Greetings,

You are invited to apply for the annual Mound City Bar Foundation (MCBF) Law Student Scholarship Essay Contest, which will award scholarships totaling up to $10,000 to law students in attendance at Missouri and Southern Illinois law schools. The deadline to apply with supporting documents is April 30, 2021 at 11:59pm (CST).

OFFICIAL RULES FOR ANNUAL MCBF SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

ESSAY TOPIC QUESTION

Should Missouri Defund or Reform police departments?

Many protestors and demonstrators are demanding the police departments be defunded, disbanded and replaced. There are others, who insist on reforming the police department, making officers more accountable and effective. This would entail reallocating resources and funding to the proper agencies to assist in public safety. This reform, like defunding the police would require some monies to be shifted from the police department’s budget and allocated to such agencies as mental health departments and agencies working with the homeless.

This push is not new. The push to defund police started after the 2014 protests in Ferguson over the killing of Michael Brown. Although not new concepts, these demands for change have increased after the deaths of several unarmed black male and female victims, this year.

ELIGIBILITY

- 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls are all eligible to enter.
- Must be enrolled and in academic good standing at Saint Louis University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Missouri System or Southern Illinois law schools, as evidenced by a letter written on law school letterhead from the Registrar’s Office or the Dean of Students Office. Statement of Financial Need, Statement of professional goals, Description of recent community service.
ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

- Essay must be 4-5 typewritten pages.
- Essay must be typed in black ink, 12-point font, double-spaced on white 8½ x 11 inch paper with 1-inch margins on the entire document.
- Each essay page must be numbered and include the name of applicant.
- Essay must be accompanied by a Cover sheet. (See specifications below)
- Essay must follow Blue Book citation rules.
- Essay must cite legal authority in support of arguments including but not limited to, case law, statutes or public policy.

GRADING CRITERIA

- Entries will be judged on the appropriate use of legal and non-legal information sources; content (spelling, grammar, organization and logical thought); originality (creativity and persuasiveness); and clarity of argument.
- Entries will also be judged by the applicant’s commitment to community service as determined by a description of recent service with community or professional organizations.
- Professional goals
- A statement of financial need
- Cover Sheet: Each applicant must attach a cover sheet that includes the following information: First and Last Name, Mailing Address, Email Address, Phone Number, Name of Law School, Year in Law School, and Number of Submitted Pages (including cover sheet). Each page of the essay must include the applicant’s name.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Completed essay
- Entries must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing. Law student law school transcript
- Law student law school transcript
- Description of community service
- Law student’s resume
- Statement of financial need
- Cover sheet

Return all documentation to MCBFScholarshipCommittee@gmail.com on or before Apr 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. (CST).
PRIZES

Winners will be notified via email.