

Middlesex County Bar Foundation 2016 Project Law Essay Contest

Equal Protection Rights

Rebecca Johnson is in the process of completing her Associate's Degree at Middlesex County College ("MCC") in the fall of 2015. Rebecca has received numerous scholarships which have funded her studies at MCC. For the continuation of her undergraduate studies, Rebecca has been accepted into Seton Hall University where she plans to obtain a degree in accounting. Rebecca's studies will commence in January 2016 and she plans to attend on a full-time basis (12 credits per semester). The cost for Seton Hall University is approximately \$18,000.00 per semester.

Rebecca's parents divorced in 2010. She lived with her mother and had on and off communication with her father until her high school graduation in 2013. She has lived with her Aunt Susan since then.

Given her financial situation (minimal savings and substantial credit card debt), Rebecca plans on suing both her mother and father for contribution toward her Seton Hall University tuition. Rebecca has consulted with an attorney, who indicates that her situation mirrors the recently public case of Caitlyn Ricci which was decided in the Camden County Superior Court in 2014.

Write an essay discussing the following: 1) the merits of Rebecca's case pursuant to *Newburgh v. Arrigo*, 88 N.J. 529 (1982) and all other relevant case law; and 2) whether current New Jersey case law consisting of *Newburgh* and its progeny violates the Equal Protection rights of separated, divorced, and unmarried parents who are compelled to financially contribute to their child's college education.

Give the reasons for your position.

- Provide a thesis statement which clearly outlines your position.
- Research and refer a minimum of 3 sources and/or cases to support your position.
- Follow the MLA format for writing your essay and most importantly in citing all sources.
- Attach a Works Cited page at the end of your essay, in MLA format.
- Any essay submissions that do not adhere to MLA Format and the additional guidelines set forth will be disqualified.

SEE ATTACHED PAGES FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES.