

MIKE WESTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND – AN ESSAY CONTEST

Essay theme: What Does it Mean to You to Be Part of a Military Family?

About the Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship award is in honor and memory of Special Agent and Major Michael Edward Weston (December 29, 1971 - October 26, 2009). Major Michael Edward Weston, 37, of Washington, D.C., died in a helicopter crash in western Afghanistan on Oct. 26, 2009, where he was serving as an agent for the US Drug Enforcement Agency. He previously served several tours of active duty in Iraq and other war zones as a Major in the United States Marine Corps. Born in Los Angeles, he was the son of retired Alston & Bird partner, Steven W. Weston. This scholarship fund has been established in memory of Mike Weston and his dedicated service to our country.

- 1) You must be a high school senior during the 2012-2013 school year and a legal resident of California.
- 2) Your mother, father or primary caregiver currently serves as a member of the armed forces (including reserves or National Guard if activated).
- 3) Minimum 3.0 grade average as certified by school counselor.
- 4) This \$500 scholarship is not based on financial need.
- 5) Relatives of employees of Alston & Bird may not enter.
- 6) You must be admitted to a degree program at a higher educational institution for admission in Fall 2013.

Essay requirements:

500-700 words text only (no graphics), typed addressing the above theme

Each essay must be an original work written by the student

Each essay must have a separate cover page at the beginning, which lists the following:

- student's full name, home street address, city, state and zip code
- home phone and home email address
- name and contact number of student's parent or guardian
- student's name should be included in the upper right-hand corner of the essay page

Entries will be accepted from March 1, 2013 until 6:00 p.m. on May 1, 2013. Entries must be submitted to MWEssay@alston.com and late submissions will not be accepted. Only one essay per student is allowed. The contest is limited to the first 75 eligible entries received through the email address. Essays that do not meet all the criteria will be automatically disqualified without notification

to the student. Due to the number of entries we expect to receive, we regret that we will not be able to contact each student who submits an essay.

Judging criteria:

The essays will be judged by a panel of judges based on the following criteria:

- theme
- creativity
- content
- spelling
- grammar

Winners will be notified via phone or email.

The winner is required to provide a recommendation letter from a teacher/guidance counselor (but not a parent) within 30 days after notification of the prize. If the student does not provide a recommendation letter within the time frame, he/she forfeits the \$500 scholarship award. All information provided by the student is subject to verification by Alston & Bird.

The winner's name will be posted on the Alston & Bird website, and the winner agrees to coordinate with Alston & Bird regarding a photograph and use of the essay for press releases.