

# Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association's

## ANNUAL BESLA LEGAL WRITING COMPETITION

### Submission Guidelines

The Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, Inc. (BESLA) has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships to deserving law students seeking careers in the entertainment and sports industries.

As part of this year's selection process, BESLA will host its 2018 BESLA Scholarship Legal Writing Competition. This year law students seeking scholarships may submit a written essay on one of the following topics on the website. [Click here for the essay topics](#)

Submit a completed submission adhering to the following criteria:

Written legal memorandum/ article of no more than five (5) letter size pages, using Times New Roman 12 point font, (double-spaced typed) addressing the essay topic you have selected.

Each entry should include relevant case and source citations. Citations will not be counted as part of the total number of words.

The winner(s) of the BESLA Writing competition will be awarded scholarship(s), the amounts of which are determined at the Board's discretion. The winning student author(s) will also be considered for possible publication in BESLA's e-newsletter, on the BESLA's website, and/or in BESLA's conference program booklet.

Details and Deadline: Submissions, including all scholarship requirements must be received by September 3, 2018. **All completed applications must be submitted to [info@besla.com](mailto:info@besla.com).**

### Eligibility

Current matriculating law students are eligible to submit an essay or a digital submission to the topic(s) if they have successfully completed at least one year in law school in any of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories. Previous winners are ineligible to enter.

It is to your advantage to carefully review your submission before you submit it to make sure it addresses the topic in comprehensive fashion, meets all submission guidelines, has all the necessary forms completed, and is free from spelling and grammatical errors.

Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association, Inc. (BESLA) writing competition submissions are sent to and reviewed by judges selected by the organization who are licensed practicing lawyers and are leading industry practitioners. Using the criteria described below, these judges will select winning essays. The decisions of the judges are final.

Your submission will be judged based on the criteria outlined below:

1. **Focus:** Examines how well your submission responds to the topic. Does the submission provide specific and thorough responses to the topic presented?
2. **Organization:** Looks at the structure of your submission and the strength of your thesis statement. Does the submission have an organized structure?
3. **Critical Legal Analysis:** Considers how well your arguments are supported. Are the discussion points argued coherently and supported with research? Are the arguments strong, well-researched, detailed and extremely well supported by convincing and accurate evidence?
4. **Conclusions and Recommendations:** Examines how well conclusions and recommendations are expressed and how closely they follow from the analysis. Does the submission provide sound conclusions and recommendations that follow from the analysis?
5. **Originality:** Looks for creativity in writing. Does the writer develop ideas creatively? In a winning submission, the writer proposes and develops creative ideas, through the selection of cases and/or examples, to present novel analysis and alternatives throughout the entire submission.
6. **Voice:** Considers how well your submission engages the reader. Is the submission compelling and/or engaging?
7. **Style and Mechanics:** Examines how well the submission is written/presented in terms of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, as well as word choice and sentence construction. Is sufficient and proper citation of case law incorporated? An excellent essay uses standard writing conventions correctly, e.g. grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with no errors. An excellent digital submission will follow standard video conventions.

## **BESLA LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **Qualifications:**

1. Each candidate must be a minority student enrolled in law school on a full-time basis.
2. The candidate must have completed at least one (1) full year of law school at an accredited law school.
3. The candidate must have a minimum cumulative law school Grade Point Average of 2.8.
4. The candidate must have demonstrated a sincere interest in entertainment, sports, or intellectual property (trademark and/or copyright) law through one or more of the following criteria: a. Completion of a law school course in entertainment, sports or intellectual property law; b. Internship or clerkship in the entertainment, sports, or intellectual property law field; c. A current job in the field of entertainment, sports or intellectual property; d. Current membership in an entertainment or sports law society or association; or e. Attendance at an entertainment or sports law seminar or conference since enrolling in law school. (Please provide all details, i.e., date(s), subject matter, location, etc.).

**Requirements:**

1. To submit a completed Scholarship Application, please be sure to include each of the following:

- An official law school transcript;
- A one (1) page resume and a bio not to exceed 250 words; and
- A business/professional headshot photograph.

Please note: Incomplete applications or applications received after the September 3, 2018 deadline will not be considered. The preparation and presentation of your materials will be evaluated as part of the selection criteria.

**All completed applications must be submitted to [info@besla.com](mailto:info@besla.com).**