
2023 Scholarship Packet





PURPOSE

The Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association (GSCBWLA), formerly the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division Dade County Chapter, was formed in 1985. The purpose of this association shall be to address the concerns of our community with an emphasis on the legal, social, economic and political needs of the Black community, and to address the professional development of Black women lawyers, and its members, including continuing legal education and the pursuit of professional excellence.

HISTORY

Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry was born in Miami, Florida in 1923. For approximately 22 years, she taught in the Dade County (now Miami-Dade) Public Schools. She became a pioneer of the State of Florida's legal profession. She received her undergraduate degree from Florida Agricultural Mechanical University ("FAMU"). She later returned to FAMU to obtain her Juris Doctorate degree and serve as a professor at its law school. She was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1965. She was the first Black woman to practice law in Dade County, Florida. She was one of the first nine attorneys who initially served at Legal Services of Greater Miami in 1966. In 1970, Ms. Cherry was elected as a state representative, becoming the first Black woman to serve as a legislator for the State of Florida.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is based on academic performance, leadership potential, and participation in community programs including, but not limited to, volunteer hours. Scholarships are awarded annually, provided funds are available.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

GSCBWLA awards scholarships in the amount of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500)** on the basis of a comprehensive process. Areas that are reviewed by the committee include, but are not limited to, the following: Academic Accomplishments, Community Service, References, Personal Essay and Financial Need. GSCBWLA pays scholarship funds directly to the recipient. Scholarships are awarded annually. Scholarships awarded are based upon the availability of funds and additional qualifying criteria.

CRITERIA

- Applicant must be a female student;
- Applicant must be a 3L Law Student currently enrolled student in good academic standing at an accredited Florida Law School;
- Applicant must be an African-American student;
- Applicant must be a student who has distinguished herself academically and in service-oriented activities;
- Applicant must submit a complete formal application for a GSCBWLA Scholarship; and
- Applicants must complete and submit a typed Scholarship Application and provide all supporting documents listed below (i.e., resume, evidence of enrollment, etc.) no later than **September 20, 2023**.

TIMELINE

- Applications and supporting documentation are due no later than **September 20, 2023**.
- Applicants will be notified of scholarship awards by **September 30, 2023**.

APPLICATION PROCESS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE:

- A typed Scholarship Application (If any question does not apply to you in this application, please put N/A in the space);
- A competitive essay (no more than 1,000 words) focusing on, and describing in detail, the activities and achievements that qualify her for the award, as well as a statement of financial need;
- An updated resume;
- An unofficial copy of transcripts

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Awards will be made out and given directly to the recipient;
- Awards will be given at the 38th Annual Installation, Scholarship & Awards Banquet scheduled for **October 5, 2023**.
- Applicant must provide correct mailing address, if unable to attend the reception;
- Award amounts will be distributed annually after all requirements are met.

EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

- Miracle Haynes, GSCBWLA Scholarship Chair @MiracleLHaynes@gmail.com
- Subject: 2023 GSCBWLA Foundation Scholarship Application – [Applicant Name]

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Miracle Haynes, by email at MiracleLHaynes@gmail.com

Please check one of the following:

New Scholarship Applicant _____ Repeat Scholarship Applicant _____

2023

GSCBWLA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

(Must be filled out by applicant)

Please **type** or **print** your answers below. If application is illegible, it will be returned to you.

1	First Name: _____ Middle Initial: ____ Last Name: _____					
2	Mailing Address: Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP CODE: _____					
3	Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____					
4	Law School Name: _____ Law School Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ Phone Number: _____					
5	Current Year (circle): 1L 2L 3L			Expected Graduation Date: _____		
6	Grade Point Average (GPA): _____ (On a 4.0 scale) Attach proof of GPA; your most recent unofficial school transcript required.					
7	List the name of any college you have attended:					
			Year Began	Year Ended	Year Graduated	Type of Degree Received
	A.					
	B.					

	C.					
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Please list the following information on a separate sheet, if needed:

8	EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Please list any extra-curricular activities in which you have participated. Note leadership roles and dates.
9	AREA OF PRACTICE: What area of practice do you plan on going into after graduation?
10	ORGANIZATIONS: Please list school/community organizations such as service, volunteer and religious organizations in which you are now active or have previously been active. Note leadership roles and dates.
11	RECOGNITIONS: Please list important awards and recognitions received. Note organizations presenting honor and date.
12	GOALS: What are your short- and long-term goals?
13	NEED: Please explain your need for the GSCBWL 2023 Academic Scholarship.

14	CAREER PLANS: What are your career plans and what would you like to be doing in 10 years?
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15	<p>A. The following items must be attached to this application in order for the application to qualify to be reviewed by the scholarship committee.</p> <p>B. Your application will not be accepted if your items are not attached to the application.</p> <p>C. Circle "YES" or "NO" to be sure you have attached each item, as required.</p>
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	YES	NO	COMPETITIVE ESSAY. Must focus on, and describe in detail, the activities and achievements that qualify the applicant for the award, as well as a statement of financial need. (no more than 1,000 words)
	YES	NO	UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT
	YES	NO	UPDATED RESUME.
	YES	NO	ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 1-15.

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me to the GSCBWL A Scholarship Committee is true, correct and without forgery. I also consent that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the GSCBWL A Scholarship Program.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship recipient, according to scholarship policy, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the law school of my choice before scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of Scholarship Applicant: _____

Printed Name of Scholarship Applicant: _____

Date: _____

**The deadline for this application to be received by
GSCBWL A is September 20, 2023**