



MBLA

MASSACHUSETTS BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



2021 MBLA GALA PROGRAM

MAY 20, 2021: *VIRTUAL GALA*

MAY 21, 2021: *OUTDOOR DRIVE-IN CONCERT*

WWW.MBLACKLAWYERS.ORG



Kirkland & Ellis is proud to sponsor the

Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association's 2021 Annual Gala

and join in celebrating all of this year's honorees.



Kirkland & Ellis LLP | 200 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116
+1 617 385 7500 | www.kirkland.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MBLA Welcome Video

Black National Anthem – Lift Every Voice and Sing

Welcome

Jonathan Allen, *Co-founder and Director of Development, The Leadership Brainery*

President's Reflections

Stesha A. Emmanuel, *President, Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, Litigation Attorney, McCarter & English, LLP*

Introduction of 2021 Trailblazer Recipient **Steven Wright**

Damon Hart, *Executive Vice President, Deputy Chief Legal Officer, Liberty Mutual Insurance*

Remarks

Steven Wright, *Senior VP General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*

Introduction of 2021 Trailblazer Recipient **Yalonda Howze**

Doreen Rachal, *Counsel, Sidley Austin LLP*

Remarks

Yalonda Howze, *Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary, Codiak BioSciences, Inc.*

Introduction of 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient **Ralph Martin, II**

Rachael Rollins, *Suffolk County District Attorney*

Remarks

Ralph Martin, II, *Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Northeastern University*

Closing Remarks

Asha White, *President-Elect, Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Bureau, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office*

Outdoor Concert, Friday, May 21, 2021

**Boston Convention Center, South Lot
415 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110**

Lot Open at 5:30 p.m.

Programs Starts at 6:00 p.m.

If unable to attend live, please join us remotely via Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association's Youtube channel.



GOODWIN

Goodwin is proud to sponsor the 2021 Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association Gala and congratulates this year's award recipients

We are honored to support and partner with the MBLA to achieve our common goal to attract, retain and elevate talented Black lawyers at Goodwin and in the legal industry at-large.

Meet us at the intersection of capital and innovation.

Serving both the innovators and investors in a rapidly-changing, technology-driven economy, we partner with our clients to practice law with integrity, ingenuity, agility and ambition.

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Stesha A. Emmanuel

MASSACHUSETTS BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Dear MBLA Members, Colleagues, Friends and Guests,

WELCOME to the 2021 Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association's Annual Gala! Whether you are attending in-person or remotely, we are so very grateful for your presence and support tonight and throughout the 2020-2021 program year. It has truly been a year for the record books in terms of programming, advocacy, celebrations and losses. As an organization, we continue to grow stronger with each new challenge and this year was nothing short of said challenges. COVID-19 put the world on its heels and we were all affected mentally, financially and physically. Yet, and despite it all, I believe that we pulled together as a community and made a more conscious effort to check on, support and build up one another. Through endless Zoom conferences and video calls, we became laser focused on what is really important. Family and friends. Taking time to reset and refresh. Mental health. Finding balance.

Since 1973, the MBLA has sought to attract, retain and increase the visibility of Black attorneys. We firmly believe that an inclusive legal community makes for stronger advocacy, new perspectives and increased opportunities for all. Moreover, the MBLA worked to strengthen our legal community by cultivating a strong support network and provide professional development programming.

My goal this year was to not address the existence of the pipeline; but rather, the maintenance. Like any pipe, if you do not continuously perform maintenance and routine check-ups, the pipe can corrode overtime and become unable to perform or complete its purpose. So this year, we introduced new programming, collaborated with other legal organizations and invested in conversations about allyship, diversity and inclusion in all sectors of the legal community. In total, for the 2020-2021 program year, we either lead or co-sponsored thirty-four events. As a society, we have more work to do to ensure justice for all, equality and access. Our great organization is composed of members who do not sit on the sideline but are integrally involved in being change-makers.

It is no coincidence that this year's honorees embodies all of the qualities necessary to move our legal community, albeit our country, in the right direction – intellect, compassion, tenacity, perseverance and a desire to lift as they climb. I would like to congratulate and acknowledge our legal giants – 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Ralph Martin, II and 2021 Trailblazer Award Recipients Steven Wright and Yalonda Howze. We celebrate your achievements and sacrifices (seen and unseen). Thank you for being wonderful examples and creating long-lasting marks on our legal community.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as President of the MBLA. Thank you to the MBLA Officers and Directors for a job well done. Thank you to my family, friends and colleagues for your continued support. Let's continue to press forward and achieve greatness together.

Yours Truly,

Stesha A. Emmanuel



Charles D. Baker
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Karyn E. Polito
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kim Janey
MAYOR OF BOSTON



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
KIM JANEY

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 2021

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and I would like to welcome you to the 2021 Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association Annual Gala.

The Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association (MBLA) has now been serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over forty-eight years. Throughout its lifespan, the MBLA has sought to achieve both justice and equality throughout the Commonwealth and has continued to make a direct impact on the quality of life here in Massachusetts. In addition, we wish to extend our sincerest congratulations to tonight's honorees for their outstanding achievements. Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and I are proud to support such an impactful association and wish you the very best as you gather to celebrate the tremendous work you have accomplished over the years.

Please accept our best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Boston, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association Gala. This year's celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the 47 years of service that the MBLA has provided to our Commonwealth and the legal community.

Since its founding in 1973, the MBLA has fostered a robust network of attorneys of color who have made immeasurable contributions to our Commonwealth. I join you in recognizing the achievements and contributions of five great leaders in our community.

Congratulations to Yolanda Howze and Steven H. Wright recipients of this year's Trailblazer Awards. Your pioneering commitment to service will continue to shape and enrich our lives and our communities at large, and for that, we offer our sincerest gratitude. To Ralph C. Martin, II, recipient of the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award, we thank you for your decades of guidance and dedicated service to those most vulnerable in our communities, both in this Commonwealth and beyond. And finally, to President Stesha Emmanuel, you have made our City proud with your service and dedication to our communities.

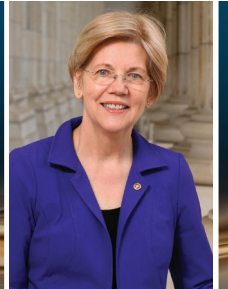
Best wishes for an enjoyable evening and continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Kim Janey
Mayor of Boston



Maura Healey
MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL



Elizabeth Warren
UNITED STATES SENATOR



MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-2200
(617) 727-4765 TTY
www.mass.gov/ago

May 17, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association Gala. Congratulations on yet another year of exceptional mentorship, education, and professional development.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ralph C. Martin, II on his Lifetime Achievement Award; Steven H. Wright for his Trailblazer Award; and Yalonda Howze for her Trailblazer Award. Thank you all for your many contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the legal profession.

We at the Attorney General's Office are especially proud that Asha White, Deputy Chief of our Criminal Bureau, will serve as MBLA President for the 2021-2022 session. I know that he will be a thoughtful and forward-thinking leader at the MBLA, as he is in our office. Thank you to President Stesha Emmanuel for her vision and work at the helm of MBLA this past year.

Thank you for your continued efforts to build a more inclusive legal profession. Now more than ever, it is critical that our industry reflect the diversity of our Commonwealth and country. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Very truly yours,

Maura Healey



May 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

I wish I could be with you in person as you gather for this year's Annual Conference and celebrate the meaningful work the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association and its members do every day.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients - Ralph Martin, Steven Wright and Yolanda Howze. I appreciate your leadership in the MBLA and the legal community as a whole.

Whether it's through legal aid, education, or advocacy, your work makes a huge difference in this fight. Day by day you are improving the lives of others and helping people get through this crisis and make their families and their communities whole.

So, thank you for all that you do, and thank you for being a part of this fight! Enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Liz Miranda
MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT



Andrea J. Campbell
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 4



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LIZ MIRANDA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
5th Suffolk District

liz.miranda@mahouse.gov

Vice Chair - Human Resources and Employee Engagement
Veterans & Federal Affairs
Public Safety & Homeland Security
Community Development & Small Businesses

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Ralph C. Martin II for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Steven H. Wright and Yalonda Howze for receiving the Trailblazer Award.

In this moment of our history, your role, presence, and invaluable contribution has never been more important as we build towards a more just and equitable society. For Black communities across the Commonwealth, thank you for your organizing efforts and collective voice.

I applaud all of you for your tireless commitment to the pursuit of justice and join you in celebrating the accomplishments of this year's recipients.

Keep fighting.

With gratitude,

Liz Miranda
State Representative
5th Suffolk District



ANDREA J. CAMPBELL
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR
DISTRICT 4

May 10, 2021

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association Gala. This year's celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the association's 47 years of service to the legal community.

Since its founding in 1973, the MBLA has fostered a robust network of attorneys of color who have made and continue to make significant contributions to our Commonwealth. I join you in recognizing the achievements of three incredible leaders in our community. Congratulations to Ralph C. Martin as this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, and Stephen H. Wright and Yalonda Howze as your Trailblazer Award recipients. Their outstanding achievements and incredible talents have helped advance the legal profession in their respective fields, and have inspired the next generation of lawyers.

As a former member of the MBLA, it brings me great joy to join you in celebrating my fellow black lawyers as well as the accomplishments of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. Thank you Stesha Emmanuel for your leadership as President and to the association as a whole for your continued efforts to support and uplift the work of black lawyers across the Commonwealth.

Wishing you a wonderful evening,

Andrea J. Campbell
Boston City Councilor, District 4



2021 Trailblazer Award Recipient



STEVEN WRIGHT **Senior VP General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer,** **Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**

Steven Wright is Senior VP General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, one of 12 regional Federal Reserve banks. He Leads the Enterprise Resources Division, which includes the Legal, Privacy, Law Enforcement, Real Estate Services Group, and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion departments of the bank. He is also a member of the bank’s Executive Committee. The legal department is engaged in a number significant Federal Reserve projects including FedNow, Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility, Main Street Loan Program, and the Hamilton Central Bank Digital Coin Project.

Steve had a number of roles prior to joining the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He was the Executive Partner managing Holland & Knight’s Boston office. There he served as lead counsel and strategic advisor for several Fortune 500 companies, addressing complex commercial, corporate, intellectual property, litigation and regulatory matters. He was co-founder of the firm of Chin, Wright & Branson. Steve served as Deputy Counsel to the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York and also as Deputy Chief of the Civil Litigation Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Attorney General and Chief of its Trial Division.

He was a recipient of the NBA Commercial Law Section’s Cora T. Walker Award 2021. He is named in “Best Lawyers in America” for commercial litigation, a member of Best Lawyers National Advisory Committee and was a “Super Lawyer” for business and corporate law.

Steve’s nonprofit board affiliations include Atrius Health, the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston. He is a former director of SBLI Mutual Insurance Company. He holds a law degree from Boston College Law School and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from East Carolina University. He is admitted to the bar in Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey.

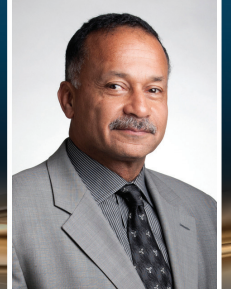
Steve’s awards and recognitions include the following: NBA CLS Cora T. Walker Award Recipient (2021); Trail Blazer Award, Charting Your Own Course Conference (2019); Named one of the 100 Influencers in Law in the Country by Business Law Journals (2019); The Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus Good Guy Award (2016); Best Lawyers in America Advisory Committee (2015-2019); Best Lawyers in America in Commercial Litigation (2015-2019); Mount Ida College Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws (2014); Massachusetts

Super Lawyers magazine, Business/Corporate (2014); Named one of the 50 Most Influential Bostonians by Boston Business Journal (2012/2014); Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Excellence in the Law (2011); East Carolina Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award (2011); Awarded the first Outstanding Outside Counsel by the NBA-CLS (2009); Designated one of 10 Massachusetts Outstanding Lawyers (1996).

He formerly served as lead counsel and strategic advisor for several 500 fortune companies.



2021 Trailblazer Award Recipient



2021 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

YALONDA HOWZE

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary of Codiak BioSciences

Ms. Howze is Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary of Codiak BioSciences, Inc., where she serves as a member of the company’s Executive Leadership Team. Prior to Codiak, Ms. Howze was an equity partner at Mintz. At Mintz, Yalonda was a lead relationship partner and legal advisor to several of Mintz’s top clients. Yalonda has represented clients in state and federal courts in many states and is a member of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the United States District Court, and a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ms. Howze is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has been recognized with many awards for her contributions to diversity, equity and inclusion in Boston as well as her other achievements in the legal profession. She has been awarded the Ida B. Wells “Pioneer Award” by the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys Association, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s, Adams Pro Bono Award, and a Boston Bar Association Beacon Award--“The Voice of Change Award,” among others.

Ms. Howze received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, an M. Div. from the Harvard University, School of Divinity and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

RALPH C. MARTIN II

Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Northeastern University

Ralph C. Martin II graduated from Brandeis University before continuing on to Northeastern University School of Law. Since 2011, he has served as the Chief Legal Officer for the university and serves on the eight-member Senior Leadership Team of Northeastern University, which directs the overall strategic direction of the university under the leadership of the president. He also oversees compliance, risk, labor relations, public safety and policing, and city and community relations. Mr. Martin also led the university’s 2013 Institutional Master Planning (IMP) effort with the city of Boston.

Before joining Northeastern, Mr. Martin was the managing partner of the 275-lawyer Boston office of Bingham McCutchen, an 1,100-lawyer international law firm. He has more than 30 years of experience as a trial lawyer and a state and federal prosecutor. He practiced in the areas of corporate investigations, white-collar defense, and general civil litigation. Mr. Martin was also the managing principal of Bingham Consulting Group, a firm subsidiary business that advised clients challenged by the legal, public policy, and other complexities of multistate investigations by attorneys general. Mr. Martin has served on several boards, including serving for two years as chairman of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the region’s leading business advocacy group. In May 2006, Ralph was elected to a two-year term as chairman of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

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Mr. Martin is also the former Suffolk County district attorney, having served as the elected prosecutor for Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop from 1992–2002. During his nearly 10 years in office, he was credited with helping to oversee substantial changes in the way law enforcement collaborated with other agencies to make dramatic improvements in crime prevention and prosecution. He is the first African American district attorney in Suffolk County’s history. He was recognized for his leadership by former President Bill Clinton and former Attorney General Janet Reno, and traveled across the country to both lecture and consult on the business and strategy of managing and reducing crime.

Mr. Martin served as an adjunct associate professor of legal studies at Brandeis University in 2000 and 2001, and as a lecturer on civil trial practice at Northeastern University School of Law from 1987-92.

He is the first African American district attorney in Suffolk County’s history.

JONATHAN ALLEN

Co-founder and Director of Philanthropy at Leadership Brainery

Jonathan L. Allen is a champion for equity. He is Co-founder and Director of Philanthropy at Leadership Brainery, a Boston-based nonprofit closing wealth and opportunity gaps by increasing the number of diverse talent being accepted and enrolled in postgraduate education programs and recruited into high-wage careers. Jonathan also has a lifelong commitment to public service, and recently ran for Boston City Council in the Fall 2019 election. In response to the pandemic, Jonathan worked at Partners in Health as a supervisor on the Community Contact Tracing Collaborative working to stop the spread of COVID-19 throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts — through which he helped develop protocols and train teams for equitable data collection.

Jonathan followed his maternal and paternal grandmothers’ footsteps and began preaching at age 11, and was ordained at age 20. Recognized as a social engineer and an advocate for love and equity, his beliefs surrounding transformative leadership, collective responsibility, political spirituality, and social and emotional intelligence have influenced individuals and groups throughout the world.

As a first-generation college student, he became freshman and sophomore class president, junior senator, and Student Body President of Grambling State University. After receiving his BS in Business Management, Jonathan worked to expand services for a pediatric day healthcare center for chronically ill children until departing to earn his Master of Theological Studies degree from Southern Methodist University | Perkins School of Theology.

Jonathan is a 2019 graduate of Boston University School of Law, where he was an active leader. He has participated in international arbitration and mediation competitions and served as the president of the Black Law Students Association. Jonathan has written speeches for U.S. Congresspersons while studying Faith and Politics under former White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry at Wesley Theological Seminary. He was later a fellow at Free Speech for People, research assistant to the Honorable Geraldine S. Hines of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, research assistant to Rev. Cornell Brooks who is former President and CEO of the NAACP, and fellow at Harvard Law School’s Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice.

INTRODUCING THE



Building The Legacy

Scholarship Fund

ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT THE MBLA'S PORTFOLIO OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

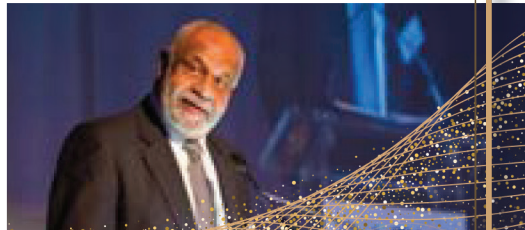
The Honorable Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award



The Honorable Reginald Lindsay Public Service Award



The Fletcher "Flash" Wiley MBLA Legacy Scholarship Award



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020-2021 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The Honorable Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award Recipient:
Rbrey Duane Singleton
University of Massachusetts School of Law Class of 2022.



The Honorable Reginald Lindsay Public Service Award for the 2020-2021
Christianna Golden
New England Law, Boston Class of 2022



The Fletcher "Flash" Wiley MBLA Legacy Award
Elizabeth Morrison
Boston College Law School Class of 2022

MBLA 2020-2021 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Arianne Waldron
*Attorney, U.S. Court
of Appeals for the First
Circuit*



DIRECTOR
Pratt Norton Wiley
*Executive Director,
The Partnership, Inc.*

MBLA 2020-2021 EVENTS LIST

- May 27, 2020** – MBLA Student Town Hall
- May 29, 2020** – **Coming Together:** *a discussion with the NAAP and ACLU regarding civil rights and economic justice*
- June 11, 2020** – **Real Talk Series Part I:** *a conversation about surviving as a black lawyer during the American Spring*
- June 24, 2020** – **Unmuted:** *a townhall on the legal perspective*
- July 9, 2020** – **Know Your Rights:** *Evictions and Landlord Tenant Issues*
- July 28, 2020** – **Meet the Candidate:** *Terrence Kennedy running for the Governor's Counsel-Sixth District*
- July 30, 2020** – **Meet the Candidate:** *Helina Fontes running for the Governor's Counsel-Sixth District*
- August 11, 2020** – **Real Talk Series Part II:** *Legislative and Prosecutorial Reforms Relating to Race and Police Violence*
- September 16, 2020** – **Walk in Solidarity for Social Change and Pro Bono Challenge**
- September 22, 2020** – **Diversity and Allyship Event with SABA**
- September 25, 2020** – **MBLA Takeover of District 7**
- September 28, 2020** – **Practices for Rep Adjustment CLE with MAHA and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**
- September 30, 2020** – **Meeting with SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Well Being**
- October 5, 2020** – **ALLYSHIP:** *A Call to Action*
- October 6, 2020** – **Broaden Your Horizons;** *An Examination of Alternative Legal Careers*
- October 8, 2020** – **MBLA De-Stress Event (Virtual Boxing and Meditation)**
- October 15, 2020** – **Voter Registration Drive Through**

MBLA 2020-2021 EVENTS LIST

- October 16, 2020** – **Virtual Training for the CORI and Re-Entry Project**
- October 22, 2020** – **Virtual Sealing and Expungement Clinics**
- November 13, 2020** – **MBLA Comedy Night**
- November 23, 2020** – **The Legal Program at Rosie's Place Training**
- December 2, 2020** – **The Legal Program at Rosie's Place Clinic**
- December 3, 2020** – **Virtual Sealing and Expungement Clinics**
- December 4-5, 2020** – **MBLA Takeover Boston Debate League**
- December 10, 2020** – **Know When to Make a Referral:** *Identifying Elder Law and Estate Planning Issues*
- January 15, 2021** – **MLK Day of Service:** *Lessons on Imposter Syndrome, Free Speech, Productive Rights and the Criminal Justice with Crossroads*
- January 26, 2021** – **Community Responses to Hate Incidents**
- January 27, 2021** – **Talk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid**
- January 28, 2021** – **Pathways to the Bench for Women of Color**
- February 9, 2021** – **Opportunities in the Judiciary:** *An Evening with the Appellate Court*
- February 10, 2021** – **Conversations with Allies**
- February 11, 2021** – **Real Talk Series Part III:** *discussing a path forward in the aftermath of the 2020 election*
- February 18, 2021** – **MBLA Food & Folklore Virtual Cooking Class**
- February 18, 2021** – **Confronting Racial Injustice with the Mass Historical Society**
- February 22, 2021** – **Confronting Racism in the Courts**
- April 12, 2021** – **The Future of Detention in Courthouse Design**
- March 18, 2021** – **MBLA Student Town Hall**

MBLA 2020-2021 EVENTS PHOTOS



MBLA 2020-2021 EVENTS PHOTOS



2020-2021 MBLA COMMITTEES

MBLA Programming is developed and managed by its standing committees.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

This committee encourages the involvement of the membership in volunteer legal services and community service activities.

Chairs: *Bethany Serota and Lisa Conserve*

Members: *Cristina Rodrigues, Janeal Hoyte, Jameel Moore, Amanda Tillman, Chanal McCain*

PROGRAMS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for planning and executing all programs geared to enhance the retention and advancement of attorneys of color in Massachusetts. New to the Committee this year is the Black Women in the Profession Sub-Committee.

Chairs: *Tiffanie Ellis-Niles and Michael Kippins*

Members: *Carla Reeves, Carla Jackson, Laura Martin, Jameel Moore, Kanasha Herbert*

STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

This committee provides support to area law school students through mentorship and networking programs. This committee also oversees the MBLA scholarship award program.

Chairs: *D'Andre Fernandez and Arianne Waldron*

Members: *Asha White, Stesha Emmanuel, Jameel Moore, Tiffanie Ellis-Niles, Charles Koech, Laura Martin*

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for fostering strong relationships and high visibility for the MBLA membership. This committee is also responsible for creating policies and systems that enhance membership experience with the organization, including membership recognition, the new MBLA lawyer referral service and the new MBLA Dues Assistance Program.

Chairs: *Arianne Waldron and Avana Anderson*

2020-2021 MBLA COMMITTEES

MBLA Programming is developed and managed by its standing committees.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In close collaboration with the MBLA President, this committee facilitates MBLA partnerships with other similarly-missioned organizations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It works to improve the state-wide awareness of the MBLA through media, strategic collaborations with external organizations, and other appropriate mechanisms. Finally, it advises the MBLA Board of Directors (BOD), its Committees and partners and coordinates their external communication efforts on important current MBLA initiatives, programs and policy positions, if any.

Chair and Webmaster: *Eron Hackshaw*

Members: *Courtney Person, Charles Koech, Stesha Emmanuel*

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

This committee encourages leadership, advocacy and empowerment of the MBLA membership and greater legal community to effect social change and public policy in the Commonwealth. Through this Committee, the MBLA hopes to establish its position on emerging or perennial public issues pertinent to the practice of law in the Commonwealth. The committee will implement programs that stimulate social action and educate members and the community on current social justice issues.

Chair: *Asha White*

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

This committee helps identify and encourage lawyers to apply for judicial vacancies.

Chair: *Stesha Emmanuel and Pratt Wiley*

WHY IS THE MBLA IMPORTANT? Why Volunteer? What Are Your Favorite Memories From This Year?

Statements From Our MBLA Board and Committee Members

“MBLA represented a lifeline where I could interact with attorneys who may have experienced those moments that are hard to describe but shared amongst diverse attorneys. It also represented an opportunity to support the goals of retention and advancement of Black attorneys, while fostering mentorship for students of all levels and being active in community engagement.” – *Stesha A. Emmanuel, MBLA President*

“None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody – a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns – bent down and helped us pick up our boots.” Thurgood Marshall, the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Howard University School of Law (1933). This quote embodies why the MBLA is so important to the Boston legal community. The MBLA serves as a conduit that helps to assist and aid both law students in the state and attorneys alike in their legal career advancement and development in various ways. – *D’Andre Fernandez, MBLA Executive Vice President*

“My favorite event this year was definitely the Walk in Solidarity. I was ecstatic to be a part of an organization that created an event to celebrate the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-generational evolution during 2020. We are living and breathing history.” – *Courtney M. M. Person, MBLA Secretary*

“My favorite 2020 MBLA event was our Comedy Night. The comedian was hilarious and I laughed all night!” – *Avana Anderson, MBLA At-Large Director*

“The MBLA is important to Boston’s legal community because it provides a powerful community and space that is rooted in amplifying and celebrating the work, existence, and magic of Black lawyers in Massachusetts.” – *Arianne Waldron, MBLA At-Large Director*

“The MBLA is important to the legal community because we give a voice to the traditionally oppressed and underrepresented, and we continue to carry the torch of the trailblazers that forged a path for us.” – *Charles Koech, MBLA At-Large Director*

“I volunteer with the MBLA to connect with the community and share my experience and growth. The most important way to appreciate where I am going and who I am is to remember where I started.” – *Amanda Tillman, Member of the MBLA Community Service Committee*

“I spend a significant amount of my free time volunteering with education and youth organizations because I understand how important it is to actively sustain the community cycle of achieving and then pulling up those around us who dare to dream as big as we have. Piquing and maintaining youths’ interest in academic achievement and social progression is essential to Black liberation. I am honored to spend time and connect with young people through organizations such as Minds Matter Boston and Discovering Justice.” – *Chanal Neves-McCain, Member of the MBLA Community Service Committee*

“I volunteer because I want to inspire and be inspired by multi-generations of BIPOC attorneys or those considering the profession. Representation matters, and we must continue to make our presence known, by any means necessary.” – *Carla Jackson, Member of the MBLA Programs and Professional Development Committee*

“I volunteered with the MBLA because I wanted to be part of the continuation and growth of the organization. Being a part of an organization of attorneys, whom I look up to, from all different backgrounds with various experiences, but sharing one common goal was something I wanted to be a part of. Lastly, I knew that being a part of the MBLA would allow me to learn from minority attorneys in positions that I one day hope to be in.” – *Janeal Hoyte, Member of the MBLA Student Support Committee and MBLA Programs and Professional Development Committee*

“I volunteer with MBLA because this organization has been here to support me throughout my law school career. It’s an honor to give back and to continue to be a part of the amazing community that has helped me thus far.” – *Ruth Lavache, Member of the Gala Committee*

“I volunteer with the MBLA because the work of building a supportive community for black attorneys in Massachusetts is essential. I have loved every experience volunteering with the MBLA to encourage black youth to consider careers in the law. There is so much energy, so much potential and so much work to be done.” – *Cristina Rodrigues, Member of the Gala Committee*

“Over the past year, like all organizations, the MBLA had to think more creatively about how to offer engaging programming in a virtual environment. The organization successfully executed a large number of programs this year and I am especially proud of our focus on the mental health and well being of our members.” – *Kanasha S. Herbert, MBLA Executive Vice President*

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