

A Resolution to Mandate the Tracking of Black Law Student Enrollment and Retention through NBLSA Chapters: Black Enrollment and Retention Report (BERR).

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) requires a commitment to increasing the representation and success of Black law students within the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, there has been historical attacks on affirmative action from *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* to current executive orders that pose significant concerns for diverse representation in law; and

WHEREAS, data collection on Black enrollment and retention rates in law schools across the United States is critical to identifying challenges, trends, and opportunities to address systemic inequities; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration of NBLSA chapters is essential to ensuring accurate data collection, fostering grassroots engagement, and strengthening advocacy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the tracking of Black law student enrollment and retention will enhance NBLSA's ability to advocate for equitable policies and resources to support Black law students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NBLSA shall establish a formal program to track and analyze Black law student enrollment and retention through its affiliated chapters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. Each NBLSA chapter shall submit a Black Enrollment and Retention Report (**BERR**) annually to NBLSA's National Advocacy Director and National Attorney General
 - 1.1. Reports shall include:
 - 1.1.1. Total Black enrollment by year (1L, 2L, 3L, etc.).
 - 1.1.2. Retention data, including the number of Black students who leave law school, reasons for departure (if known), and percentage changes in Black enrollment year over year.

- 1.1.3. Anecdotal or qualitative data on barriers to retention, recruitment efforts, and the effectiveness of support programs.
2. A standardized survey template and toolkit will be developed by NBLSA's National Advocacy Committees to assist chapters in gathering and submitting data accurately and efficiently.
3. Each chapter president shall designate a Data Collection Liaison responsible for ensuring compliance with this mandate.
4. NBLSA's National Board will aggregate chapter reports into an annual Black Enrollment and Retention Report, which will:
 - 4.1. Highlight trends and disparities in Black enrollment across regions.
 - 4.2. Identify best practices for recruitment and retention.
 - 4.3. Serve as the foundation for advocacy initiatives and partnerships with law schools, bar associations, and other stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. NBLSA chapters failing to submit the required reports may be subject to penalties at the discretion of the National Executive Board.
2. The National Executive Board shall periodically review and refine the resolution to ensure effectiveness and feasibility in data collection.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. The Black Enrollment and Retention Report (BERR) will be presented at National Convention of each year.

SAMPLE SURVEY

Section 1: General Demographics

1. What is the name of your law school?
 2. How many students are currently enrolled in your law school?
 3. How many Black students are currently enrolled in your law school?
 - 1L
 - 2L
 - 3L
 - Total Black student population
 4. How does this compare to Black student enrollment in the previous year?
 - Increased
 - Decreased
 - Remained the same
 - Please estimate the percentage change: ____%
 5. Are there any specific admissions initiatives at your law school to increase Black enrollment?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, please describe: ____
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Section 2: Recruitment and Retention

6. Does your chapter actively participate in recruitment efforts for prospective Black law students?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what initiatives or programs have been implemented? ____
7. What are the biggest challenges in retaining Black students at your school?
 - Financial barriers
 - Lack of mentorship or support
 - Unwelcoming campus climate
 - Academic performance issues
 - Other (please specify): ____
8. Does your school offer scholarships or financial aid specifically for Black students?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, please list the available opportunities: ____
9. How many Black students have left your law school in the past year, and what reasons were given (if known)? ____

Section 3: Support Systems

10. Does your chapter provide resources or mentorship for Black students?
- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, please describe the resources provided: _____
11. Are there any Black faculty or staff members who actively support Black law students?
- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, how many Black faculty or staff members are there? _____
12. Are there Black student organizations (e.g., Black Student Union, NBLSA) that actively support law students at your school?
- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, how are these organizations involved in retention efforts? _____
13. Have any law school officials attempted to work with BLSA to address Black law student admissions?
- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, in what ways have they provided support? _____
 - If yes, how have they been effective? _____
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Section 4: Engagement with NBLSA

13. How many students in your chapter are active members of NBLSA? _____
14. Does your chapter host or participate in any events that promote Black student enrollment or advocacy?
- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, please list the events and provide details: _____
15. What additional resources or support could NBLSA provide to help with enrollment and retention efforts? _____
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Section 5: Post-Affirmative Action Impact

16. Has the removal of affirmative action impacted Black enrollment at your school?

- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, in what ways? ____
17. What strategies have been implemented to address the decline (if applicable)? ____
18. Has your law school administration acknowledged or addressed the impact of affirmative action changes on Black students?
- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what steps have been taken? ____
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Section 6: Feedback and Suggestions

19. What are the top three barriers to increasing Black enrollment at your school?
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
20. What recommendations do you have for NBLSA to address the decline in Black law school enrollment? _
21. Are there any specific issues or concerns related to Black students at your school that NBLSA should be aware of? __

Require Signature for Certification of Truth, Accuracy, and Completeness to the best of the chapter leader's ability.