

The Southern Region of the

National Black Law Students Association

2016-2017 Trailblazer Scholarship Guide



Greetings SRBLSA Family,

It is my pleasure to announce the SRBLSA Trailblazer Scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year.

In this packet, the requirements and documents that must be submitted to apply for the scholarship are listed. Scholarship essays will be graded upon their content, organization and style. The application is scheduled to be released December 22, 2016, and will be **due January 13, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EST**. There will be no late submissions accepted. The scholarship recipient will be announced in the SRBLSA Monthly Newsletter. In addition to receiving an official announcement and a financial award, the recipient will be recognized at the 2017 SRBLSA Regional Convention in Atlanta, GA, and placed in the running to win SRBLSA Trailblazer of the Year.

During the 2017 SRBLSA Regional Convention, convention attendees will be able to choose one of the top five scholarship candidates to be the SRBLSA Trailblazer of the Year by voting for one of the five submissions during the convention.

The Southern Region is comprised of many talented students who are committed to exemplary achievement. This is an opportunity for you to be recognized and rewarded for your hard work and dedication to excellence. We are looking forward to receiving your scholarship applications!

In SRBLSA Love,

National Black Law Student Association, 2016-2017

SRBLSA Trailblazer Scholarships

Application Deadline: January 13, 2017



**Purpose**

The Executive Board of the Southern Region of Black Law Students Association is pleased to announce the SRBLSA Trailblazer Scholarship. To be eligible for this award, applicants must currently be in their second or third year of law school. Applicants must write an essay on the issue posed by the essay question below.

**Essay Question**

In 1,500 words or less please discuss: SRBLSA’s theme for 2016-2017, Together We Rise: Lifting Up a New Generation of Justice Advocates. This scholarship is a legacy that we have created to reflect our commitment to creating the next generation of trailblazers in the legal profession. What does the concept of Together We Rise: Lifting Up a New Generation of Justice Advocates mean to you? How have you exemplified the theme this year? Do you consider yourself a Trailblazer? Why? Please discuss your reasoning in 1,500 words or less including your involvement in your local BLSA Chapter.

**Scholarship Information**

The winning essay will be chosen based on content, grammar, organization and style. The essay must be the product of the applicant. It must be 1,500 words or less, typed, and double-spaced.

**Criteria**

In order to be considered for the scholarship, please submit the following as a single PDF document:

1. Scholarship Application
2. One copy of your resume
3. One copy of your essay
4. A letter from your BLSA Chapter President or Treasurer certifying that you are a dues paying member.
5. A recent photograph suitable for publication; i.e., a cap and gown picture, or other professional quality and professionally dressed photograph.



**Selection Process**

The Scholarship Committee will select the scholarship recipient. Applications must be emailed to [srblsa.parliamentarian@nblsa.org](http://srblsa.parliamentarian@nblsa.org) by **January 13, 2016, at 11:59 pm EST** with the subject line: SRBLSA Trailblazer Scholarship Application. All application materials must be submitted as a single PDF document and saved as Your Name\_TrailblazerScholarship.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The Scholarship recipient will be notified via email and/or phone, and recognized in the SRBLSA newsletter and during the SRBLSA Regional Convention. Attendance at the Regional Convention is required to receive the scholarship**.** Questions regarding this scholarship should be sent to the Regional Parliamentarian, Franshun Vann, at [srblsa.parliamentarian@nblsa.org](mailto:srblsa.parliamentarian@nblsa.org).



**2016- 2017 Trailblazer Scholarship Application**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Law School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Print Applicant Name Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date



**2016-2017 Trailblazer Scholarship Application**

**Essay Grading Rubric**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sub-Region: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Essay Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_out of 25

**CRITERIA**

**Points 1 to 5 (Range: 1= Poor 2=Fair 3=Average 4=Good 5=Excellent)**

**THESIS and CONTENT (Development)**

The essay has a thesis—a single, central point that is interesting, original, striking and substantial. The central idea is developed in the essay through well-chosen, appropriate, concrete details that show originality and freshness. Author shows rather than merely tells. Generalizations and assertions are defended. Arguments are logical.

**ORGANIZATION**

The essay is organized and well-structured (there is a beginning, a body, and a conclusion). The essay exhibits a clear strategy for persuasion and pattern of development (chronological order, spatial order, comparison/contrast, etc.). The organization works with the thesis so that the thesis and the organization contribute to serving the purpose of the essay. Essay does not digress from central point. Transitions help the paper flow smoothly. Introductory paragraph(s) is (are) interesting and appropriate. Concluding paragraph is satisfying.

**PARAGRAPHS**

Paragraphs are organized, unified and coherent. Each supporting paragraph has a controlling idea (which may be expressed in a topic sentence). In supporting paragraphs, topic idea helps further the thesis.)



**2016-2017 Trailblazer Scholarship Application**

**STYLE**

Sentences are mature and parallel. Writer avoids modifier problems. Sentences show variety of pattern and are rhetorically effective. The essay is written in a style and tone appropriate to the audience, topic and purpose. Words are appropriate and well chosen. Writer avoids jargon and sexist language. Writer seems to be speaking in an authentic voice. Paper is enjoyable and interesting.

**GRAMMAR, SPELLING, MECHANICS**

Subtract points for errors in grammar (comma splices, fragments, fused sentences, agreement, etc.), spelling, and mechanics (margins, format, etc.).

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_