

THE NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI GUIDE



2023-2024



BELIEVE IN YOURSELF: NO FEAR, NO LIMITS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 MESSAGE FROM THE
NATIONAL CHAIR

02 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AND
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

04 MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI
COMMITTEE CHAIR

07 ABOUT NBLSA

12 WHAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP
CONTRIBUTES TO

20 HOW TO GIVE BACK

24 REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

32 NATIONAL & REGIONAL
EVENTS

34 MEET THE 56TH NATIONAL
BOARD

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIR



Dear Esteemed NBLSA Alumni/Alumnae,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I write to you today, on behalf of the National Black Law Students Association 'NBLSA' as the 56th National Chair. Over the years, we have witnessed countless success stories, remarkable achievements, and transformative experiences from our NBLSA alums. As a proud member of NBLSA, your contributions and accomplishments have significantly enriched our legacy.

Today, I am reaching out to you with an invitation to continue your support in a meaningful way. We believe that the success of any organization is measured by collective investment and commitment of its alumni. Your generous donations have, in the past, played an instrumental role in funding scholarships, enhancing our national pre-law program, and securing partnerships and grants. These initiatives have not only benefited current NBLSA members; but, has also strengthened the reputation and standing of NBSLA amongst the Congressional Black Caucus, esteemed law firms, and corporations globally.

We are committed to maintaining and surpassing these standards of excellence. With your help, we can further propel our institution towards greater heights. Your support can be directed towards events such as speaking engagements, through recurring donations, and mentorship are a few impactful ways to get involved.

Every contribution, regardless of its size, has a profound impact. It symbolizes your enduring commitment to the ideals and values that NBLSA stands for. It signifies your dedication to nurturing the talents and aspirations of the next generation of leaders and innovators. To donate, you can visit our secure online platform www.nblsa.org.

Thank you for considering this request, and for your unwavering dedication to NBLSA and its mission. We look forward to celebrating our collective achievements together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jarrius Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jarrius Adams | 57th National Chair
National Black Law Students Association

MESSAGE FROM DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI DIRECTORS



Dear Esteemed Alumni/Alumnae,

It is with great pleasure and a sense of nostalgia that we write to you today, reaching out to the esteemed members of our National Black Law Students Association ‘NBLSA’ alumni network. We take pride in the accomplishments and successes of our alumni, and we believe that your continued involvement is key to our future achievements.

Over the years, we have witnessed the profound impact that our alumni have had on their respective fields and communities. Your dedication, passion, and pursuit of excellence serve as an inspiration to current law students who look up to you as role models. We believe it is crucial to maintain and strengthen this connection for the mutual benefit of both alumni and NBLSA.

With this in mind, here are existing ways we encourage you all to get involved with the work of NBLSA:

1. **Financial Support:** Your generous contributions enable us to provide scholarships and support innovative programs. Your donations directly impact the lives of current and future students, helping them realize their full potential. We encourage you all to become recurring donors of NBLSA.
2. **Participation in Events:** Your presence at NBLSA events, whether virtual or in person, fosters a sense of community and camaraderie. To become a registered alum, please visit Wild Apricot. We also encourage you to seek a mentee or become a panelist at conventions. We ask that you actively engage on the regional level and support your home region.
3. **Sponsorship Opportunities:** By sponsoring events, you play a pivotal role in the success of NBLSA. Your support allows us to organize high-quality gatherings, conferences, and workshops that bring together alumni and current/prospective law students.

MESSAGE FROM DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI DIRECTORS



As we move forward, we have several exciting initiatives on the horizon, including:

1. National Convention in Houston, Texas

To explore these opportunities further or to make a donation, please visit our website at nblsa.org. Thank you for your enduring dedication to NBLSA. We eagerly anticipate the prospect of working hand in hand with you to achieve greater heights.

Tyrus Norcise

Tyrus Norcise

National Director of Alumni Relations
National Black Law Students Association

Bria Marie Wallace

Bria Wallace

National Director of Development
National Black Law Students Association

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI COMMITTEE CHAIR



Dear Fellow NBLSA Alumni,

My name is Brandon Cahee and I have the honor and privilege of continuing to serve this great Association as NBLSA's National Alumni Advisory Committee (NAAC) Chair. As a former NBLSA .

National Chair (2018-2019), I know all too well the important and pivotal role that NBLSA Alumni have in ensuring that our law students not only succeed but are able to thrive

For those who are unaware, the NAAC serves to advise, assist, support and advocate for NBLSA and its programming, advocacy, academic success, and professional development efforts. Further, the NAAC is composed of former NBLSA members - many of which served in various leadership roles at the national and regional level during their tenure in NBLSA - who have a dedicated interest in improving the operations, programming and mission of NBLSA. This committee serves in a voluntary role to not only support the current NBLSA Board of Directors as they continue advancing the mission of the Association to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community, but we serve as a consistent group of individuals vested with ensuring this great organization's continued longevity as new leaders are ushered into their year of service.

Given the many barriers that systemically impact law students of color, specifically Black law students from entering the profession, we are aware that these barriers have been all the more exasperated since the pandemic. We also know that the legal profession as a whole has taken on new forms that students now interested in entering the profession have to navigate. It is important now, more than ever, that we continue to give back to NBLSA students in whatever capacity that may show up for you. What each alumni reading this guide can't deny is that there was someone that poured into you being able to at this moment in your legal career, and that at some time, there was a NBLSA alumnus that played a pivotal role in that journey.

From supporting NBLSA through donations giving back at the national/regional level to considering how your organization might be able to synergize efforts to collaborate with NBLSA in a year-round programmatic fashion offering programs, conversations, and workshops unique to your organization's portfolio of work,

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI COMMITTEE CHAIR



to giving of your time to connect with current students by engaging at local/regional/national activities throughout the year, I am assured that NBLSA and its membership would be highly grateful for any support you may lend. In addition, we encourage any alumni to consider reaching out to the NAAC to not only get involved, but to share ways that we can continue to bolster this Association forward by lending our skills, expertise, and other relationships we hold building community together.

I thank you for taking the time to not only stay abreast of the work of NBLSA, but to continue lending yourself to NBLSA students who are depending on us. Thank you for being that pipeline to the next generation of legal advocates of tomorrow. We hope to see you in Houston in March at the National Convention!

Brandon R. Cahee
Brandon R. Cahee

National Alumni Advisory Committee, Chair
National Black Law Students Association

NATIONAL ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Former National
Chair**

Brandon R. Cahee

African American Outreach
& Engagement, National
Education Association



**Former National
Chair**

Rachel Barnes

Corporate Associate, Morgan
Lewis & Bockius LLP



**Former National
Chair**

Kendra F. Brown

Vice President, Public Policy,
U.S. Federal Affairs,
Mastercard



**Former National
Chair**

Mishonda M. Mosley

Military Judge, Central
Judicial Circuit, U.S. Navy-
Marine Corps Trial Judiciary



**Former National
Secretary**

Alisha C. Burgin

Partner, Commercial
Litigation, Perkins Coie LLP



**Former National
Parliamentarian**

Conway Ekpo

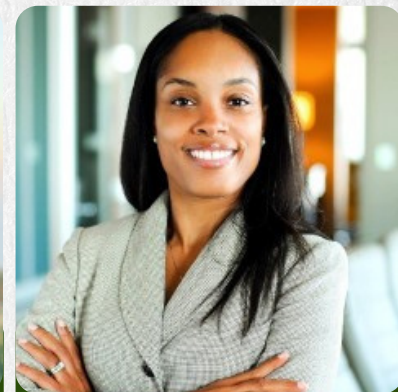
Director & Associate
General Counsel (Role) Brex
(Organization)



**Former WRBLSA
Chair**

Chalak Richards

Dean of Students,
Diversity, and Belonging
Pepperdine Caruso
School of Law



**Former Pre Law
Director**

**Suntrease Williams-
Maynard**

Special Counsel, Adams
and Reese LLP

01

ABOUT
NBLSA



NBLSA IN A FLASH



**6 REGIONS
ACROSS
THE
NATION**

**209
CHAPTERS**

**7,000+
MEMBERS**

WHY NBLSA?



For 56 years, The National Black Law Students Association has worked diligently to develop culturally responsible Black and minority law students who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. Our members are activists, thought leaders, and strategic thinkers. Our alumni are general counsels, judges, non-profit executives, business operatives, and change agents. We understand the importance of support within the legal field so we encourage and connect our members and alumni with opportunities to network, seek new professional avenues, and develop life-long friendships.

OUR HISTORY

In 1968, Algernon Johnson ("A.J.") Cooper founded the Black American Law Students Association on the campus of New York University Law School in order to promote the interests of Black and minority law students entering the legal profession. The organization, now known as the National Black Law Students Association ("NBLSA"), was established as a non-profit organization on December 19, 1969. Today, NBLSA is a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) organization and the largest student-run association in the country. NBLSA's structure flows from the national to the regional and local levels. The National Black Law Students Association now consists of 6 regions: Southwestern Region, Mid-Atlantic Region, Northeastern Region, Midwestern Region, Southern Region, and Western Region.

NBLSA PRINCIPLES

NBLSA's programming, events, and initiatives center around four principles that we believe are critical to the development of Black and minority attorneys. NBLSA members work to exemplify, defend, and promote these goals and ensure through oversight that our work is aligned with our mission.

CULTURAL RESPONSIBILITY

NBLSA operates with a profound awareness and deep understanding of the rich history, enduring struggle, and unwavering determination of the Black experience.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

NBLSA endeavors to empower every Black and minority law student, equipping them with resources, hosting impactful programs, and instilling the confidence needed to not only excel but also to conquer the academic challenges of law school.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

NBLSA is dedicated to fostering connections, nurturing skill development, and facilitating opportunities for our members, enabling them to pursue their dream careers.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

NBLSA is committed to nurturing a sense of community engagement by addressing contemporary issues and consistently dedicating our time and talent to serve and uplift the community.

NBLSA STRUCTURE

NATIONAL

Guided by the National Chair, steered by the National Executive Board of Directors, and overseen by the National General Assembly, the National Board operates as the compass for policy and programmatic orientation across the entire organization, while also furnishing chapters with resources for the advancement of their programs.

REGIONAL

Under the guidance of a Regional Chair, orchestrated by the Regional Board, and supervised by a Regional Assembly, the six NBLSA Regions dedicate themselves to furnishing vital networking opportunities and programming to distinct geographical areas.

LOCAL

The chapter at the law school level is the heart of NBLSA and where NBLSA's work is most tangibly recognized. Led by a president, and an executive board and overseen by the local membership, the chapter works on behalf of students locally.



02

WHAT YOUR
SPONSORSHIP
CONTRIBUTES
TO





PROGRAMMING



PRELAW PROGRAMS

Our Pre-Law division provides proactive pipeline support for college students, offering law school admissions information, LSAT prep, academic retreats, and empowerment resources. With over 60 pre-law chapters and a dedicated Membership Outreach team, we establish new chapters annually. The Annual Pre-Law Symposium at our National Convention facilitates valuable engagement between undergraduate students and law school representatives.



This year, our prelaw division proudly announces strategic partnerships with Blueprint Test Preparation LLC, AccessLex Institute, and LSAT Engine, enabling us to offer exclusive discounts on LSAT preparation courses, enriching workshops, and a comprehensive array of digital resources tailored to assist with your journey through law school admissions, financial aid, and loan repayment.

To learn more about all of these wonderful benefits, please email our National Pre-Law Director at prelaw@nblsa.org

Pre-Law Symposium

The Pre-law Symposium is designed for all pre-law students affiliated with a recognized NBLSA Chapter, as well as those considering law school and interested in gaining insights into what it takes to succeed in law school and the legal profession. We extend an invitation to pre-law students to seize the opportunity to network with fellow aspiring law students, current law students, and lawyers who were once in your position. During the event, you will also receive valuable advice on excelling on the LSAT, navigating the admissions process, selecting your preferred law school, and forging a path to becoming a prominent legal professional. The Pre-Law Symposium will feature expert panels, networking sessions with admissions officers, LSAT prep scholarship giveaways, and an exciting inaugural law school scholarship award.

Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition

National + Regional Level

Since its inception in 1975, the National Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition (TMMCC) has been a cornerstone of NBLSA programming, offering high-caliber competition to showcase oral advocacy and brief writing talents among law students nationwide. Each year, law students compete at our six regional competitions. The top three teams from each region advance to the national competition, which is held during the NBLSA National Convention in March.

Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition

National + Regional Level

The National Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition (CBMMTC) provides law students with a platform to improve their oral advocacy skills, legal research, and writing ability and enhance their knowledge of substantive and procedural law. Participants have the opportunity to compete against teams within their respective NBLSA regions. The winning teams from each of NBLSA's six regions are invited to compete at the national competition held during the NBLSA National Convention.

Nelson Mandela International Negotiations Competition

National Level

The Nelson Mandela International Negotiations Competition (INC) provides NBLSA members with realistic exposure to alternative dispute resolution. The competition is designed to promote NBLSA's international relations and foster positive relationships between NBLSA members and other law students around the world. The competition is held during the National Convention and requires participants to demonstrate oral advocacy and bargaining skills in a competitive environment.

Baker McKenzie Tax Program

The Baker McKenzie & NBLSA Tax Career Mentor Program was established with the aim of enlightening NBLSA members about the opportunities in tax law careers. This 10-month program pairs students with associates from Baker McKenzie to serve as mentors.

NBA x Mentorship program

The NBLSA x NBA mentorship program is a joint collaboration that will offer a catered mentor-mentee to NBLSA members. Mentors are members of the National Bar Association who are dedicated to developing long-term relationships, advice, networking opportunities, support, and guidance to NBLSA's pre-law and law students. Each mentee will be partnered with a mentor that best resonates with their goals and aspirations within the legal field.

Senate Program

NBLSA has joined forces with the United States Senate to offer exceptional referral opportunities for positions within diverse congressional offices. After you've submitted your application to an office, kindly reach out to us via email, and we will promptly inform them of your NBLSA membership status. This program offers invaluable hands-on experience for members who harbor a passion for policy-making and wish to immerse themselves in the legislative process.

National and Regional Job Fairs

National and Regional Job Fairs offer students exceptional year-round opportunities to connect with a diverse array of employers who actively champion diversity. These events pave the way for interviews with prestigious law firms, corporate giants, and government agencies, making them pivotal in connecting students with potential employers. For organizations, these fairs serve as a crucial avenue to identify and recruit diverse talent from law schools nationwide.

Diversifying the Bench

NBLSA is actively working on multiple initiatives to enhance bench diversification. This year, we have collaborated with Federal Judges to launch our inaugural HBCU Roadshow, scheduled for the Spring semester. In partnership with local bar associations, Federal and state judges will visit our six HBCU law schools to encourage students to apply for clerkships and provide guidance on the application process. Furthermore, NBLSA will distribute the first Black Judicial Directory to all of our members this year.

Charles Hamilton Houston Symposium

The Charles Hamilton Houston Advocacy Symposium honors the legacy of Charles Hamilton Houston who was the first General Counsel of the NAACP who crafted a legal strategy that helped bring about the end of Jim Crow. Join us for a discussion about the importance of Black law students and Black lawyers as advocates. This year we look to honor the legacy of Charles Hamilton Houston at UC Berkeley School of Law while discussing the importance of Affirmative Action, its historical importance to California, and the current status of our Nation following the Supreme Court's recent decision.

Innocence Project Program

NBSA and The Innocence Project are working together to empower Black law students nationwide, offering mentorship, support, and networking opportunities in criminal justice and civil rights law, along with diverse internship placements in their regional offices.

NBSA goes to CBC's ALC: Chapter Leadership Retreat

This year, NBSA is thrilled to reintroduce our annual Chapter Leadership Retreat, taking place in the vibrant heart of Washington, D.C. Spanning four days, this retreat offers a unique platform for chapter leaders to come together, fully engage in the NBSA ethos, and cultivate a strong sense of camaraderie. All of this unfolds in the nation's capital, coinciding with the prestigious Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. As part of the experience, NBSA organizes mixers and panels featuring congressional leaders, facilitating enlightening discussions on issues that have a profound impact on the Black community.

Pauli Murray Symposium

The Pauli Murray Symposium is an inaugural program designed to establish a prominent platform for profound discussions and dialogue delving into the intricate intersections of identities within the Black legal realm. It specifically highlights the experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals while paying tribute to and celebrating Pauli Murray's enduring influence on the legal landscape.

SERVICE PROGRAMS

MLK Day of Service

Annually, in homage to the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., NBLSA orchestrates a Spring Day of Service. This initiative serves as a profound homage to Dr. King's lasting influence by encouraging chapters to engage wholeheartedly in service projects of their choosing within their local communities. These efforts align with NBLSA's core principles and contribute to the promotion of its values and objectives.

C.A.R.E.S. Program

In 2007, NBLSA introduced the C.A.R.E.S. (Contributing through Advocacy, Resources, Education, and Service) program with the aim of offering NBLSA members opportunities to delve into international legal matters while participating in volunteer work abroad. This year marks the relaunch of the program, which involves sending NBLSA students from various law schools across the nation to engage in international volunteer work, including our first-ever trip to Ghana. To date, NBLSA has collectively contributed over 2,000 hours in volunteer service dedicated to addressing international issues.



Chapter of the Year Competition

The Chapter of the Year Competition presents an annual platform for BLSA chapters and pre-law chapters to highlight their year-long programming and accomplishments, offering the prospect of receiving monetary awards. These coveted Chapter of the Year distinctions are granted at both the National and Regional levels, contingent upon adherence to the comprehensive Chapter of the Year Application packet and associated rubric, which serves as the criteria for eligibility.

This year, we are proudly bestowing our prestigious scholarships with names that honor our top three distinguished alumni donors.

Letitia James HBCU Law School Scholarship

The Letitia James HBCU Law School Scholarship is named after the first woman and Black person to be elected to serve as the Attorney General of New York; this scholarship was created to support HBCU law students who are committed to social justice through public service.

Changemaker Scholarships:

The Charles James Ogletree Scholarship is named after NBLSA's 9th National Chair & CEO, a distinguished American legal scholar, and the visionary founder of Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. This scholarship will recognize an NBLSA member who exemplifies Ogletree's dedication to social action and sustainable advocacy.

Ketanji Brown Jackson Impact Scholarship:

This prestigious award, bearing the name of the trailblazing first Black woman to serve as a United States Supreme Court Justice, seeks to honor an outstanding NBLSA member who exemplifies the same dedication and humility that characterized Justice Jackson's illustrious career.

03

HOW TO GIVE
BACK



SUPPORTING NBLSA



Our esteemed alumni are crucial inspirations for current law students, and maintaining this connection is vital for both alumni and the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). Your generous contributions directly impact students' lives through scholarships and programs. We encourage recurring donations, active participation in NBLSA events, and sponsorship opportunities to shape the future success of NBLSA.

PERSONAL DONATION

As alumni, your support can shape the future of NBLSA. As a recognized 501(c)(3) entity, NBLSA ensures that every donation you make is tax-deductible. Every contribution, big or small, fuels scholarships, innovative programs, and the growth of our beloved organization. Together, let's ensure NBLSA continues to thrive and inspire generations of black attorneys to come. Please click [HERE](#) to donate. This year our named scholarships will be named after our top three alumni donors.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Ignite meaningful connections and empower the next generation through our Alumni Mentorship Program! Share your expertise, shape careers, and help us foster a sense of community within NBLSA. Signing up is a breeze—please click [HERE](#).



ALUMNI DIRECTORY

We are always looking for speakers, panelists, and competition judges. If you are interested, please click [HERE](#) to register and become part of our distinguished Alumni Directory.

STAY CONNECTED



Is your law firm or company interested in partnering with or donating to NBLSA? Please contact our Director of Corporate Engagement at corporate@nblsa.org for details!



GET CONNECTED

- [Alumni Membership](#)
- [Alumni Directory](#)
- [Alumni LinkedIn](#)
- [NBLSA Connects GroupMe](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Mentorship Program](#)

SPONSORS

Each sponsor and partner brings a unique set of strengths and perspectives to the table, enriching our programs and initiatives with diverse insights and resources. From multinational corporations to local businesses, from research institutions to grassroots organizations, our network is a tapestry of expertise and passion. Together, we form a powerful force dedicated to



driving positive change in our community and beyond. As we continue to navigate the challenges of our time, their steadfast support serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder of what we can achieve when we unite toward a common goal. We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors and partners for their unwavering dedication, and we look forward to the continued growth and impact that we will achieve together. The following are partners who have worked to propel the mission of NBLSA forward.

SPONSORS

National Champion Sponsor

- Latham & Watkins LLP
- Haynes & Boone LLP

Trailblazer Sponsorship

- Perkins Coie LLP

Friend of NBLSA

- Human Rights Campaign
- Venable LLP
- National Center for State Courts
- Orrick LLP
- Troutman Pepper LLP

Pre Law Patron

- Dentons LLP

Pauli Murray Symposium Patron

- Paul Weiss LLP

Is your law firm or company interested in partnering with or donating to NBLSA? Please contact our Director of Corporate Engagement at corporate@nblsa.org for details!

04

REGIONAL
SPOTLIGHT



THE NBLSA REGIONAL CHAIRS



**Western
Regional Chair**

LaJeanne Shelton

UC Hastings College of Law



**Midwest
Regional Chair**

Kennedy Jones

Loyal University Chicago
School of Law



**Southern
Regional Chair**

Kanika Liburd

Nova Southeastern
University



**Northwestern
Regional Chair**

Fontaine Chambers

Quinnipiac University School
of Law



**Mid-Atlantic
Regional Chair**

Fanta Toure

Delaware Law School



**Southwest
Regional Chair**

**Maydrian
Strozier-Lowe**

Texas Tech University School
of Law

WESTERN REGION

The Western Region has been working hard to “Rebuild the Connection” with our local chapters and the legal community at large. For 56 years, NBLSA has remained dedicated to its mission -- to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. As a region we are committed to upholding this mission for our African American Students in the Western Region. Our beautiful region is spread across 9 states (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Guam. Our region represents over 30 schools and over 350 members.



We met our local chapters and got feedback on programs they would like to see. So this year, we have focused on connecting with our members by way of hosting our Career Opportunities Panel Series. We held three panels this semester. First, we held a Black Judges Panel with The Honorable Jamal N. Whitehead, a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, The Honorable Richard Bouleware, a United States District Judge for the Western District of Nevada, and Justice Teri L. Jackson a Presiding Judge of the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District Division 5. Next, we held our Public Interest and Public Service Panel and a Sports and Entertainment Law Panel with four attorneys.



MIDATLANTIC REGION

Prelaw Students

For our pre-law students we have made a point to attend various law fairs to connect with incoming students, as well as hosting various events where they can speak with current law students to know what to expect. Our Pre-Law Director has also created a guide to assist OLs as they prepare to enter law school with tips on how to succeed. We have worked closely with regional partners to attract more students to the region for law school and set them up for the best opportunities.



The Mighty Mid-Atlantic Region (MABLSA) has focused our 2023-2024 term on the regrowth of the region. Our focus has been split between our three communities: (1) current law students, (2) pre-law students, and (3) alumni. We have created a number of initiatives to connect with each of these groups to increase engagement and serve the region.

Alumni

For our alumni, we are constantly working to create pathways to reconnect with the region and current students. One initiative we are taking on here is a mentorship program that will connect alumni members with current students. We also tap into our alumni pool to speak on our Black+ panels, where they can share their experiences in the workforce.

Current Students

For current students, our priority group, we have started a number of programs to connect and share information. Our largest is the Black+ Speaker Series where Black attorneys in various fields have honest discussions with students about the benefits and challenges they have encountered while being Black in their specific legal field. We have also made a point to incorporate mental health sessions, to give students an opportunity to decompress from the stress of law school. Other programs include social outings, career fairs, and other networking opportunities to engage with our students professionally.



SOUTHWESTERN REGION

The focus of the Southwestern Region of the National Black Law Students Association (SWBLSA) has been to encourage and maintain relationships with all 20 chapters across SWBLSA to ensure that we are well-connected and supporting students. This year, the region is focused on Affirming the need for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Enhancing Student Success, and Strengthening Alumni Relationships.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Early in the 2023-24 term, the State of Texas made diversity, equity, and inclusion illegal. Therefore, SWBLSA has worked tirelessly to find alternatives to funding and sponsorship opportunities, absent the critical funding that used to be present for students across the region.



ENHANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

SWBLSA is dedicated to ensuring that students across the region have access to seminars and trainings in a virtual capacity to ensure that they are successful during and after law school. Whether it's our Linking Up for Success LinkedIn Event, Job Fair Dos & Dont, SWBLSA Study Sessions, and more, we are focused on ensuring that SWBLSA students are properly equipped to be the best students across the nation.



STRENGTHEN ALUMNI RELATIONSHIPS

SWBLSA thrives off of the participation of our Alumni. Whether it be participating in a panel at a regional event, donating, or helping us curate events for the term, we have been focused on better looping in Black attorneys across the region to promote the growth and maintenance of SWBLSA.

NORTHEASTERN REGION

NEBSA proudly acknowledges the Northeast region as the foundational pillar of our organization, where we have achieved remarkable milestones over the past seven months. With a focus on creating meaningful experiences, we successfully executed over 50 diverse programs and events, including five Sub-Region Academic Retreats. Notably, 4 of these retreats were hosted at prestigious law firms, with 2, namely New York Metro and Combined Northern New England, graciously sponsored and hosted at Kirkland and Ellis LLP. Our commitment to providing law students with exposure beyond the classroom led us to collaborate with renowned firms, allowing them to step into the professional spaces they aspire to be.

As we continue to evolve, NEBSA remains dedicated to delivering impactful programs and fostering collaborative partnerships to empower the legal community. Stay tuned for more exciting developments from Notable and Noteworthy Northeast.



© Quihana Seaborn - Qisma Photography 2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One of our significant accomplishments includes hosting one of the largest job fairs in NEBSA's history. The event attracted 93 employers, resulting in 4,051 bids, 153 scheduled student interviews, and a total of 620 interviews conducted on August 5th, 2023. Participating firms ranged from Cadwalader, Wickersham, & Taft LLP to the ACLU-NJ, offering students diverse opportunities. To enhance student readiness, we conducted a Demystifying OCI session in collaboration with Phillips Lytle, drawing over 70 attendees from beyond our region.



SOUTHERN REGION

The Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) initiated the current year with the overarching theme, "Safeguarding Our Past, Spotlighting Our Present, and Securing Our Future." This guiding vision is underscored by a series of ambitious goals and initiatives aimed at reinforcing the region's financial foundation, amplifying community and member engagement, and fostering professional development for pre-law and law student members.



In pursuit of these objectives, the Southern Region has hosted various events and activities, including the Fall Career Fair, the three-part Pancakes and Politics: Diversity Series event, the Chapter Leadership Retreat, a dialogue with the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Academic Leadership Retreats, and impactful community outreach initiatives such as the Toiletry Drive in Atlanta, where over 100 bags of toiletries were distributed to the homeless.

GOALS

- **Financial Stability:** Conducted financial review and aligned activities with budget constraints for increased revenue and reserves.
- **Engagement and Participation:** Prioritize in-person and diverse platform activities for increased regional engagement.
- **Expand Pre-law Programming:** Increase pre-law membership, nurture aspiring legal professionals, and contribute to minority lawyer representation.
- **Support and Guidance to Local Chapters:** Enhance connectivity with regional board chapter presidents and launch Southern Circle for member engagement and input.



MIDWESTERN REGION

Our overarching objective, spearheaded by myself, Kennedy Jones, in my capacity as the Midwest Regional Chair, alongside my esteemed Vice Chair, David Giddens, is to diligently champion and achieve the successful realization of our core initiatives. These initiatives stand as the bedrock of our organizational commitment, encompassing the meticulous orchestration of events such as the Job Fair, Academic & Leadership Retreat, Regional Convention, and the esteemed Midwest Journal of Law and Policy. Our steadfast dedication is not merely an aspiration; rather, it is an unwavering commitment to the advancement and flourishing of these integral components that define the essence of our mission.



VISION

Beyond the scope of our signature events, our vision extends to curating a diverse array of programming that resonates with our dynamic student body, seamlessly blending virtual and in-person initiatives. This curated lineup encompasses transformative experiences such as our thoughtfully crafted Mental Health event, the vibrant Networking Plaza, and the enriching MWBLSA Law Link.



This year, we are focused on (1) diversifying sponsorship and (2) forging robust partnerships with esteemed firms and corporations. This strategic endeavor aimed not only at the establishment of a recurring internship program but also the creation of recurring scholarships and the cultivation of enduring, steadfast sponsorships. Our vision extends beyond mere accomplishment; it is a forward-looking commitment to foster lasting collaborations that resonate with sustained impact and meaningful contributions.

05

NATIONAL &
REGIOINAL
EVENTS



NATIONAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2023

- September 07: AccessLex Series (Pre-law)
- September 28: CLEO Event
- September 28: October 2 NBSA 51st Legislative Conference

OCTOBER 2023

- October 5: Public Health: Eating Healthy and Limiting Stress Through Our Habits
- October 12: Public Health: Alcohol Awareness
- October 13: Charles Hamilton Houston Symposium
- October 19: AccessLex: Paying
- October 27: Pauli Murray Symposium

NOVEMBER 2023

- November 3: Blueprint Events (Pre-law)
- November 4th & November 19th: Academic Affairs: The Road To Licensure and Financing the Bar

JANUARY 2024

- January 11: AccessLex: Choosing the School For You
- January 12-14: Western Region Convention
- January 17-21: Southwest Regional Convention
- January 18: Blueprint Events (Pre-law)
- January 31-February 4: Midwest Regional Convention

FEBRUARY 2024

- January 31-February 4: Midwest Regional Convention
- February 7-11: Northeast Regional Convention
- February 14-18: Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention
- February 15-18: Canada Convention
- February 20-25: Southern Regional Convention
- February 29: AccessLex: Building Your Law School Budget

MARCH 2024

- March 5 -10: NBSA National Convention



REGIONAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2023

- September 8-10: MWBLSA Academic & Leadership Retreat
- September 9: MWBLSA Academic & Leadership Retreat
- September 9: NEBLSA NJ Academic Retreat
- September 14-15: SRBLSA Job Fair
- September 14-15: SWBLSA: Pre-Law Symposium
- September 15-16: SRBLSA Sub-Region 1 Academic Retreat
- September 16th: NEBLSA NY Metro Academic Retreat
- September 30: NEBLSA Upstate NY Academic Retreat
- September 30: SRBLSA Sub-Region 3 Academic Retreat

OCTOBER 2023

- October 6-8: SWBLSA Academic Leadership Retreat
- October 7: NEBLSA CT Academic Retreat
- October 14: NEBLSA CNNE Academic Retreat
- October 14-15: MABLSA Academic Leadership Retreat
- October 24: SRBLSA Mock Trial Boot Camp

JANUARY 2024

- January 12-14: WRBLSA Convention
- January 15: MABLSA Journal Symposium
- January 17-21: SWBLSA Convention
- January 27: WRBLSA Job Fair

FEBURARY 2024

- January 31-February 4: MWBLSA Convention
- February 7-11: NEBLSA Regional Convention
- February 14-18: MABLSA Regional Convention
- February 17-18: MABLSA Pre-Law Symposium
- February 20-25: SRBLSA Convention

MARCH 2024

- March 5 -10 - NBLSA National Convention



06

MEET THE 56TH
NATIONAL
BOARD



THE CHAIR'S CABINET



National Chair
Jarrius Adams

Howard University
School of Law



National Vice-Chair
Jasmine Marchbanks-
Owens

Howard University
School of Law



National Treasurer
Adam Fane

Vermont Law School



**National
Secretary**
Sarah Scott

Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center



**National Attorney
General**
Mekkah Husamadeen

Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center



**National Chief of
Staff**
Shaniece Hunter

Albany School of Law



**National
Parliamentarian**
Marsha Jean-Baptiste

Indiana University
Maurer School of Law

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE



Member-at-Large
Nastassia Janvier

Howard University
School of Law



Member-at-Large
Morgan Webb

Texas Tech University
School of Law



Member-at-Large
Sarahdyne Moise

Western New England
University



Member-at-Large
Courtney Dash

University of Miami



Member-at-Large
Alco Robinson

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD



**National Director of the
Thurgood Marshall Moot
Court Competition**

Kennedy Gerard

University of Mississippi
School of Law



**National Director of the
Constance Baker Motley
Mock Trial Competition**

Jasmine Cooper

Washington & Lee University
School of Law



**National Director of the
Nelson Mandela
International Negotiations
Competition**

Khalid Smith

Penn State Law



**National Convention
Coordinator**

Ebony Aiken

Washington & Lee University
School of Law



**National Director of
Community Outreach**

Zeno Temple

Western New England University
School of Law



**National Director of Career
& Professional
Development**

Shannah West

North Carolina Central
University
School of Law

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD



**National Director of
Membership**

Nandi Pearson

Saint Louis University School of Law



**National Director of
Advocacy & External
Initiatives**

Arielle Hudson

Yale Law School



**National Director
of Pre-Law Affairs**

Tyler Parker

The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law



**National Pre-
Law Fellow**

Lilly Amechi

University of
Oklahoma



**National Pre-Law
Student Representative**

Makaiya Snead

Eastern Michigan
University



**National Director of
Programming &
Events**

Jelani Shelton

UC Irvine School of Law

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD



**National Director of
Communications**

Isabela Gibson
Georgetown University
Law Center



**National Graphic
Design Specialist**

Kaseir Archie
Howard University
School of Law



**National Director of
Academic Affairs**

Chavioleyette Fenelus
Liberty University
School of Law



**National Director of
Alumni Relations**

Tyrus Norcise
Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center



**National Financial
Specialist**
Hayward Gordon Jr.

University of Mississippi
School of Law



**National Financial
Secretary**

Sylvia Aikhuele
Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD



**National Director of
Corporate Engagement**

Ashlee Davis
American University



**National Director
of Development**

Bria Wallace
Southern University
Law Center



**National
Historian**

Kiana Parkes
William S. Boyd School of Law



**National Disability
Advocate**

Lindsay Bazile
Roger Williams University
School of Law



**National Director
of Public Health**

Mariah Rhodes
University of Mississippi
School of Law