

The Thomas Penfield Jackson Award for Civic Responsibility and Democratic Citizenship

The Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College invites applications for the 2025 **Thomas Penfield Jackson Award for Civic Responsibility and Democratic Citizenship**. This award is intended to recognize and support St. Mary's College students who endeavor to pursue careers in public service or the law, international relations or other activities that promote civil society in the country.

Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson served our nation, our state and the St. Mary's community with distinction for more than a half century. After serving in the U.S. Navy, Jackson earned his law degree from Harvard in 1964. As an attorney in his father's law firm, he was known as a fearsome litigator. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Thomas Penfield Jackson to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Jackson presided over many nationally important cases, including the 1997 case involving the constitutionality of the presidential line-item veto and the Microsoft anti-trust case.

Thomas Penfield Jackson was appointed to the St. Mary's College Board of Trustees in 2001 and in 2002 became a member of the Center's Advisory Board. Throughout his career at St. Mary's, he provided frequent guest lectures on law and history. He also provided strong support for the mission of the Center for the Study of Democracy, emphasizing the importance of the Center in building responsible citizens.

As a lasting tribute to his many contributions to the College and the nation, the Thomas Penfield Jackson Award for Civic Responsibility and Democratic Citizenship honors his lifetime of service to our country and his commitment to the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The competition is open to third and fourth year St. Mary's College students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship and leadership. **The award provides a \$1,500 stipend** to enable students to take internships or to support other early career options that strengthen our democracy or help build civil society. The scope of possible activities supported by the award is broad and include such things as participation in international or national service organizations (Peace Corps, VISTA, Teach for America) as well as academic programs that help build civil society or advance public policy or the study of law.

Qualifications: Current St. Mary's College junior or senior; GPA must be at least 3.0; must apply to career programs or internships prior to submitting award application. Faculty associated with the Center for the Study of Democracy will administer the award.

Application Deadlines: A completed application is due by **Friday, February 21, 2025**. Submissions should be emailed to the Center for the Study of Democracy (democracy@smcm.edu). Oral interviews will follow as appropriate. This award will be presented to the recipient at SMCM's Awards Convocation in April 2025.

This program is made possible through the generous support of the friends and family of Thomas Penfield Jackson.

The Thomas Penfield Jackson Award for Civic Responsibility and Democratic Citizenship

Application

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SMCM Year/Standing: ☐ Third Year ☐ Fourth Year

Major: _____

Minor: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

The following items are needed to complete an application:

- A current resume and cover letter discussing the importance of the award for your professional development and how you plan to use it.
- The names of two people who would recommend you for the award. You may use academic references or professional references.
- A short essay (1000 words or less) indicating how your work in a service organization or how your post-graduate studies will strengthen our democracy or build civil society. Third year students can discuss the type of internship they intend to pursue this summer and how it will help them strengthen our democracy.

The following items are not required but helpful:

- Any document(s) indicating pending applications, acceptance to organizations or schools you anticipate beginning after the spring 2025 semester. Acceptance into programs is not required to receive the award.

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