

The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund

2022 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 Saturday, April 9, 2022 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 a virtual interview with the BWLA Scholarship Fund Board of Directors if selected as a finalist on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

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 by **Saturday, April 9, 2022 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 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

Over the past year, school boards have grappled with the politicization of hotly-contested issues related to student safety and education. In some jurisdictions, legislatures have passed bills to prohibit mask mandates to protect against COVID-19, bar discussion of LGBTQ+ issues, and prevent the teaching of “Critical Race Theory.” Even in jurisdictions where the legislature has not spoken, school boards across the country are being faced with demands from concerned parents regarding curriculum modification, including the banning of books on race and the Holocaust.

Please prepare an essay outlining your position on what influence, if any, parents should have on the design and implementation of rules and curriculum for public school students. A thorough essay will consider the balance of governmental interests versus parental rights, address examples of parents’ participation in the process, and include a discussion of pending legislation or school board activity nationwide on key issues.

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 by **Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

INTERVIEWS

The BWLA Scholarship Fund Board will select the top applicants and invite them for an interview to be held via Zoom on Saturday, April 23, 2022. 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)