

2025 NBLSA Nelson Mandela Pre-Law Scholarship

Application Deadline: March 01, 2025

PURPOSE:

The scholarship's namesake is the famed South African civil rights activities and political leader, Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela dedicated his life to liberating the people of South Africa from the oppressive hands of apartheid and segregation. NBLSA takes great pride in the spirit of Mr. Mandela's efforts to improve the state of affairs of Black people in South Africa. The liberation efforts of Mr. Mandela are an inspiration to the members of NBLSA, which is why we choose to award this scholarship in his name.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

The scholarship is intended to provide financial support for those who are planning to enroll in a U.S. law school in Fall 2025, and whose financial obligations for law school are not fully met through institutional aid or loans. Three scholarships in the amounts of \$5,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 will be given to three awardees, in the respective order of First, Second, and Third Place. Recipients will also receive a certificate of acknowledgment. The scholarship use is unconditional.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a current undergraduate student or recent graduate. To be eligible as a recent graduate, the graduate must have graduated in the Spring or Fall of 2024.
- Must be accepted into an U.S. law school for Fall 2025
- Must attend the NBLSA Pre-Law Symposium on March 14, 2025, in Atlanta, GA.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Essay (between 500 and 1000 words).
- 2) A resume
- 3) A transcript from all institutions attended
- 4) Verification of acceptance to a U.S. law school for Fall 2025
- 5) An addendum discussing community involvement, future career plans, and extracurricular activities
- 6) An E-mail address where the scholarship committee may contact you

ESSAY QUESTION:

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." As a future lawyer, how do you plan to leverage your legal education and skills to drive meaningful change and uplift marginalized communities?

JUDGING CRITERIA:

The winning essay will be chosen based on the depth of the personal narrative, the clarity of the author's vision for using the law to drive change, the authenticity of the author's commitment to honoring the legacy of Nelson Mandela, grammar, and style. We encourage you to write a compelling and thoughtful response that showcases your potential to be a transformative leader in the legal field. The essay must be the solely completed product of the entrant. The essay must be between 500 and 1000 words, typed, and double-spaced.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Members of the NBLSA Pre-Law Division shall select the scholarship recipients. All proposals must be emailed to prelaw@nblsa.org on or before Saturday, March 01, 2025. All recipients will be notified via e-

mail if they have received the award and will be required to attend the National Pre-law Symposium in Atlanta, GA at the recipient's expense. Failure to attend the Pre-law Symposium will result in an automatic forfeiture of scholarship award.