



52ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

PRE-LAW SYMPOSIUM

Sponsored By:



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERSSM

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

9AM - 5PM



SCHEDULE



9:00AM - 9:30AM

Breakfast
Location: Hilton Pavilion

10:00AM - 10:20AM

Welcome Ceremony
Fireside Chat with Evangeline Mitchell, Esq.
Location: Hilton Caprice 2 & 3

10:25AM - 10:55AM

The Law Student Experience: From Pre-Law, JD to Lawyers
Location: Hilton Caprice 2 & 3

11:00AM - 4:00PM

Law School & Pre-Law Organization Tabling
Location: Hilton Salon D & E

11:00AM - 11:30 AM

Applying to Law School
Presented by AccessLex Institute
Location: Hilton Caprice 2 & 3

11:30AM - 11:55AM

Financing Your Legal Education
Presented by AccessLex Institute
Location: Hilton Caprice 2 & 3

12:00PM - 2:00PM

Sadie T.M. Alexander Luncheon
Location: Hilton Pavilion

2:15PM - 3:00PM

The Road to 180: LSAT Test-Taking Strategies
Presented by Blueprint
Location: Hilton Salon B & C

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Know Your Rights Session & Workshop
Presented by ACLU of Ohio
Location: Hilton Salon B & C



BLUEPRINT

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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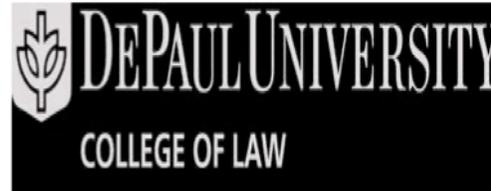
blueprint

LSAT preparation

USE
CODE **NBLSA15**

Celebrating 15 years of helping students
achieve, on average, 11-point score increases!

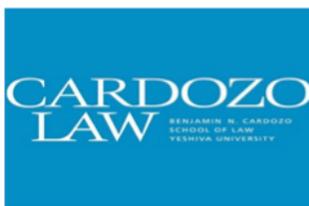
NBLSA LAW SCHOOL FAIR



Fordham Law



OHIO
NORTHERN
COLLEGE OF LAW



Syracuse University
COLLEGE OF LAW



MESSAGE FROM THE NBLSA NATIONAL PRE-LAW DIRECTOR

*Greetings, Future Attorneys and Guests of the 2020 NBLSA
Pre-Law Symposium:*

My name is Andrea Rivers and I am a third-year, part-time student at American University Washington College of Law. I am honored to serve as the 2019-2020 National Director of Pre-Law for the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA).



As a Howard University alumna, I was once in your shoes but prior to my law school enrollment, I realized the importance of preparing for the rigors of law school and taking advantage of opportunities to learn from those dedicated to my success. Your attendance here today is an indication that you have also come to that same realization! You are the legal profession's future, hope, and promise for a better tomorrow.

I implore you to take full advantage of the myriad of wealth and opportunities the Convention offers: mentorship, guidance, law school application assistance, insight into the legal field, friendship, and empowerment. I also encourage you to learn more about NBLSA and its Pre-Law Division, which serves as a pipeline to the organization. The mission of NBLSA's Pre-Law Division is to increase the number of culturally-responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. Students who become members of the Pre-Law Division will join the membership of a prestigious organization that continues to transform the legal community. Since 1968, with undergraduate and regional pre-law chapters all over the nation, NBLSA has produced some of the most talented and well-respected attorneys. Pre-law members are the future of NBLSA, and I am here to serve as a resource to ensure the success of all Black law students.

As a member of the Pre-Law Division, you will gain access to invaluable resources, networking opportunities, and exceptional mentorship. This year, I hope to provide these resources and opportunities to build on the foundations of our predecessors, address issues that Black law students face, and provide members with the necessary tools to become leading attorneys.

I hope you enjoy the Symposium and I wish you the best in your future endeavors. To join NBLSA, please contact me at prelaw@nblsa.org.

*In NBLSA Service,
Andrea Rivers
2019-2020 National Director of Pre-Law
American University Washington College of Law
Washington, D.C.*

MESSAGE FROM EVANGELINE MITCHELL, ESQ.



Dear Aspiring Black Lawyer:

Welcome to the Pre-Law Symposium at this year's 52nd Annual National Black Law Students Association National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio! It is my absolute honor and pleasure to take part in this year's Symposium and participate in a heart-to-heart fireside chat with Andrea Rivers, Director of Pre-Law Affairs for NBLSA.

My own difficult experience in navigating law school admissions and the law school experience as a first-generation college and law student fueled my passion for and commitment to helping aspiring lawyers, particularly those from racially and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. As a result of my experiences along with a fierce sense of social responsibility, I was motivated to fill the voids by creating various resources to empower up and coming minority lawyers.

*I am the founder of Hope's Promise Publishing, the only niche publisher focused on accessible books geared specifically to aspiring Black lawyers. I have written and/or edited five books including *The African American Pre-Law School Advice Guide*, *Profiles & Essays of Successful African American Law School Applicants*, and *The African American Law School Survival Guide*. I have given away thousands of books, and all of my books have been made available at no cost to pre-law students.*

*I founded and serve as the executive director for National Pre-Law Diversity Initiatives, Inc., a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and charitable organization. Its mission is to empower diverse law school aspirants with game changing information, resources and connections and to encourage them to be visionary servant leaders committed to giving back to the community. For the past fifteen years, I have organized *The National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair* which is the nation's premier information-sharing and networking empowerment event for aspiring Black lawyers. I also created *The National HBCU Pre-Law Summit and Law Expo*, the only major national event for HBCU students and alumni interested in law school and becoming lawyers.*

*Most recently, I launched *The Bridge Builders Esq.: National Mentorship Program for Aspiring Black Lawyers* in partnership with NBLSA. For this new program, my organization is using a group mentoring model where pre-law students are assigned to "mentoring circles" with a law student mentor and lawyer mentor leading the groups along with fellow pre-law accountability partners to create a "circle of support" around helping them achieve their goals of attending and succeeding in law school.*

This work around Black law school aspirants is my passion and I want to share the type of information that we need but are unable to get anywhere else based on our unique history and experiences as Black people in this country. My goal is to link you to the important work that I do as well as other resources to help you along this road.

Beyond the fireside chat at the symposium, I am also sticking around for the entire weekend. I can't wait to meet you and I genuinely look forward to staying connected! I am here to help you along with the current members of NBLSA. We all have a sincere desire and interest in seeing you succeed. Feel free to reach out to me at the event, and on social media and via e-mail after the event. I believe that your success is my success, our success.

*To your greatness,
Evangeline*



The
BRIDGE BUILDERS ESQ.
National Mentorship Program For Aspiring Black Lawyers

The National Black Law Students Association and National Pre-Law Diversity Initiatives, Inc. have partnered to launch a national mentorship program!

This mentorship program is open to Black college students, graduates, and working professionals who are interested in attending law school and feel that they need continued guidance, support and accountability to stay on track to achieve their goals. Pre-law mentees will be assigned to small-group "mentoring circles" made up of five to six people. The circles will consist of a law student mentor leader and a lawyer mentor leader as well as three to four pre-law mentees.

The registration deadline to become a pre-law mentee is the beginning of April.

For more information and to sign-up to participate, please visit: <http://bridgebuildersesq.org>.

THE LAW STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Alea, Andrea, and Arianne all met in 2014 during the LSAC Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholar Program hosted at Rutgers University School of Law – Camden. All three women were attending separate undergraduate institutions across the United States and had different legal career pursuits. After undergoing a stringent pre-law experience, they found a friendship that lasted well beyond the Program. Now in 2020, as Alea prepares for her law school graduation and Arianne and Andrea enter their last years of law school, they each reflect on their pre-law and law school experiences.

Moderator: Max Markham

Max Markham is a second-year student at NYU Law School, where he received a Root-Tilden-Kern public interest scholarship and where he chairs the Black Allied Law Students Association (BALSA). Currently, Max participates in a year-long clinical placement in the civil rights bureau of the New York Attorney General's office, where he has worked on cases ranging from police brutality to language access in local elections. He will spend this summer at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund in New York. Max graduated from Stanford University with a major in International Relations. He hopes to use his time in law school and skills gained from city and state government to help address systematic inequality in the criminal justice system that leads to over-policing, mass incarceration and disenfranchisement. His advice to attendees is that opportunity is most frequently given to those who ask. Law school can be prohibitively expensive, and scholarships and financial aid are incredibly important. Take the time to apply for as many scholarships as you can, don't discount a school if they have given you significant aid (even if they are ranked lower than your top school!), and don't be afraid to ask for (more) money from financial aid after you are accepted!



THE LAW STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Panelist: Arianne Connell

Arianne Connell is a second-year student at NYU Law. After graduating from Wesleyan University she worked at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP in its diversity, pro bono and training departments for two years prior to enrolling in law school. She is also an SEO Law Fellow at Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP. Arianne is interested in corporate and human rights law, and she would like to study abroad while in law school. Aside from being the co-chair of NYU's Black Allied Law Students Association, she is also involved with the Women of Color Collective, Courtroom Advocates Project and Law Women. She is a student advocate for the Reproductive Justice Clinic and Senior Symposium Editor for the NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy. Arianne's advice to pre-law students is to maintain perspective and remember why you chose to attend law school throughout the admissions process and during the first year. At times, it can be easy to doubt yourself but you should always know your worth and remember that you belong in these spaces.



Panelist: Alea Roberts

Alea Roberts is a fourth-year evening student at New York Law School and represents Northeast Region of NBLSA (NEBLSA) as the Director of Corporate Relations. During the day, Alea works in the Law Department of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as a full-time Student Legal Specialist where she has successfully argued in Small Claims Court and had two motions in New York Supreme Court that were granted. Alea's advice to pre-law students is to find your own flow. During the law school application process, you will receive a plethora of advice from those who came before you. Apply the things that work for you and disregard the things that don't as it is your unique journey.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSOR: ACCESSLEX INSTITUTE



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERSSM

About AccessLex Institute

Since 1983, AccessLex Institute has continually evolved to meet the ever-changing challenges and needs of the law students and institutions that it serves. It is steadfast in its commitment to inform students of the economic realities of law school without limiting their aspirations. AccessLex Institute conducts and commissions research to illuminate the latest data and evidence on the most critical issues facing legal education today. As a nonprofit organization underpinned by nearly 200 American Bar Association-approved nonprofit and state-affiliated law schools, it is intently dedicated to the betterment of legal education. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence is committed to understanding the barriers that impede access to law school for historically underrepresented groups and improving access to law school for all; identifying actionable strategies and public policies to increase law school affordability; and strengthening the value of legal education.



Meet Your Instructor: Teria Thornton

Teria Thornton is the Manager of Education Services and Pre-Law Services at AccessLex Institute. Teria has worked extensively in matters involving financial planning, student and family financial aid counseling, and student empowerment. She is passionate about her work with students because she firmly believes that “education is the great equalizer.” She earned her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, her M.A. in Public Policy and Management from the Ohio State University, and a B.A. in Political Science from Fisk University. She is a licensed attorney in the state of Ohio and is an Accredited Financial Counselor.

She advises pre-law students that the law school process is all about knowing the rules of the game. When you know the rules of the game you focus less on the stress and more on the strategy. Unfortunately, the rules are not as accessible to everyone, so it's up to you seek out the knowledge wherever you can. Knowledge makes goals achievable and success attainable!

MESSAGE FROM ACLU OF OHIO



About the ACLU of Ohio

The ACLU of Ohio is an affiliate of the national ACLU. Founded in 1920, the national ACLU includes more than 500,000 members in all 50 states, making it our country's foremost advocate of individual rights.

The ACLU of Ohio has nearly 30,000 members and supporters statewide. We are supported by annual dues and contributions from supporters, as well as grants from private foundations. We do not receive any government funding.

Through education, litigation, and lobbying the ACLU seeks to preserve civil liberties for each new generation.

Because the ACLU has a limited budget and staff, it is impossible to represent every person whose civil liberties have been violated. Instead, the organization tries to select cases which will impact the greatest number of people — those cases which have the potential to break new ground or establish new precedents to strengthen our freedoms.



Meet Your Instructor: Raphael Davis-Williams

Raphael Davis-Williams worked for nearly a decade as a plaintiff's civil rights attorney, Raphael litigated federal court cases on behalf of women sexually harassed on the job, people of color denied housing or employment because of their race, folks mistreated while in the care and custody of law enforcement, and people burdened with physical or mental injuries who simply wanted full access to the world in which they live.

Prior to joining the ACLU of Ohio's staff as Director of Equity and Inclusion, Raphael served nine years on the Board of Directors for the ACLU of Ohio. As an ACLU of Ohio board member, Raphael served eight years as Associate General Counsel and also served on the Executive and Nominating Committees. He was also a founding Board Member and served as Cooperating Attorney for the Central Ohio Fair Housing Association.

Raphael also served on the Board of Directors, including one term as Board President, for the Kaleidoscope Youth Center, the only organization in Ohio dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, and affirming space for LGBTQ+ youth ages 12-20.

His advice to you: take advantage of every opportunity this gathering presents!

