

**The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund**

**2023 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.

**AWARD:** The final amount and number of scholarships awarded will depend on the quality and quantity of submissions received and the amount of scholarship funds raised. Last year, the Grand Prize Award was \$20,000. Scholarship recipients will be recognized during the National Summit of Black Women Lawyers to take place March 30 – April 1, 2023, at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants must (1) be of Black or African descent, (2) complete the essay and attached application and submit all required documents by the stated deadline; (3) attend an 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 Interview Panel if selected as a finalist on Saturday, February 25, 2023.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION:** Each application must be typewritten, converted to a PDF, and combined with all other supporting documentation into **ONE PDF** file, except for a transcript or letter of good standing which may be sent directly from the applicant's law school depending on the institution's policies. Applications submitted in other formats or as more than one PDF file will not be considered. The application and all documents must be e-mailed to [scholarship@bwla.org](mailto:scholarship@bwla.org) with "BWLA Spring Essay Scholarship Application – Name" in the subject by **Friday, January 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

**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 résumé 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.	

**ESSAY PROMPT AND REQUIREMENTS**

**ESSAY PROMPT**

The U.S. Supreme Court has once again taken up the question of affirmative action in higher education in two currently pending cases: *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*. Considering this, several student groups are concerned that your school may implement a race-neutral admission policy which they believe will result in less diversity on campus and harm students' experiences.

Draft a letter for your student organization conveying your opinion about the matter. Your response should address the rights colleges and universities have to consider race in the admissions process as set forth in prior cases, the goals and any benefits of race-conscious policies, and the potential impact a repudiation of affirmative action would have in school settings and other areas.

Alternatively, if you believe that race-neutral policies should be adopted by the school, provide a compelling basis for your position.

**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 résumé, and the scholarship interview if selected as a finalist.

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**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- ▶ Completed and signed application;
- ▶ Essay;
- ▶ Letter of Good Standing;
- ▶ Résumé (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) with “BWLA Spring Essay Scholarship Application – Name” in the subject by **Friday, January 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

**INTERVIEWS**

The BWLA Scholarship Fund Board will select the top applicants and invite them for an interview on Saturday, February 25, 2023. 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)