

# BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES FOUNDATION

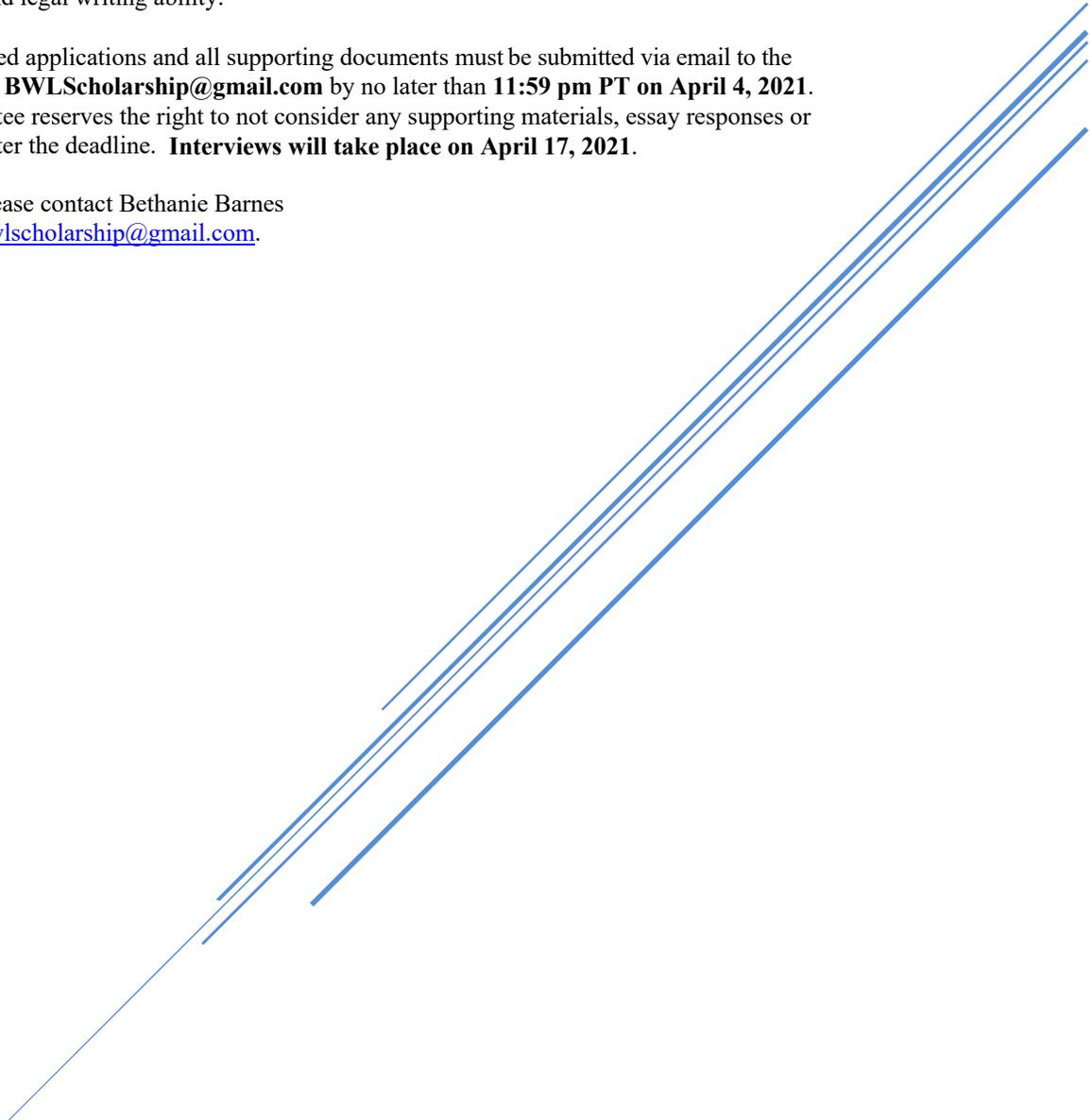
## 2021 Law Student Scholarship/Bar Grant Application

**The Application and Attachments:** Please provide detailed answers to the application questions and required attachments. BWL will maintain all information received from applicants in confidence.

**Selection Criteria:** BWL awards its scholarship/bar grants on the basis of financial need, community service, academic achievement and legal writing ability.

**Instructions:** Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted via email to the Scholarship Committee at [BWLScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:BWLScholarship@gmail.com) by no later than **11:59 pm PT on April 4, 2021**. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to not consider any supporting materials, essay responses or applications submitted after the deadline. **Interviews will take place on April 17, 2021.**

If you have questions, please contact Bethanie Barnes and Pamela Dansby at [bwlscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:bwlscholarship@gmail.com).





## 2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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**Eligibility:** Scholarships are limited to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year law students (and 4<sup>th</sup> year law students enrolled in part-time or evening programs) who attend an accredited law school and intend to practice law in the Southern California area. Scholarship recipients **must** be available to participate in the virtual scholarship luncheon on June 5, 2021. Scholarships typically range from \$3,000 – \$5,000.

<b>A. Personal Information</b>	
Name	
Street Address	
City, State and Zip Code	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
Email Address	

<b>B. Family Information</b> (if applicable)	
Marital Status	
No. of Dependent Children	
Age(s) of Child(ren)	
Occupation of spouse	

<b>C. Employment Information</b> (if applicable)	
Current Employer	
Employment Address	
City, State and Zip Code	
Position/Title	
Hours per week	
Gross wages per month	

**D. Law School Academic Information**

Law School	
Start Date	
Anticipated Graduation Date	
Cumulative GPA	
Class Rank (if known)	
Honors or Awards	
Extracurricular Activities	

**E. Undergraduate Academic Information**

College or University	
Degree	
Dates of Attendance	
Graduation Date	
Cumulative GPA	
Honors or Awards	
Extracurricular Activities	

**F. Post Graduate Academic Information (if applicable)**

University	
Degree	
Dates of Attendance	
Graduation Date	
Cumulative GPA	
Honors or Awards	
Extracurricular Activities	

### G. Financial Information

Please estimate your monthly expenses and financial resources

<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>		<b><u>RESOURCES:</u></b>	
Tuition & Fees	\$	Scholarships	\$
Educational supplies	\$	Loans	\$
Rent/Mortgage	\$	Wages	\$
Utilities	\$	Spouse's wages	\$
Food	\$	Monetary gifts	\$
Student Loan Payments	\$	Investments: stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.	\$
Medical/dental	\$	Current account balances	\$
Transportation	\$	Checking	\$
Child care	\$	Savings	\$
Bar Application Expenses	\$	Other	\$
Miscellaneous	\$	Miscellaneous	\$
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$</b>

### H. Legal Career Plans

What are your plans for employment following graduation? Have you received any offers for employment as of today's date? If so, please discuss.

**I. Community Involvement**

Please list and describe the community or professional organizations which you have been actively involved during the past four years. If an additional page is necessary to respond to this prompt, please include at the top of the page "Community Involvement."

**J. Additional Information**

Please describe any additional information or circumstances, including hardship, that you would like the Scholarship Committee to consider with your application. If an additional page is necessary to respond to this prompt, please include at the top of the page "Additional Information."

K. Miscellaneous	
Where do you intend to practice law after graduation? (City, State)	
How did you hear about this scholarship?	
Do you currently know any BWL members? If so, please list their name(s)	
Have you previously applied for and/or received a BWL scholarship? If so, when?	
Are you currently a BWL student member? If so, when did you join?	
Have you participated in any past BWL events? If so, please list the events, year, and explain your level of participation (volunteer, attendee, committee member).	

**L. Personal Statement** (500-750 words max.)

Please tell us about yourself, including your personal and professional background, passions and interests, extracurricular activities, and why you have chosen to pursue a career in law.

**M. BWL Essay** (2500 words max.)

Your essay must be typed, proof read, double-spaced, cite legal authority in support of your position and be well organized. The essay will demonstrate to the committee your ability to analyze legal issues. The essay is modeled after a California State Bar Exam Performance Test and is a great opportunity for you to demonstrate your mastery over this type of exam. **See page 6 for the Essay Question.**

N. Supporting Documents
<p>Please submit the following documents with your completed application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current official law school transcript, including school grading scale</li> <li>• Law school letter verifying your current academic status/enrollment</li> <li>• 2020 – 2021 Financial Aid Award Letter</li> <li>• Resume</li> <li>• Employment offer letter or other documentation showing your intent to practice in Southern California, if any.</li> </ul>

**Agreement and Signature**

By submitting this scholarship application:

- I affirm that the facts set forth in the application, including any attachments, are true and complete.
- I affirm that my responses to the Essay are my own, and that I did not consult with or have anyone prepare my responses; and
- I understand that if I am selected as a scholarship recipient and any of the information I provided is false that my scholarship award may be revoked.

Name (print)	
Date	

## M. BWL Essay Question

### *People v. Paul*

Paul is a gang member who has always performed well in school. In fact, he did so well that he graduated from UCSC college and now attends Loyern Law School as President of BLSA. While driving to class with Bob, a fellow student that he grew up with, he was stopped by the police for not having a current registration sticker, although his registration checked out as paid and current. Paul rolled down his driver's side window. When Officer Tommy walked up to Paul's window, he pointed his gun at Paul, yelling, "Do you have any guns or drugs?!?" Paul replied, "Yes, I have a semiautomatic gun under my seat!" The officer and his partner, Officer Nick, ordered Paul and Bob out of the car, patted them down and searched their pockets and wallets. Paul and Bob were detained, handcuffed and seated in the back of the police car while the officers searched Paul's car. Officer Tommy found the gun under the driver's seat. Officer Tommy then searched the entire interior of the car and the trunk. In the trunk, he found dozens of fake credit cards, a letter addressed to Paul describing how to manufacture the cards and the best way to pass them as real cards. The officer also found several driver's licenses of local citizens and 10 used laptops.

After searching the car, Officer Nick ordered Bob out of the car, turned on his body worn video camera and interviewed Bob. In the interview, Bob says, "Paul is a bad person. He's a thief! As a matter of fact, I heard he stole those laptops from a battered women's shelter and that the laptops were used for the women's kids' distance learning classes!" Officers determined that Bob had a clean record, was lawfully licensed to drive, and that Paul's car was legally insured. Bob offered to drive Paul's car to Paul's mother's home, but the officers impounded the car. Bob Uber'd home. Paul is arrested for 1) possession of an illegal firearm with gang allegations, 2) possession of fake credit cards with intent to use them and 3) theft (of the laptops).

Once transported to the station, Officer Tommy placed Paul in an interview room. As soon as Officer Tommy entered the room, he asked Paul about the gun, the credit cards and the laptops. Paul admits he bought the gun on the street and that it was stolen. He also admits he was in a credit card ring and uses the driver's licenses and fake credit cards together to purchase big ticket items like big screen TV's, vacations, and even cars. Paul denied stealing the laptops and claimed he did not even know they were in the trunk. After Paul's statement, Officer Nick read Paul his Miranda rights. Without getting a response from Paul, Officer Nick says, "I just want to go over what you told us again." Immediately, Paul repeated his statement to the officers.

Officer Nick took Paul to be photographed, searched and booked. Officer Nick confiscated Paul's cell phone and began to thumb through it, noticing several texts using gang language, photos of the driver's licenses found in the trunk, a photo of a women's shelter, and a photo of the laptops found in the trunk. Officer Nick sent the cell phone to forensics to extract all information out of Paul's phone, in anticipation of using it at trial. Officer Tommy turned on the hidden audio recorder in Cell #1. Paul was then taken to Cell #1 to await transportation to county jail downtown.

The officers briefed Informant Ivan on what they found in Paul's car and instructed him to try to get Paul to confess to stealing the laptops. Before putting Ivan in the cell with Paul, they deposited \$1000.00 to Ivan's CashApp account. Ivan went into Paul's cell, with a fake teardrop tattooed under his eye, and asked, "Man, what you in for?" After Paul answered, Ivan lied and claimed that he was in for gang murder. Ivan ultimately got Paul to admit that he knew the laptops were in his trunk, but not that he stole them from a women's shelter. After 6 hours, Paul bailed out of jail.

Paul hired an attorney. Without warning her, Paul brought 300 fake credit cards to Attorney Mindy's office for his first interview. He said, "I need you to keep these fake cards for me until the trial is over. If I go to jail, take them to my gang homie, 'Don't Trip,' so they can use them to make some money to pay the balance of your attorney fees!" Attorney Mindy agreed and placed the cards in her safe.

Before trial, the prosecutor dismissed the gang allegations that were attached to the gun charge. At trial, the prosecutor played the recording of Paul's conversation with Ivan for the jury. Bob ditched his subpoena and failed to show up for testimony. As such, the prosecutor played the recording of Bob's interview and introduced all of the evidence found in Paul's cell phone. During closing argument, the prosecutor argued, "He's lucky we dropped the gang allegations. He's getting a break!" The jury received the case for deliberations after four days of trial. Before the deliberations began, the judge gave them a 15-minute break. During that break, Paul entered an elevator. The only two Black jurors on the jury were also in the elevator. They all rode in the elevator in silence, however, as Paul exited the elevator, one of the two jurors whispered, "We got you man! Don't worry about a thing!" Paul told Attorney Mindy what happened. Attorney Mindy took no action. The jury deadlocked with a count of 10 votes for "guilty" and two votes for "not guilty." The two Black jurors were the two who voted for "not guilty."

You attended the trial of People v. Paul as a court observer and recent law school graduate. You heard the facts as described above. Your bar prep instructor would like you to address the following in a memorandum:

1. Did the police officers violate Paul's and/or Bob's federal constitutional rights? If so, name the right(s) and how they were violated.
2. Did the trial court err in admitting any of the evidence to the jury trial? Please apply California or federal constitutional authority only.
3. What ethical and/or criminal violations, if any, did the prosecution and/or Attorney Mindy commit? Answer according to California and ABA authorities.