

The Black Women Lawyers' Association Scholarship Fund

2026 Fall Book Scholarship Application

The Black Women Lawyers' Association (BWLA) Scholarship Fund endeavors to uplift Black law students by providing resources and mentorship in support of their legal education and career advancement.

PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP: The purpose of the BWLA Fall Book Scholarship is to meet a portion of the financial need of current law students.

AWARD: The BWLA Scholarship Fund will award **up to ten \$1,000.00 book scholarships**. Scholarship recipients are invited to attend and be recognized at the annual **Sips for Scholarships event in South Loop Chicago on October 20, 2026**.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must (1) be of Black or African descent; (2) complete and sign the application, including answering all application questions; (3) attend an Illinois ABA-accredited law school OR have a demonstrated present or future connection to the Chicago legal market; (4) demonstrate a commitment to public service or diversity (evidenced by current leadership or participation in community service or outreach); (5) have unmet financial needs; (6) supply an official or unofficial transcript and (7) a letter of good standing from your school's registrar.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Applicants will be evaluated on the following: (1) professionalism of application materials (incomplete or incorrectly formatted application materials will be disqualified); (2) commitment to public service and diversity; (3) professional and academic achievement; (4) unmet financial need; and (5) 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 any letter of good standing or transcript which may be sent directly from the applicant's law school to BWLA depending on the institution's policies. Applications submitted in other formats or as more than one PDF file will not be considered.

DEADLINE: The application and all documentation must be e-mailed to scholarship@bwla.org by September 29, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CST.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:	Telephone Number and Email Address:
Address (including City, State, and Zip Code):	
Name of Law School:	Year in Law School:
Are you a current member of BWLA? Yes No	Are you interested in becoming a member of BWLA? Yes No

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).

Please **submit a current resume or curriculum vitae** including any extra-curricular activities, community service, outreach activities, and organizations in which you are currently involved and stating the extent of your involvement.

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS

Applicants must respond to every statement/question below **to qualify for the scholarship. Each response must not exceed 150 words.**

1. How do you intend to use your legal education?
2. What are you doing, or what do you plan to do, to further diversity efforts at your school and what are your plans for furthering diversity efforts in the legal profession?
3. What has been your involvement in the Black Women Lawyers' Association to date and/or how do you intend to be involved in the future?
4. Briefly include any additional information you would like us to consider.

CERTIFICATION

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

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)