

**BERTRAND "RANDY" THOMAS  
PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE**

**Black History Month Student Challenge Overview**

**The 2018 Black History Month Theme:  
*AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TIMES OF WAR***

In celebration of Black History Month, the Legal Services Corporation is sponsoring the "Bertrand 'Randy' Thomas Partnering for the Future" Black History Month Student Challenge. Students are invited to submit written or visual arts entries (see specifics below). All entries must be received by no later than **5 p.m., February 12, 2018**. The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) will recognize and award prizes to the winners, and they will be invited to participate in the LSC Black History Month program and luncheon held at LSC.

**WHY PARTICIPATE?**

LSC requests that school principals, administrators, teachers and other staff support the Challenge by encouraging student participation, as well as by including it in the class curriculum, if possible. Detailed Challenge information and guidelines will be provided.

The Legal Services Corporation's "Bertrand 'Randy' Thomas Partnering for the Future Black History Month Student Challenge" offers students an opportunity to reflect on and share their thoughts about important events and developments in African American history, and to compete for an award, cash prizes, and special public recognition.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The Challenge is open to students currently enrolled at schools in the local Washington Metropolitan Area (D.C., Maryland & Virginia) who are invited by the Legal Services Corporation to participate.

Participants must be students in good standing, with that status verified by the principal, teacher, guidance counselor or other designated school representative.

**CHALLENGE THEME AND CATEGORIES**

Student Challenge entries must be representative of the challenge theme **African Americans in Times of War**.

Students can make Challenge submissions of their own original work through a variety of medium in one (1) of two (2) categories:

**1. Written Submissions** – Examples of acceptable written submissions include:

- Essay representative of the theme
- Short story representative of the theme
- Poem representative of the theme

**2. Visual Art Submissions** – Examples of acceptable visual art submissions include:

- Artwork representative of the theme in a medium of student's choosing (e.g., painting, collage, pen and ink, etc.)
- Photographic illustration representative of the theme
- Video presentation representative of the theme

Detailed guidelines for each medium are available at <https://www.lsc.gov/lsc-black-history-month-2018>.

**GENERAL CHALLENGE GUIDELINES**

- Limit one (1) entry per student in one (1) category.
- All entries must be accompanied by a submission form.
- All entries must be solely the student's original work.
- Student submissions may be made by email, fax, or postal mail.
  - Email address: [BHM@lsc.gov](mailto:BHM@lsc.gov)
  - Fax: 202-337-6797, attention Black History Month Challenge
  - Mailing address: LSC, Black History Month Challenge, 3333 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007
- All entries must be submitted to the Legal Services Corporation by no later than **5:00 p.m., February 12, 2018** to qualify. Late entries will not be accepted.

**Challenge Judging**

- Judging by members of the LSC Black History Month Committee will be based on understanding of the theme, originality, adherence to format and guidelines, creativity, organization and, as relevant, grammatical accuracy.
- Judging decisions are final.
- The school will be notified of the Challenge winners no later than **5:00 p.m., February 16, 2018**.

### INFORMATION FOR CHALLENGE WINNERS

- Students (or a school representative) must confirm their attendance and participation for the award presentation at the Legal Services Corporation's Black History Month Luncheon being held on **February 27, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** One (1) student will be selected to present his or her work and briefly discuss his or her creative influences.
- The school must designate a teacher or administrator to accompany the students to the Black History Month Luncheon and provide necessary transportation.
- Parents/guardians or other family members (no more than two (2) per student) also are invited to attend the luncheon. Students should be professionally dressed in school uniform, business or business casual attire.

### PUBLICITY/RELEASE

- By participating in the Challenge, all winner(s) grant the Legal Services Corporation permission to use their names, photographs, voices, and likenesses in connection with promotion of this contest and waive any claims to royalty, right or remuneration for such use.
- A parental/guardian release form must be completed by the parent(s)/guardian of each winner.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### **Mailing address:**

Legal Services Corporation  
Black History Month Student Challenge  
3333 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

For additional information, contact Wendy Long at [BHM@lsc.gov](mailto:BHM@lsc.gov) or 202-295-1631.