

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL (PUBLIC SERVICE SUBGRANT PROPOSAL)

SUMMARY

The Barristers Board of Directors (“Barristers”) is the young lawyers division of the Metropolitan Bar Association. The Barristers are also the community service arm of the Metropolitan Bar Association. In addition to food fund drives, fund raising for the Salvation Army, closing drives, participating in community programs and soup kitchens, social events and general membership meetings, the School Partnership Committee conducts a program that provides education and mentoring to the local area high school students

The School Partnership Program is funded solely by the Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation. An ABA YLD Subgrant will defray the costs of college scholarships, salary for summer interns, books for students, and prizes awarded to students for participation.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the School Partnership Program is to provide mentorship to high school students, improve high school students’ understanding of the law and encourage high school students to pursue careers in the law, or to at least spark their pursuit of a career. Attorneys help accomplish this goal by assisting high school students with five programs related to different areas of the law: the Essay Writing Contest, Career Day, Law Day, the Internship Program, and the Scholarship Program. This is the fourth year of the School Partnership Program. This year, our school partners are Lewis Cass Technical High School and Crockett Technical High School, both part of the Public School District. We work closely with one faculty member from each school to ensure maximum student participation. Approximately 90 tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade high school students participate in the School Partnership Program each year.

Local attorneys and law students are welcome to participate in the School Partnership Program.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The School Partnership Program provides mentorship to high school students, improves high school students’ understanding of the law and encourages high school students to pursue careers in the law, or to at least spark their pursuit of a career. The programs help the students hone valuable skills, such as writing, oratory, interviewing and provide valuable work experience.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As a kickoff to the School Partnership Program, the 2009 program Co-Chairpersons visited Lewis Cass Technical High School and Crockett Technical High School for an initial “Orientation” with the faculty and students. The purpose of Orientation is to explain the purpose of the School Partnership Program, explain each component of the Program, and field questions

from the student and teacher(s) about the Program. We also spent a substantial amount of time speaking and answering student questions about our careers.

A. ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

The goal of the Essay Writing Contest is to teach students how to write persuasive legal arguments, which is an important part of an attorney's profession. Eleventh and twelfth grade students will write essays on a legal issue currently being addressed by the courts, and consistent with the American Bar Association's Law Day Theme: "A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial." This year, the students will write a 1,200 to 1,500 word essay on the topic: "Should the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay have the right to habeas corpus?"

The Co-Chairs of the Subcommittee for the Essay Writing Contest, and attorney volunteers, conduct two Essay Writing Workshops. During the Workshops, students are taught about the judicial systems, how to organize a legal argument, how to cite case law, how to research legal authority and discuss the relevant legal issues addressed in the topic.

Entries will be evaluated and scored anonymously based on the following criteria: word limit, use of proper grammar and spelling, ability to clearly state a position on the issue, originality, support of their position using an application of core democratic values, support of their position with prior knowledge of history, and support of their position with the use of research material.

Attorneys participating in the Essay Writing Contest will review each student's essay and meet with each student one-on-one at Lewis Cass Technical High School and/or Crockett Technical High School to help the students write a clear, concise and persuasive legal argument in support of his or her position.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place essays for each school. The first place winners will receive a laptop computer. The second prize winners will receive an MP3 Player. The third place winners will receive a gift certificate. Each student that participates in the Essay Writing Contest will receive a copy of the "*The Elements of Style*" book.

B. LAW DAY

The School Partnership Program's Law Day is held on or around the same day as the American Bar Association's Law Day, May 1st. Our Law Day exercise teaches students about the appellate courts. The goal of Law day is to develop the students' oral advocacy skills.

Law Day begins with a lesson from the Co-Chairs of the Law Day Subcommittee about the appellate court process, relevant legal issues and policy concerns relating to the case at issue for Law Day, and a description of the procedural history of the case at issue for Law Day. The Co-Chairs of the Subcommittee will create a fact pattern and procedural history of the case, and research relevant statutory and case law for the topic.

With the assistance of attorney volunteers, students will then break into groups to play the roles of appellant, appellee, and the Supreme Court Justices, prepare oral arguments and/or questions,

and then participate on a Mock Oral Appellate Argument before the “United States Supreme Court.” This year’s Law Day topic has not been determined, but it will be on a legal issue currently being addressed by the courts and consistent with the Law Day Theme: “A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln’s Bicentennial.”

C. INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

One student from Lewis Cass Technical High School and one student from Crockett Technical High School will be selected for a paid internship position at the Metropolitan Bar Association during the summer of 2009. Candidates for the internship will be evaluated based on their grade point average, employment history, community service activities, letters of recommendation, and a 150 word essay on: “Why you are interested in exploring law as a career and what you hope to gain from the internship experience.”

During the students’ summer employment with the Metropolitan Bar Association, the interns will help the Metropolitan Bar Association staff coordinate continuing legal education courses, community service activities, and assistance with the day-to-day operations of the Metropolitan Bar Association. In addition, to properly expose the students to the legal community and make the Internship Program a success, interns will accompany attorneys to work, court and other legal activities during the summer so the students can obtain first-hand knowledge of the various activities attorneys perform on a day-to-day basis.

D. MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM

To prepare students for the interviews with the Metropolitan Bar Association staff, as well as to prepare students for other summer employment positions, attorneys will conduct a Mock Interview Workshop. During the Workshop, attorneys will teach students about preparing for an interview (like researching your potential employer), how to dress for an interview, answering questions during an interview and the “dos-and-don’ts” of interviewing. Attorneys will also conduct mock interviews with each student.

E. SCHOLARSHIP

One senior student from Lewis Cass Technical High School and one senior from Crockett Technical High School will be selected to receive a \$1,500 scholarship for one year towards their post-high school education. Students that attend an accredited 4-year university/college or a 2-year vocational/community college are eligible. Students may use the Scholarship proceeds for tuition, room and board, books or school supplies. Students are evaluated on the following criteria: merit (GPA, SAT/ACT scores), letters of recommendation, financial need, community, civic and work activities, community/academic awards and career goals.

F. CAREER DAY

Attorney volunteers will participate in Lewis Cass Technical High Schools Career Day exercises. A panel of attorneys from diverse areas of practice (i.e., criminal, civil, private practice, in-

house/corporate counsel) will participate in discussions with the students about the various facets of each attorney's respective area of law, and answer student questions about the profession.

**G. METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL DINNER & AWARDS BANQUET**

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, the Metropolitan Bar Association will recognize the winners of the Essay Writing Contest, Internship Program and Scholarship Program at the Metropolitan Bar Association's Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet. One table will be provided to Lewis Cass Technical High School, and one table to Crockett Technical High School. We invite each school's faculty member contact, and each student may invite their parents or guardian. This event will provide the schools' faculty members and students with another opportunity to mix and mingle with legal professionals.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- I. Metropolitan Bar Association and Staff
 - A. Barristers Board of Directors
 - B. School Partnership Program Committee
 - 1. Essay Writing Contest Team
 - 2. Law Day Team
 - 3. Internship Program Team
 - 4. Scholarship Program Team
 - 5. Career Day Team
- II. School Partners
 - A. Lewis Cass Technical High School
 - B. Crockett Technical High School
- III. Volunteers
 - A. Metropolitan Bar Association
 - B. Barristers Board of Directors
 - C. Barristers General Membership
 - D. State Bar
 - E. Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar

EVALUATION

The School Partnership Program's successes and failures will be measured, first and foremost, by the students. We always ask the students for criticisms and comments about each program. We also seek comments from faculty contacts at each school. This year, we will obtain feedback from the students and faculty by written evaluation forms. In addition, because our activities involve one-on-one involvement with the students, we can easily determine when we are making a positive impact.

TIME TABLE

1. Orientation Visits
 - a. February 19, 2009 at Lewis Cass Technical High School
 - b. February 16, 2009 at Crockett Technical High School

2. Scholarship
 - a. April 20, 2009: Scholarship Applications Due
 - b. April 30, 2009: Crockett Technical High School Scholarship winner announced
 - c. May 1, 2009: Lewis Cass Technical High School Scholarship winner announced

3. Essay Contest
 - a. February 16, 2009: Essay Mentor Match, and First Essay Writing Workshop at Crockett Technical High School
 - b. February 19, 2009: Essay Mentor Match, and First Essay Writing Workshop at Lewis Cass Technical High School
 - c. March 12, 2009: Essay Drafts Due
 - d. March 16, 2009: Social Event with Mentors at Crockett Technical High School
 - e. March 18, 2009: Rough draft review with Mentors/Second Essay Writing Workshop at Lewis Cass Technical High School
 - f. March 23, 2009: Rough draft review with Mentors/Second Essay Writing Workshop at Crockett Technical High School
 - g. April 20, 2009: Final Essay's Due
 - h. April 30, 2009: Crockett Technical High School Essay Contest winners announced, and prizes awarded
 - i. May 1, 2009: Lewis Cass Technical High School Essay Contest winners announced, and prizes awarded

4. Law Day
 - a. April 30, 2009: Crockett Technical High School
 - b. May 1, 2009: Lewis Cass Technical High School

5. Career Day:
 - a. May 14, 2009 Crockett Technical High School
 - b. TBD: Lewis Cass Technical High School

6. Internship
 - a. March 6, 2009: Internship Applications Due
 - b. Internship interviews: scheduled with each student separately

7. Mock Interview Program
 - a. May 4, 2009 Crockett Technical High School
 - b. TBD: Lewis Cass Technical High School

8. DMBA Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet
Tuesday, May 19, 2009, location Roostertail. Winners of the Essay Writing Contest, Internship Program and Scholarship Program recognized.

BUDGET

Expenses

1.	Essay Writing Contest	
a.	(2) Laptop Computers (each with 3-Year Performance Service Plans)	\$ 2,500.00*
b.	(2) MP3 Players (each with 2-Year Performance Service Plans)	200.00*
e.	(2) Gift Certificates/Cards	50.00
f.	(36) <i>The Elements of Style</i> books	380.00
2.	Internship Program	
a.	(2) Interns (20 hrs/week through Summer Mos.)	\$ 3,300.00*
3.	Scholarship	
a.	(2) Scholarships	\$ 3,000.00
4.	Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet	
a.	(2) Tables	\$ 1,200.00
5.	Miscellaneous	
a.	Staff Travel Expenses	120.00*
6.	Total	<u>\$10,630.00</u>

Income

1. The Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation underwrites 100% of the School Partnership Program.