



**BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES  
2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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Eligibility: Scholarships are limited to full-time law students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year and part-time students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year who attend an accredited law school and intend to practice law in the Southern California area. Interviews will take place on April 30 or May 7, 2016. Scholarship recipients **MUST** attend the Black Women Lawyers Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Scholarships typically range from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

<b>Personal Information</b>	
Name	
Street Address	
City State Zip Code	
Cell Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

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

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

<b>Law School Educational Information</b>	
Law School	
Dates of attendance	
Expected date of graduation	
Cumulative GPA	
Class Rank	
Honors or Awards	
School or Club Activities	

<b>Undergraduate Educational Information</b>	
School	
Degree	
Dates of attendance	
Graduation date	
Cumulative GPA	
Honors or Awards	
School or Club Activities	

<b>Graduate Educational Information (if applicable)</b>	
School	
Degree	
Dates of attendance	
Graduation date	
Cumulative GPA	
Honors or Awards	
School or Club Activities	

### Financial Information

Please estimate your expenses and income for the period from August 2015-June 2016.

<b>EXPENSES:</b>		<b>SOURCES OF INCOME:</b>	
Tuition & Fees	\$	Scholarships	\$
Educational supplies	\$	Loans	\$
Rent/Mortgage	\$	Wages	\$
Utilities	\$	Spouse's wages	\$
Food	\$	Monetary gifts	\$
Personal expenses	\$	Miscellaneous	\$
Medical/dental	\$		\$
Transportation	\$		
Child care	\$		
Bar expenses	\$		
Miscellaneous	\$		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>

### 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. (Please limit your response to 250 words).

**Community Involvement**

Please list and describe the community or professional organizations with which you have been actively involved, including any leadership positions you have held, during the past four years. Please use additional pages, if necessary.

**Additional Information**

Please describe any additional information or circumstances, including hardship, that you would like the Scholarship Committee to consider with your application. Please use additional pages, if necessary.

<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
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 or have you ever been 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, etc.)	

**PERSONAL STATEMENT** (should be 1-2 pages in length)

Please tell us about your personal and professional background, passions, and interests, extracurricular activities and why you have chosen to pursue a career in law. Your personal statement must be type-written and double-spaced.

**ESSAYS** (should be 10 pages or less)

Your essay must demonstrate your ability to identify the legal issues presented and provide a thorough, detailed analysis and application of the relevant legal authority. See the Essay Question and Instructions at the end of this application on pages 6 and 7. Your essays must be type-written and law review quality.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS - ALL MATERIALS ARE DUE BY 11:59 P.M. on April 16, 2016**

Please submit the following documents with your completed application:

1. Current official law school transcript, including school grading scale;
2. Law school letter verifying your current academic status/enrollment;
3. 2015-2016 Financial Aid award letter;
4. Resume;
5. Offer letter, statement affirming your intent, or other documentation showing your intent to practice in Southern California; and
6. One letter of recommendation from a professor or community member.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted in one packet electronically in BOTH Word and PDF format by 11:59 p.m., April 16, 2016 and should be sent to: BWLFScholarshipSelection2016@gmail.com, attention Professor Tracie R. Porter.

<b>Agreement and Signature</b>	
By submitting this scholarship application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am selected as a scholarship recipient and any of the information I provided is false, my scholarship award may be revoked.	
Name (print)	
Signature	
Date	



**BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES  
2016 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY QUESTION**

Submit to: BWLFScholarshipSelection2016@gmail.com

Attn: Professor Tracie R. Porter (Chair)

**Essay Topic: School Discipline and Prison**

School discipline of black and brown children and youth has been the topic of discussion for the past several years, but according to the findings of U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights in its data collection for reporting year 2012, disciplinary policies in public schools are harsher on black and brown students than any other race of students. Sanctions were reported as grossly disproportionate, particularly expulsion and suspension of black and brown students. The cliché known as the school-to-prison pipeline has been discussed and criticized by civil and legal organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the American Bar Association (ABA). All these organizations have concluded, to some extent, that the policies in public schools that criminalize students for non-violent violations of school policies and without due process are leading our black and brown youth into the court system that may likely lead them into the prison system.

For a perspective from a young black man, you should review Kyle Thompson's story posted on the ACLU website. The ACLU notes that Kyle is part of a national trend where children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. The video is available at: <https://www.aclu.org/feature/school-prison-pipeline>.

**Your Essay Assignment:** Based on the topic of this essay and the resources provided to you below, you should provide an analysis of the current disciplinary policies and laws for preschool, elementary, or high school black and brown students, and provide your recommendations for alternative policies or laws that can be implemented to deal with the issue of plugging the school-to-prison pipeline.

**Closed Universe of Resources**

You **MUST** use the following resources to support your analysis of this essay issue. You do not have to use all the resources provided but must adequately incorporate sufficient resources to support your position.

- 1) You may use any article from the Arkansas Law Review, Volume 68 (2015).
  - a. This issue of the Arkansas Law Review contains articles from a special symposium issue addressing education and this essay topic.
  - b. You do NOT have to use all the articles in the essay.
  - c. You may use the footnote resources from any of the articles.
  
- 2) The following books are resources for your consideration:
  - a. Richard Arum, Judging School Discipline: The Crisis of Moral Authority (Harvard University Press 2003).

- b. Paul Kuttner & Monica Ng, *Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline* (Harvard Educational Review 2012).
- c. Derrick Bell, *New Perspectives on School Segregation* (Teachers College Press 1980).
- d. F. Michael Higginbotham, *Ghosts of Jim Crow: Ending Racism in Post-Racial America* (New York University Press 2013).
- e. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010).
- f. Merira Levinson, *No Citizen Left Behind* (Harvard University Press 2012).

Any of these books may be checked out of your library or through inter-library loan. You do not have to use all the books listed in your essay. If you have problems locating these resources, please contact Professor Porter at [BWLFScholarshipSelection2016@gmail.com](mailto:BWLFScholarshipSelection2016@gmail.com)

### **Open Universe of Resources**

You may use up to three additional resources not included in the Closed Universe of Resources above from your own research efforts.

### **Essay Format Guidelines**

Your essay must follow the following format, which will be considered in the decision process.

- 1) The essay should be in law review format, double-spaced with footnotes.
- 2) Footnotes must be single-spaced.
- 3) The footnotes may be in Bluebook or ALWD format.
- 4) The essay must be in Times New Roman, 12-font, with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- 5) The essay must NOT exceed 10 pages in length on 8.5x11 paper.

### **Essay (& Application) Submission Deadline**

The deadline to electronically submit your Application and Essay is **Saturday, April 16, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. The Application and Essay MUST be submitted in the same packet,** in BOTH Word and pdf format to: Attention: Professor Tracie R. Porter at [BWLFScholarshipSelection2016@gmail.com](mailto:BWLFScholarshipSelection2016@gmail.com) by the deadline. **NO LATE SUBMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

### **Selection Process and Timeline**

- 1) Application Deadline by: Saturday, April 16, 2016 by 11:59 p.m.
- 2) Candidate Interviews: Saturday, April 30, 2016 or Saturday, May 7, 2016

### **Attendance at Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 4, 2016 in Los Angeles (Required)**

If you are a selected recipient, you are strongly urged to be in attendance at the Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. when awards will be presented. You **MUST** include on your application or in your email submission with your Essay if you will be able to attend the luncheon at the Casa del Mar Hotel in Santa Monica, California. Details about the luncheon will be provided to recipients.

For more information about the Scholarship, you may also visit our website at: [www.BWLFoundation.org](http://www.BWLFoundation.org) or about Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, you may visit: <http://www.blackwomenlawyersla.org/>.