

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

2024 Application Package



Welcome!

Welcome to the BLSA Canada 2023-24 Chapter of the Year Award application package!

The Chapter of the Year Award is a prize awarded annually to recognize excellence in the preceding year. While there is amazing work done by all BLSA Chapters, the Chapter of the Year Award provides a special opportunity to acknowledge chapters that have gone over and above to serve their members and communities. A total of two prizes will be awarded for the Large and Small Chapter of the Year at the Awards Gala of the 2024 BLSA National Conference on the evening of Saturday, February 17, 2024.

In the following package, you will find the Chapter of the Year awards criteria, nomination form and application form. We ask that a member of your chapter executive complete the application and submit it by email to membership@bbsacanada.ca and membershipcivil@bbsacanada.com by **Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 11:59 pm PST**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please direct any questions you have about the application process to membership@bbsacanada.ca (for common law chapters) or membershipcivil@bbsacanada.com (civil law chapters).

Criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following 100-point scale. The selected winners will be asked to submit a picture and biography to be displayed on our website and social media. The selection committee is made up of the National President and National Civil and Common Law Chapter Representatives.

Community Outreach and Social Events [20 points]

Describe any internal chapter social events you organized, as well as initiatives that serve the community beyond your local chapter, e.g. movie nights, dinners, panels, soup kitchen volunteering, tutoring disadvantaged kids, etc.

Pre-Law Engagement [10 points]

Describe any events or initiatives you organized that engaged with Black pre-law students (in high-school, post-secondary and beyond) to encourage them to apply to law school and envision a career in law, e.g. LSAT prep, admissions information panels, application reviews, etc.

Academic Affairs [10 points]

Describe any initiatives you organized to coach and support students academically, e.g. exam preparation workshops, mentorship programs, study groups, etc.

Career & Professional Development [20 points]

Describe how your chapter supports members in meeting their professional and vocational goals, e.g. firm tours, panel discussions, mentorship programs, networking events, etc.

Teamwork [10 points]

Describe how your chapter connects with other BLSA chapters to organize events and initiatives, as well as other student groups and organizations.

Cultural Awareness [10 points]

Detail what steps your chapter has taken to ensure that it is equitable and inclusive. This can include equity-focused events and initiatives.

Discretionary [10 points]

These points will be awarded by the selection committee on a discretionary basis to recognize achievements that do not fit into the above categories.

Presentation to Committee [5 points]

The points will be awarded according to the creativeness and overall composition of your application. Pictures in accompaniment with your application are welcome and encouraged.

Attendance at All Chapter meetings [5 points]

The points will be awarded according to attendance at monthly All Chapters meetings. Chapters assessed for the Large Chapter of the Year Award must have zero absences to be awarded full points. Chapters assessed for the Small Chapter of the Year award are allowed one excused absence to be awarded full points.

Nomination Form

Chapter name: _____

Main contact name: _____

Main contact phone number: _____

Number of chapter members*: _____

Executive names and positions: _____

* Chapter size will be used to determine whether a chapter will be assessed for the Large or Small Chapter of the Year Award. The award threshold will be determined after applications have been submitted. In the past, small chapters were typically those with 25 members or less while large chapter were those with more than 25 members.

Application Package

Please enter your submissions for the indicated categories. Submissions are limited to 2500 characters (approximately 350 words) per category.

Community Outreach and Social Events [20 points]

Describe any internal chapter social events you have organized, as well as initiatives that serve the community beyond your local chapter, e.g. movie nights, dinners, panels, soup kitchen volunteering, tutoring disadvantaged kids, etc.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Pre-Law Engagement [10 points]

Describe any events or initiatives you organized that engaged with Black pre-law students (in high-school, post-secondary and beyond) to encourage them to apply to law school and envision a career in law, e.g. LSAT prep, admissions information panels, application reviews, etc.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Academic Affairs [10 points]

Describe any initiatives you organized to coach and support students academically, e.g. exam preparation workshops, mentorship programs, study groups, etc.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Career & Professional Development [20 points]

Describe how your chapter support members in meeting their professional and vocational goals e.g. firm tours, panel discussions, mentorship programs, networking events, etc.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Teamwork [10 points]

Describe how your chapter connects with other BLSA chapters to organize events and initiatives, as well as other student groups and organizations.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Cultural Awareness [10 points]

Detail what steps your chapter has taken to ensure that it is equitable and inclusive. This can include equity-focused events and initiatives.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Supplementary

Use this section to highlight any events or initiatives by your chapter that do not fit into the above categories.

Event/initiative name	Description	Date(s)

Discretionary [10 points]

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Presentation to Committee [5 points]

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