

# American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska Foundation 2011 Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship



Joan Hamilton (1942-2008) Cup'ik

Your completed Application Forms must be **RECEIVED** by 4:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday, November 22, 2010, at the ACLU of Alaska offices.

You may **mail, hand deliver, fax, or email** the completed application to:  
ACLU of Alaska, 1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207, Anchorage, AK 99503.  
Fax: (907) 258-0288                      Email: [akclu@akclu.org](mailto:akclu@akclu.org).

*If you have any questions, contact the ACLU office at: (907) 258-0044.*

## **Scholarship Amount and Eligibility Requirements**

Up to \$2,500 per academic year – Renewal awards available upon application  
2011 – 2012 academic year attendee in a post-high school educational or vocational program  
Studying for a career related to the law (i.e., lawyer, paralegal, VSO, *guardian ad litem*, etc.)  
Alaska Student committed to improving the lives of rural or Alaska Native communities



## **The ACLU of Alaska Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship**

The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska, with the endorsement and full support of the family of Joan Hamilton, has established a scholarship program in her name. An impassioned proponent of Native culture and civil rights, Joan was one of the first Alaska Natives to serve on the ACLU Board.

A Cup'ik Eskimo, Joan was well known in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and throughout Alaska. Born Joan Bill in Qissunaq, near Chevak, on July 31, 1942, her Cup'ik name was "Pirciralria." Joan said she "grew up in a hospital" as a result of childhood tuberculosis. She absorbed English from medical staff, who enjoyed her spunk and inquisitiveness. Joan attended boarding school at St. Mary's Mission and Copper Valley School and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles. She was equally comfortable speaking with Elders about traditional culture or negotiating with academic and government bureaucracies.



At a time when Alaska Natives, especially women, were denied equality, Joan became a licensed practical nurse, working at hospitals in Alaska and the Lower 48, as supervisor of the Northwest Free Clinic in Salt Lake City, program director of the Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention office of Rural CAP in Anchorage, administrator of the Tundra Women Coalition, chairman of the board for KYUK public broadcasting in Bethel, and the museum curator of the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center in Bethel.

It was during her time in Bethel that Joan became an active board member of the ACLU, where she was a tireless advocate for rural and Alaska Native rights, and was instrumental in ACLU recognition of Native rights advocates such as Willie Kassyulie and the Native Village of Nunapitchuk, Mike Williams, Sr., Natalie Landreth, and Eric Johnson.

**By establishing this scholarship in her name, the ACLU of Alaska wishes to promote and educationally support Alaska students who wish to pursue a career related to the law, become advocates of Alaska Native rights, and defend the constitutional rights and civil liberties of the peoples of rural Alaska.**

# APPLICATION

## **Agreement to Scholarship Guidelines and Media Release – Applicant, please sign**

The Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a post-secondary school Alaska student who wishes to pursue a career related to the law in which s/he will advocate for Alaska Native rights, and defend the civil liberties of the peoples of rural Alaska. The scholarship is intended to pay for tuition, room/board, textbooks, and academic expenses in an educational or vocational program.

I agree to the rules of the ACLU of Alaska Foundation Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship. I affirm that the information enclosed in this Application is accurate and original to me, and I authorize the ACLU to reproduce, distribute, create derivative works of and publicly display my essays in all media now known or hereafter developed in connection with its mission, including for promotional purposes. If I am a Scholarship recipient, I grant the ACLU the right to use my name, likeness, and biographical information in all media without any further compensation or permission.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **For applicants under 18: Consent from a Parent or Legal Guardian is required:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the [circle one: parent / guardian ] of the Applicant identified below. I have read this packet and understand its contents. I hereby consent to this Application for the Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship, and provision of the information requested.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **A. PERSONAL INFORMATION *(to be completed by applicant)***

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Year Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## B. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

	Name	City, State	Years	Degree	GPA
High School					
College					
Graduate					
Other					

How did you first learn about the ACLU Joan Hamilton Memorial Scholarship?

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## C. ESSAY

On separate pages, please attach a personal statement with a suggested length of 2 – 4 pages (double spaced if typed, minimum 1” margins, minimum 12 pt font). Please address the questions below, including – whenever possible – specific examples, and please address how the life and work of Joan Hamilton might relate to or inspire your goals. Additional information about Joan Hamilton is available at: <http://www.adn.com/2008/06/18/439734/promoter-of-native-culture-dies.html>, <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/NewsEvents/NewsReleases/coun-pr.htm>, and [http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/targets/ha2010/PDFs/Volume%202/Vol\\_II.pdf](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/targets/ha2010/PDFs/Volume%202/Vol_II.pdf). Information about the ACLU of Alaska is at [www.akclu.org](http://www.akclu.org).



1. What do you consider important challenges facing Alaska Native communities and/or residents of rural Alaska?
2. What actions have you taken, and do you plan to take, to support Alaska Native communities and/or residents of rural Alaska?
3. How would a law related career enable you to address the challenges facing Alaska Native communities and/or residents of rural Alaska?
4. How do you envision your education allowing you to further the work of Joan Hamilton and of the ACLU of Alaska?

**FINAL CHECKLIST** (to be completed by the applicant):

- Agreement to Scholarship Program Guidelines and Media Release**
  - Signed by the applicant
  
- Parent / Guardian Consent**
  - Completed and signed by parent or legal guardian for applicants under 18
  
- Personal Information**
  - Completed by the applicant
  
- Educational Information**
  - Completed by the applicant
  
- Personal Essay**
  - Completed by the applicant, addressing suggested issue areas.
  - Suggested length of 2 – 4 pages, (double spaced if typed, minimum 1” margins, minimum 12 pt font).
  
- Recommendation Form**
  - Section I completed by the applicant
  - Section II completed by the applicant’s reference
  - Sent to the ACLU in a sealed envelope if the right to access information on the recommendation form is waived
  
- Completed application to be RECEIVED in ACLU of Alaska offices by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 22, 2010, by either:**
  - **Mail or Hand Delivery:**  
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207, Anchorage, AK 99503
  - **Fax:** (907) 258-02388
  - **E-Mail:** [akclu@akclu.org](mailto:akclu@akclu.org) (attached as word or .pdf documents)



3. How has the Applicant shown leadership and teamwork in her community, both through her advocacy and otherwise. Please provide specific examples.

4. How do you see the Applicant continuing her commitment to addressing the needs of Alaska Native communities, and/or residents of rural Alaska in her career?

5. Additional comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

School / Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return completed form to applicant in sealed envelope with the applicant's name on the envelope.*