

NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP GUIDE 2020-2021



A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIR

National Black Law Student Association

We Work C/O NBLSA 80 M St SE Washington, DC 20003

Greetings NBLSA Family,

By way of introduction, my name is Rachel Barnes. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, I am a fourth year, J.D./MBA student at the University of Virginia School of Law, I have been involved with NBLSA since my first year of law school, and as such, am truly honored and humbled to serve another year as your NBLSA National Chair.

Since joining NBLSA, I have served as 1L Representative and later President of my local BLSA chapter, MABLSA Mock Trial Director, as well as National Vice Chair and 2019-2020 National Chair. I am truly passionate about the mission of NBLSA and am excited to move forward through our 53rd year as an organization.

This year's theme is "Defining Our Future," and we plan to do just that. NBLSA has a rich history of positively impacting our community and this year we seek to continue not only upholding our commitment to social action and advocacy, but also supporting and encouraging our members as we strive to achieve our mission.

As we strive to combat the abhorrent inequities of our country and make sense of our new reality in a "socially distant" world, please know that NBLSA stands beside you. We work in your service and your well-being is our priority.

NBLSA recognizes the importance of preparing the future lawyers at all stages of their careers. As such, we are strengthening our pipeline initiatives by increasing representation in our Pre-Law Division, strengthening ties with our alumni network, and establishing connections with new partners committed to investing in our community. Lastly, we are building on our partnership with the National Bar Association to provide mentorship and guidance for our members as they transition from legal education to law practice.

On behalf of the National Board of Directors and Executives, I thank you for your support of NBLSA. With the support and involvement of our members and partners, NBLSA will continue to thrive. If you would like to further connect with NBLSA, please feel free to contact me.

In NBLSA Service,



Rachel E. Barnes
Chair

National Black Law Students
Association

J.D./MBA Candidate, 2021

University of Virginia School
of Law





Founder Algernon J. Cooper

NBLSA HISTORY

The National Black Law Students Association was founded as the Black American Law Students Association on the campus of New York University Law School in 1968, by six law students led by Algernon J. Cooper. Established as a not for-profit corporation on December 19, 1969, the mission of NBLSA is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys that excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.



"The purpose for which this corporation is formed is to articulate and promote the professional needs and goals of [Black and minority] law students; to foster and encourage professional competence...to instill in the Black Attorney and Law Student a greater awareness of and commitment to the needs of the Black Community..." -NBLSA Articles of Incorporation

OUR REGIONS



CULTURAL RESPONSIBILITY

NBLSA works with an awareness and understanding of the history, the struggle, and the determination of our people. We also know that "Black law student" is reflective of the full range of the diaspora.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

NBLSA works to create resources, hold programs, and build confidence in every Black and minority law student to excel and overcome the academic rigor of law school to become attorneys of the highest caliber.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

NBLSA works to help our members and our students build connections, develop skills, and take opportunities to pursue the career of their dreams and provide access to others who may follow.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

NBLSA works to instill community commitment through facing the issues of our time and investing our time and talent into the community regularly.

NBLSA PRINCIPLES

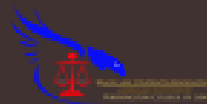
Taken from the articulation of its mission, NBLSA programming, events, and initiatives center around four principles that we believe are critical to the development of Black and minority attorneys.

NBLSA

Members work to exemplify, defend, and promote these goals and ensure through oversight that our work is aligned with our mission.

NBLSA STRUCTURE

Our organization has national, regional, and local chapter structures. NBLSA members join at the local chapter level and have access to Regional and National events, programs, and leadership opportunities as a result of their NBLSA membership.



NBLSA LEADERSHIP

NBLSA 53rd National Officers



Rachel Barnes
National Chair



Marquisa Wince
National Vice Chair



Joshua Crockett
National Secretary



Ayanna Murphy
National Treasurer



Marion Humphrey
National Attorney
General



Tamarrin Johnson
National Chief of
Staff



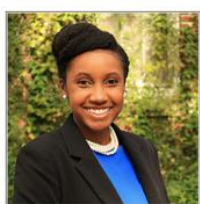
Tyshawn Key
Mid-Atlantic
Regional Chair



Anthony Collier
Southwest Regional
Chair



George Morgan Jr
Northeast Regional
Chair



Ebony Love
Southern Regional
Chair



Majidah Cochran
Western Regional
Chair



Jameson Tibbs
Midwest Regional
Chair



Phelan Simpkins
Member at Large



Ken Knight
Member at Large



Yolanna Carter
Member at Large



Autumn Clarke
Member at Large



Zakia Nesbitt
Member at Large

NBLSA

LEADERSHIP

NBLSA 53rd National Executives & Staff



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Sylvia Wilson
Pre-Law
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Sara Hubaishi
Academic Affairs
Academic.affairs@nblsa.org

WHY NBLSA?

Our programming aims to provide opportunities to NBLSA members to develop skills, make contacts, and build a network that will yield benefits for years to come. Through NBLSA, our members truly gain an edge to become excellent lawyers.



CAREER FAIRS

Each of the six regions host job fairs during the summer/fall to provide our members with opportunities to interview with top firms and other corporate entities, as well as government agencies. This opportunity provides organizations the ability to engage with and recruit diverse talent from law schools across the nation.

ACADEMIC RETREATS

Academic Retreats overall add value to members, we work to develop resources such as webinars, outlines, "how-to" guides and other implements to further develop academic excellence and promote Bar passage.



NATIONAL COMPETITIONS



Our organization annually hosts three long-standing student competitions at both the Regional and National levels:

- Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition
- Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition
- Nelson Mandela International Negotiations Competition



ADVOCACY & INITIATIVES

NBLSA strives to effectuate legal change in the community. Through advocacy and social action, NBLSA continues to be at the forefront of legal activism. NBLSA participates in the grassroots work, voter protection, legislative outreach, environmental justice and judicial advocacy. Some initiatives will include, but not limited to higher education (access and affordability), voter rights, criminal justice and election protection. Members also have the option to attend the annual legislative conference held by the Congressional Black Caucus, which will take place in Washington, D.C.



NBLSA PRE-LAW STUDENT DIVISION

In addition to our law students and alumni, NBLA's Pre-Law Student Division exists to create a pipeline between undergraduates/college graduates and law school. The Pre-Law Division conducts programs on the Regional and National level and connects pre-law members with law school admissions offices to provide valuable insight on the application, financial aid, and curricular processes. The Pre-Law Division is critical to our goal to increase the diversity in the law school environment and, in so doing, the number of minority attorneys.

For more information contact
Prelaw@nblsa.org

NBLSA ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Joining NBLSA Alumni membership is a great way to stay involved and it is absolutely free.

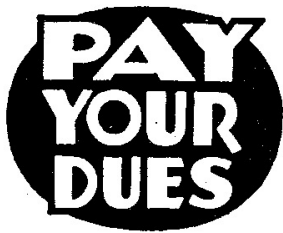
- Mentorship Opportunities
- Volunteer Opportunities with Various Competitions
- Alumni Mixers at Regional and National Conventions
- Participation on Alumni Advisory Board

For more information contact
Alumni@nblsa.org



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Join NBLSA today! We want you to be a member of our family and part of the NBLSA'S legal community.



DUES

LAW STUDENT \$20

LLM STUDENT \$20

PRE-LAW
STUDENTS \$10

ALUMNI FREE

*BUNDLE DEALS
AVAILABLE*



BENEFITS

NBLSA offers great discounts and deals for our members.



GET INVOLVED

Jump In! There are many opportunities to lead the organization on the Local, Regional, and National level. Also, you can mentor incoming students, lead programs, and fight for social justice. NBLSA has it all!

Join at

<https://nationalblsa.wildapricot.org>

National Director of Membership

Membership@nblsa.org

NBLSA NEWS ALERT

NBLSA'S 53RD National Convention

Members, prelaw students, and alums, please join the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) as we present NBLSA's 53rd Annual Convention. The National Convention provides countless opportunities to engage in meaningful networking with prospective and current law students, legal practitioners, judges, and employers! You do not want to miss out on this unique opportunity to engage, connect and be inspired!



NBLSA™
Striving to Balance Since 1968.

SAVE THE DATE!

NBLSA 53rd Annual National Convention March 3-7.
"VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE"

NETWORKING | CLE SESSIONS | POWERFUL SPEAKERS

JOIN STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND THE LEGAL COMMUNITY FOR AN ENGAGING CONVENTION FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION
WWW.NBLSA.ORG



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 **NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (NBLSA)**

NBLSA

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

Join our online community and stay in the know!

- Get exclusive news and updates.
- Be the first to know about upcoming deadlines and events
- Connect with other NBLSA Members throughout the country