an email to hilltuckerinstitute@gmail.com



* This project is financially assisted by a generous grant from the Virginia Law Foundation. The Virginia Law Foundation promotes through philanthropy, the rule of law, access to justice and law related education.

** To ensure the health and safety of attendees and guests, we require the following: Any attendee or guest exhibiting symptoms, including but not limited to apparent cold or flu-like symptoms, fever, digestive discomfort, or any other symptom that might be linked to COVID-19 or other airborne illnesses, within 24 hours of the start of the Institute, shall not attend any portion of the program. There will be no exceptions. If an attendee or guest experiences symptoms during the program, we will follow current guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Virginia Department of Health, and our host institution. All Students attending the Institute must be up to date on all school-required immunizations as defined by the Virginia Department of Health, or must submit a permissible medical or religious exemption. Additional health and safety procedures may be implemented in response to emerging public health concerns. These protocols are subject to change without prior notice. The Institute will promptly communicate any significant updates to families.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

****Each applicant must submit ONE application packet which contains all of the following information, forms, and related materials:**

- (1) Complete Application Form (typed), including the following components:
 - Student and Parent or Legal Guardian Information
 - Student & Parent Assurances
 - List of Activities and Honors & Recognitions
 - 300-500-word essay (typed)
- (2) High school transcript, signed by guidance counselor
- (3) Two letters of recommendation (at least one must come from a current teacher or guidance counselor). Recommendation letters may be emailed under separate cover.

***Please type the application responses and ensure that there are no portions left blank.*

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- All completed applications (including Letters of Recommendation) **must be received** no later than **Friday, April 24, 2026**, to be considered for admission to the Institute.
 - Note: Admission Decision Notifications will be released by mid-May 2026.
- Application packets should be **emailed to**: hilltuckerinstitute@gmail.com.
 - Please use the subject line “[Last Name, First Name] 2026 HTI Application”

***** Due to the volume of applications received, please ensure that your email contains all of the required attachments. The Institute will only accept applications that contain all the required information in one packet.***

PLEASE TYPE THIS APPLICATION. FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION.

Student Information

Applicant's Name

Gender and Preferred Pronouns

Date of Birth

Home Phone

Grade (in Fall 2026) School Name

Home Address

Email address (required, free email addresses are available through Gmail.com, Yahoo.com, & Hotmail.com)

City, State, Zip Code

**Have you attended the Pre-Law Institute before?
If so, what year(s)?**

Emergency Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Full Name

Alt. Emergency Contact & Relationship to Student

Home Phone

Work Phone

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email address

Email address

Address

Address

City, State, Zip Code

City, State, Zip Code

Student and Parent Assurances

I, _____ (“the Student”), understand that if selected for the program, I will abide by the guidelines and expectations set forth by the Institute. I understand that failure to participate in the programs, or unwillingness to abide by the guidelines and expectations, will be just cause for immediate dismissal of any participant who commits such an infraction. If selected, I will participate in all officially recognized Institute activities. I also consent to receive future communications from the Institute via email, using the email address I provided on the application form.

Student’s Signature

Date

I, the parent/guardian of _____, permit the Student, if selected, to participate in the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute. I realize that transportation to and from the Institute must be provided by the participants. I understand that if selected for the program, the Student will abide by the guidelines and expectations set forth by the Institute. I understand that failure to participate in the programs, or unwillingness to abide by the guidelines and expectations, will be just cause for immediate dismissal of any participant who commits such an infraction. If the Student is selected, I give permission for the Student to participate in all officially recognized Institute activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Activities/Programs

List the ***three*** most significant activities/programs/trainings in which you have participated during the past two years. If necessary, include the purpose of the organization, sponsoring agency, or group. Describe the time involved and any leadership position(s) you have held. Under “Year” indicate the calendar year of the training or activity. If you need more space, attach a second sheet.

Activity and Organization	Position Held	Time Involved	Year
<i>Example: 4-H Program for Montgomery County</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>12 hours/week</i>	<i>2024</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			

Honors/Recognitions

In this section, please list the three most significant honors/recognitions you have received in your area of interest.

Honor/Recognition	Level of Competition (regional, state, national, international)	Year
<i>Example: Distinguished Scholar, Montgomery County 4-H Club</i>	<i>Local</i>	<i>2024</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		

Essay Topic

Students must address the question indicated below. The essay should be 300-500 words in length, typed in 12-point font, and double spaced.* Please make certain to include your name in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the essay. The essay must be attached to this application.

Please describe an experience that influenced your decision to pursue a career in law. What from that experience will you bring with you to the Institute? What do you hope to gain from the Institute?

*AI policy: This essay is a chance for you to share your own thoughts, ideas, and experiences. As a result, essays with plagiarized material will be disqualified. This includes, but is not limited to, intentionally claiming as your own: (1) another person's thoughts, words, ideas, expressions, or experiences, or (2) significant content produced by artificial intelligence platforms, technologies, or algorithms. While applicants may use AI tools to help with basic spelling and grammar checks, just like other proofreading aids, all submitted materials must be the individual's own work.

School Transcript

Please attach an official copy of your high school transcript to this application, signed by your guidance counselor.

Recommendations:

Each applicant must provide two (2) recommendations. Recommendations may come from teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, or other adults who are not related to the student. At least one recommendation must come from one of the student's current teachers or guidance counselors. Each recommendation must be signed by the recommender.

Note to the Recommender:

Please comment about the characteristics of this student that make them a good applicant for the Oliver Hill Institute. Use specific examples from your association with the student to illustrate the student's interest, abilities, talents, personality, responsiveness to learning, self-discipline, and emotional stability/maturity. Please indicate how you believe the Oliver Hill Institute could assist this student's intellectual growth and development. A narrative format is preferable. A list is acceptable so long as it is not simply a listing of the student's activities or clubs. **Please type and double-space your response.**

Recommendation letters may be returned to the student to submit with their application or emailed under separate cover to hilltuckerinstitute@gmail.com. If emailing separately, please use the subject line "[Student's Last Name, First Name] 2026 HTI Recommendation Letter".