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To: The Scholarship Department

From: Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York

Date: September 10, 2024

Re: Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York's (HALANY) Annual Legal Scholarship Application

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***UPDATE: This application deadline date has been changed from September 13, 2024, to October 15, 2024.***

Welcome to the Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York's (HALANY) Annual Legal Scholarship Application! In our ongoing commitment to foster academic excellence and encourage innovative thinking within the legal community, we are thrilled to announce this competition. This platform serves as a gateway for aspiring legal minds to showcase their expertise, engage in critical discourse, and contribute meaningfully to the evolving landscape of jurisprudence. As advocates for intellectual exploration and the advancement of legal scholarship, we invite law students from throughout the New York tri-state area to participate and leave their indelible mark on the field of law.

HALANY invites you to apply for its 2024 law student scholarship. In our ongoing commitment to foster academic excellence and encourage innovative thinking within the legal community, we are thrilled to announce this esteemed competition. The scholarship awards will be presented on Thursday, November 15, 2024, during HALANY's 11th Anniversary Gala at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, NY.

Scholarship recipients **must** attend the gala in person to accept the scholarship award. Each awardee will receive a complimentary gala ticket. Additionally, recipients will be requested to volunteer on the day of the gala, which will be highlighted in HALANY's 11th Anniversary digital journal.

### **Haitian American Lawyers Association Legal Scholarship Contest Rules:**

#### **1. Eligibility:**

- To qualify for the 2024 HALANY Scholarships, applicants must satisfy all the following requirements:
  - **Membership:** Must be a member of HALANY. For details on how to join, visit [www.halany.org/Join](http://www.halany.org/Join).
  - **Academic Standing:** At the time of application submission, must be in good standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
  - **Resume**
  - **Head Shot**

- **Proof of Enrollment/Registration:** Before the disbursement of scholarship or Bar Prep assistance funds, transcript from an ABA-accredited law school for 2023-2024 or registration in a Bar Review Course for the 2024 must be provided.
- **Additional Evaluation Criteria:**
  - Community service involvement.
  - Academic achievement.
  - Demonstrated financial need.

2. **Theme:**

- Each participant must submit an original legal scholarship paper addressing one of the following topics:
  - A competitive essay detailing the applicant's qualifications, achievements, and financial need; or
  - A personal statement that addresses the following:
    - Plans to serve the legal needs of underrepresented communities.
    - A significant personal challenge and how it was overcome.
    - Demonstrated commitment to serving diverse communities.
    - Community involvement or initiatives to encourage ethnic minority participation in the legal and judicial sectors.

3. **Submission Guidelines:**

- Submissions must be written in English.
- Papers must adhere to a standard academic format (e.g., double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font).
- Papers must be no more than 1,000 words long, excluding footnotes and bibliography.
- Each participant may submit only one entry.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a cover page containing the participant's name, contact information, law school name, and the paper's title.
- Papers must be submitted electronically in PDF format to the designated email address by the specified deadline.

4. **Judging Criteria:**

- Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Originality and relevance to one of the topics.
  - Depth of legal analysis and research.
  - Clarity and coherence of argumentation.
  - Quality of writing and presentation.
- Judges' decisions are *final and binding*.

5. **Prizes:**

- After rigorous evaluation, the following prizes will be bestowed upon the deserving winners:
  - 1st Prize: \$1,500, along with a certificate of achievement.
  - 2nd Prize: \$1,000, along with a certificate of achievement.

- Bar Review Prize: \$500, along with a certificate of achievement.
  - Essays shall be evaluated by the criteria set in the rules and weighed against other applicants' essays.
6. **Intellectual Property:**
    - By submitting their papers, participants grant the HALANY a non-exclusive license to reproduce, distribute, and publicly display their work for promotional and educational purposes.
    - Participants retain copyright ownership of their submissions.
  7. **Deadline:**
    - Submit all required documents combined into one PDF file via email to [halanyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:halanyscholarship@gmail.com). The subject line should read "2024 HALANY Scholarship Submission." Ensure your submission is made by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.
  8. **Announcement of Winners:**
    - Winners will be notified via email and announced on HALANY's website and official social media channels on November 1, 2024.
    - Prize distribution details will be communicated to the winners individually.
  9. **Code of Conduct:**
    - Participants are expected to adhere to principles of academic integrity and professional conduct.
    - Plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate disqualification from the contest.
  10. **Amendments:**
    - The HALANY reserves the right to amend the rules or cancel the contest at their discretion.
    - Any changes to the rules will be communicated to participants promptly.
  11. **Contact Information:**
    - For inquiries or further information about the contest, participants can contact the Haitian American Lawyers Association Scholarship Committee at [halanyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:halanyscholarship@gmail.com).
  12. **Compliance with Laws:**
    - The contest shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing academic competitions and scholarships and any specific regulations regarding contests and scholarships in the state where the association is registered.

To all participants, we extend our best wishes as you begin crafting your essays. Good luck, and may your essays reflect the brilliance and passion that define your pursuit of excellence in the field of law.

Sincerely,

Max Beaulieu  
VP of Scholarship and Fundraising