

Dear ,

I'm writing to ask for approval to attend the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyer's Association (BESLA) Annual Conference on October 21-25, 2015 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. In its 35th year, BESLA is a nationally recognized leader in legal education and professional development for lawyers and professionals in the entertainment, sports, and related industries. The organization delivers groundbreaking conferences that are engaging, impactful, and provide substantive legal content.

The annual conference-- held at family-friendly international locations, provides ongoing learning and a networking environment for minority attorneys in the entertainment, sports and related industries. The conference and the organization's annual program of activities are sponsored by nationally and internationally recognized legal firms and businesses. We could benefit from further engagement with some of their long-term sponsors including ASCAP, Microsoft, Wells Fargo Advisors, Viacom, BET, Fox Audience Strategies, Turner Broadcasting, Fox Rothschild, LLP, and Disney/ABC Networks.

The panelists at the 2014 conference were from a cross-section of the sports, entertainment and affiliated industries. Here is a sampling of those individuals; **Max Siegel** (USA Track & Field); **Stephen Hill** (BET); **Charles King** (William Morris Endeavor); **Bill Strickland** (Stealth SME); **DeMaurice Smith** (National Football League Players Association); **Derek Jackson** (Miami Marlins); **Elke Suber** (Microsoft); **Inga Dyer** (REVOLT TV); **Delroy Lindo** (actor); **Tony Brackett** (Disney-ABC Networks); **Navine Karim** (Red Bull); **Danny Andrews** (Image Nation); **Yakub Hazzard** (NBCUniversal); **James Leach** (SESAC); **James Harris** (UPS); **Khadijah Sharif Drinkard** (BET); **Adrienne Byrd** (Sprout/NBC); **Leron E. Rogers** (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP); **Jelani Lawson** (Fox Group Legal); **C. Anthony Mulrain** (Gordon & Reese, LLP); **Lawrence Hinkle** (Fox Rothschild, LLP); **C. Lamont Smith** (All Pro Sports & Entertainment, Inc); **Jared Bartie** (Arent Fox, LLP) and **Riche' McKnight** (Winston & Strawn, LLP).

BESLA is also a philanthropic organization that provides scholarships to law students with an interest in sports, entertainment and affiliated industries. In 2014, the organization donated \$15,000 in merit based scholarships. These efforts are supported by sponsors like Microsoft, Turner Broadcasting, Garvey Schubert Barer and UPS.

My attendance at this conference will directly benefit the law school for the following reasons:

- Learning about the application of legal doctrines in the real world including best practices and new practices attorneys and executives are using to adapt to changes in the industry
- Networking with professionals who are in the position to hire our students as interns and in permanent positions
- Connecting with professionals who may visit the campus as guest speakers and/or guest lecturers
- Promoting the law school faculty as subject matter experts and future panelists
- Access to all the speaker presentation slides following the event that can also be shared and disseminated

You can learn more about conference on BESLA's [website](#). The event is held at an all-inclusive hotel, so the daily rate for lodging and meals is \$_____. Flights into Montego Bay, Jamaica Sangster International Airport are averaging \$500 or less. Registration for BESLA members is \$_____. This registration rate is two times less expensive than other industry conferences.

For us to get the best ROI from this conference, please keep in mind that ***the earlier I can register, the cheaper it will be.*** Upon my return I will provide a summary of what I learned including major takeaways and new ideas and will share relevant information with key personnel throughout the organization.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your reply.

Regards,