

The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund

Bar Review Scholarship Application

The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund (BWLA-SF) endeavors to promote diversity in the legal profession by providing mentorship and other resources in support of their legal education and career advancement. To support this goal, BWLA-SF will award recent law school graduates sitting for a 2024 state bar exam a scholarship with a stipend for bar exam preparation.

AWARD: BWLA-SF will award 1 (one) Bar Review scholarship and stipend to cover the cost of a bar review course and studies for one law school graduate sitting for the Illinois bar exam. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at BWLA's Annual Spring Fundraiser Luncheon, *Celebrating Chief Legal Officers - Charting a Course for Change*, on April 25, 2024, at 167 Green.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must (1) be of Black or African descent; (2) complete the essay and application and submit all required documents; (3) have attended an ABA-accredited law school; (4) attest to registration for the July 2024 Illinois bar exam and submit evidence upon request; and (5) be pursuing a career in government or public service.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Applicants will be evaluated on the following: professionalism of application materials (incomplete or incorrectly formatted application materials will be disqualified); essay substance and quality; commitment to public service and diversity; professional and academic achievement; unmet financial need; and BWLA involvement. Applications with excessive typographical and/or grammatical errors may be disqualified.

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 with "BWLA Bar Review Scholarship Application – Name" in the subject by **Friday, March 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

<u>APPLICANT INFORMATION</u>	
Name:	Telephone Number and Email:
Address (including City, State, and Zip Code):	
Name of Law School:	Year in Law School (or Graduation Year):
Chicagoland connection? (You have attended a Chicagoland ABA-accredited law school OR have a demonstrated present or future connection to the Chicagoland legal market): Y / N	
Are you a member of BWLA? Y / N	
On a separate sheet of paper, please list any amount of financial assistance you are currently receiving, such as employment, grants or scholarships (do not include loans).	

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ESSAY PROMPT AND REQUIREMENTS

ESSAY PROMPT

Share with us “why public service?” Describe your current (or intended) type of legal practice or field and explain your short- and long-term goals. What led you to those decisions? Feel free to discuss topics such as a personal challenge or experience you faced that led you to want to pursue a career in government or public service or a passion for or involvement in a project that contributed to your desire to pursue public service.

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 no more than 1,000 words.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. Completed and signed application;
2. Essay;
3. Resume (*including current community service activities, i.e. professional organizations, student groups and non-profit activities*);
4. Law School Transcript;
5. Letter of Good Standing from your school's registrar (*for current students only*); and
6. Evidence of registration for the Illinois Bar Exam upon request.

All required documents must be emailed to scholarship@bwla.org with “BWLA Bar Review Scholarship Application – Name” in the subject by **Friday, March 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I intend to register (or have registered) for the Illinois bar exam in July 2024. I understand that BWLA may request evidence of registration and I will provide such documentation upon request.

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

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)