



MASSACHUSETTS BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS

Blanche E. Braxton Scholarship Application **Submission Deadline: May 15, 2021**

The Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys Foundation, Inc. (“MBWA”) is proud to accept applications for its annual Blanche E. Braxton Bar Scholarship. The goal of the scholarship is to promote diversity in the legal profession in Massachusetts by providing financial assistance to a member of MBWA while she studies for the Uniform Bar Exam and Massachusetts Law Component administered by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners. This scholarship is made possible through the generous donations of MBWA members and friends, and MBWA fundraising efforts.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- A member of MBWA at the time of application (membership is free for students);
- A 3L or 4L;
- Enrolled at a law school for the 2020-2021 academic year; and
- Available to attend the annual Ida B. Wells Awards Virtual Celebration on Thursday, June 3, 2021 (attendance at the virtual ceremony is required).

AWARD AND SELECTION PROCESS

MBWA will award two (2) bar scholarships in celebration Blanche E. Braxton, the first Black woman to pass the Massachusetts Bar Exam at its annual Ida B. Wells Awards Celebration. The scholarship recipients will receive a one-time **Two Thousand Dollar (\$2,000.00)** scholarship to assist with the bar exam and related expenses.

The scholarship award recipients will be selected by a review committee composed of MBWA members, who will evaluate applicants on the following criteria:

- Academic Excellence
- Community Involvement
- Dedication to the Advancement of Minoritized People, especially Women of Color, through the Legal Process
- Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion within the Legal Profession
- Plans to Practice Law in Massachusetts after Law School



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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit all of the following:

- Completed 2021 Blanche E. Braxton Scholarship Application, attaching additional sheets as necessary to provide complete answers
- Resume
- Current transcript
- Class registration or other proof of enrollment for the 2020-2021 academic year
- Essay of 500 words or less discussing applicant's academic, personal, and professional accomplishments, the importance of having Black women attorneys in the legal profession, and how she intends to contribute to the legal profession in Massachusetts.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Completed applications must be **received by May 15, 2021**. Scholarship recipients will be notified in advance and officially announced at the Ida B. Wells Awards Celebration, to be held virtually on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

All applications, essays, and required materials must be submitted in PDF format to info@massblackwomenattys.org.



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Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys History

Forty years ago, a group of Black women attorneys, calling themselves the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys Organizing Committee, gathered to form a professional bar association to address their unique struggles as women of color in the legal profession. The Committee compiled the first known comprehensive listing of Black women practitioners in the Commonwealth.

In May of 1981 the Committee sponsored a Spring Brunch to introduce the idea of forming the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys. This working meeting was attended by a diverse group of Black women attorneys, from all areas of practice, in the Commonwealth. The idea engendered overwhelming enthusiasm and support, and discussion ensued concerning the organization's structure, goals and activities.

Shortly after the Spring Brunch, the Committee formed the Ida B. Wells Barnett Law Society. The Society elected Bernice McIntyre as its first President. The Society later voted to change its name to the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, an organization dedicated to the memory of Ida B. Wells Barnett.

Since 1981, the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys has sought to preserve and advance justice for all people. Its mission is to assist in ensuring the fair and even-handed administration of justice particularly as applied to women of color. The Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys is similarly concerned with social policy and civil rights issues in the greater minority community.

The organization also seeks to promote legal education by sponsoring educational seminars, lecture series and panel discussions on subjects that affect its members. The Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys serves as a useful resource by aiding Black women attorneys to become more effective advocates and a direct link to our communities.



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2021 Blanche E. Braxton Scholarship Application

PART A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name
(Print/Type) _____
Permanent residence _____
_____ Number, Street, and Apartment Number
_____ City _____ State _____ ZIP

Your address at school
(if different) _____
_____ Number, Street, and Apartment Number
_____ City _____ State _____ ZIP

Home telephone () _____
School telephone () _____
E-mail address _____

PART B. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Undergraduate Institution _____
Degree Earned _____
Graduation Date _____
Your undergraduate major(s) _____
Honors, Awards or Special Recognition _____
Extracurricular Activities _____
Community Service _____

Graduate Institution _____
Degree Earned _____
Graduation Date _____
Honors, Awards or Special Recognition _____
Extracurricular Activities _____
Community Service _____



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Law School _____
Degree Earned _____
Graduation Date _____
Honors, Awards or Special Recognition _____
Extracurricular Activities _____
Community Service _____

PART C. PERSONAL ESSAY

Provide an essay of 500 words or less discussing your academic, personal, and professional accomplishments, the importance of having Black women attorneys in the legal profession, and how you intend to contribute to the legal profession in Massachusetts.

PART D. TRANSCRIPT AND RESUME

The following must be submitted with this application:

- A law school transcript from law school attended. (Copy is acceptable)
- A resume detailing educational and work history, as well as any special skills, licenses, credentials, experiences and achievements.

PART E. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I am enrolled as a third or fourth year law student in good standing at a U.S. law school for the 2020-2021 academic year; I plan to remain in Massachusetts to practice law; I will use all money awarded to me for my bar exam and related expenses; and the answers contained herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that MBWA will rely on my representations herein to determine whether to award a scholarship to me.

Signature: _____ Date: _____