

**The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund**  
**Spring 2021 Spring Essay Scholarship Application (Page 1)**

**2021 Spring Essay Scholarship Application**

The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund (BWLA-SF) endeavors to encourage Black students in the law through support in their legal education and to promote diversity in the legal profession.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants must (1) be of Black or African descent, (2) complete the essay and attached application and submit all required documents by the deadline of Friday, April 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CST; (3) attend a Chicagoland ABA accredited law school as a 1L, 2L or 3L evidenced by a Letter of Good Standing from the school's registrar; and (4) complete an interview with the BWLA Scholarship Fund Board of Directors if selected as a finalist.

**AWARD:** The Grand Prize Award will be at least \$3,000 depending on the amount of scholarship funds available.

**DEADLINE:** The application and all documents **must** be e-mailed to [scholarship@bwla.org](mailto:scholarship@bwla.org) by **Friday, April 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CST. All application materials must be submitted in one PDF document**, with the exception of any letter of good standing or transcript that may be sent directly from the applicant's law school depending on the institution's policies.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name:	Telephone Number:
Address (including City, State, and Zip Code):	
Name of Law School:	Year in Law School:
Are you a current member of the BWLA? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Are you interested in becoming a member of the BWLA? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please include a current resume including any extra-curricular activities, community service, outreach activities and organizations in which you are currently involved and stating the extent of your involvement.	
Please include a Letter of Good Standing from your law school and a copy of your transcript.	
Please complete the attached essay question and comply with the essay requirements.	

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**ESSAY PROMPT AND REQUIREMENTS**

**ESSAY PROMPT**

On January 6, 2021, the United States Capitol Building was breached by hordes of angry mobs which ultimately set the stage for the second impeachment of our 45<sup>th</sup> President. Some news outlets described the event as a display of “rioters” wreaking havoc throughout the halls of Congress. Other news outlets compared the event to the marches of 2020 that occurred in the wake of George Floyd’s death. The news media is inherently split in labeling groups of people as either rioters, protestors, domestic terrorists, or insurrectionists. For example, during the Civil Rights movement, African Americans made history by showing up in large numbers to fight for equality. Though history now refers to that large group as “protesters,” at the time the news media labeled them as “rioters” and “thugs.”

Would you categorize the groups of people who breached the Capitol on January 6, 2021 as exercising their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and expression, or did their conduct warrant criminal sanctions?

How did the media classification of their actions compare to that of the groups of individuals involved in Black Lives Matter gatherings in the Summer of 2020? How has the history of race relations in America shaped these classifications?

**ESSAY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Essay must be typed, 12-point font, double spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1-inch margins throughout the entire document.
2. Essay must be a minimum of three, but not more than five, typewritten pages.
3. Essay must follow *Blue Book* citation rules.
4. Essay must cite legal authority in support of any arguments, including, but not limited to, case law, statutes and/or public policy.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Essays will be judged on the appropriate use of legal and non-legal information sources, content (spelling, grammar, and organization), originality, persuasiveness, and clarity of argument.

Applications will also be judged based on the applicant’s academic record, commitment to community service, current involvement in community or professional organizations as demonstrated by the applicant’s resume, and the scholarship interview if selected as a finalist.

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**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- Completed and signed application;
- Essay;
- Letter of Good Standing;
- Resume (including current community service activities, i.e. professional organizations, student groups and non-profit activities); and
- Law school transcript.

All required documents must be emailed to [scholarship@bwla.org](mailto:scholarship@bwla.org) by **Friday, April 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

**INTERVIEWS**

The BWLA Scholarship Fund Board will select the top applicants and invite them for an interview. Those chosen for interviews will be notified via email. The interview will include questions regarding the applicant's interests, career goals, resume, and the submitted essay.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the information provided herein is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)