



NBLSATM

Striving to Balance Since 1968.

NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

52nd ANNIVERSARY | 2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP GUIDE



Andrea "Dre" Dargin
 50TH NATIONAL CHAIR

Rachel Barnes
 NATIONAL VICE CHAIR

Denaya Holland
 NATIONAL SECRETARY

Meagan Allen
 NATIONAL TREASURER

Crispus S. Gordon, III
 NATIONAL ATTORNEY GENERAL

Natalia Marte
 NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAIR

Stacey Anderson
 MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CHAIR

Maya Brown
 SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHAIR

Arielle Comer
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Corina Johnson
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Breeana Minton
 MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAIR

Marquisa Wince
 BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

DeVaughn Swanson
 BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Amber Bynum
 BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Bola Adeniran
 BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Anthony Ealy, Jr.
 BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Greetings to the NBLSA Family on behalf of the 2019 – 2020 National Leadership Team!

I am honored to serve as Chair of the National Black Law Students Association ("NBLSA") during this year. We are entering into our 52nd year as an organization of change-makers. While we as law students have our noses in dense casebooks, we must also have our eyes open to threats to our civil liberties which are under constant attack in the United States. Now is the perfect opportunity for NBLSA to effectuate meaningful change, and to keep our finger on the pulse of advocacy and injustice. As the current administration continues to dial back rights and protections for minority populations, we, as the future leaders, have a responsibility to be at the forefront advocating for our community.

The 2019-2020 National Team is committed to preserving the legacy of NBLSA's commitment to service through our trailblazing efforts. In our 50th year, we stood at the apex of the mountain top and reflected on all we had done to climb to the peak. As we now descend toward the other side of the hundred-year milestone mountain, we must not become complacent – we must engage all of our collective strength to stay the course and walk steadily. We now carry with us down the hill – the expectations, successes, and shortcomings of those who have come before us. Although we bear a heavy load, we must continue to stand firm and walk with deliberate purpose.

It is very imperative that we aim to new heights and distinguish ourselves as a premier legal organization. This year's theme, "Making Good on Our Promise, strives to do just that. Our goal is to continue to uphold promises and commitments to social action and equal justice by raising awareness on critical issues affecting the African American and minority community and advocating on behalf of those without a voice.

New this year, we issued the inaugural "Advocacy in Review" publication, to amplify the mission of this organization, while strengthening signature programming. During these difficult times, we are committed to your academic and professional development through our six regional summer job fairs as well as the expansion of our career expo during the national convention. Additionally, we have arranged numerous networking socials to take place in conjunction with our sub-regional academic retreat – exclusively – for the benefit of our membership.

We acknowledge the expressed concerns regarding our three reputable competitions. In response to this feedback, we are creating an advisory board comprised of professionals to enhance the development of the competitions and promote the advocacy, writing, and negotiation skills of our members.

NBLSA recognizes the importance of preparing the future leaders on the horizon, and as such, we are strengthening our pipeline initiatives through increasing representation in our Pre-Law Division. Lastly, we are restoring the previously established partnership with the National Bar Association to provide mentorship and guidance as we navigate through legal education and into the profession.

All of our programs are designed with you in mind. The National Leadership Team recognizes that NBLSA cannot reach its full potential without the support and involvement of our members. The magnitude of our success relies on our capability to work together with one vision, one purpose, and one goal. We all bring a valuable perspective to this organization and together we can effectuate lasting change.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions at chair@nblsa.org.

In NBLSA Service,

Andrea E. Dargin

Andrea "Dre" Dargin
 50th National Chair
 National Black Law Students Association
 The George Washington University Law School
J.D. Candidate, 2020





NBLSA BRIEF

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

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.

LOCAL

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



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.

REGIONAL

Led by a Regional Chair, the Regional Board, and overseen by a Regional Assembly, the six NBLSA Regions focus their efforts on providing critical networking opportunities and programming to certain geographical areas.



NATIONAL

Led by the National Chair, the National Executive Board, and overseen by the National General Assembly, the National level of NBLSA provides the overarching policy and programmatic direction to the entire organization and provides resources to chapters for program development.



NBLSA

LEADERSHIP

NBLSA 52nd National Officers

Andrea "Dre" Dargin - National Chair

Rachel Barnes - National Vice Chair

Denaya Holland - National Secretary

Meagan Allen- National Treasurer

Crispus Gordon III- National Attorney General

Natalia Marte - Northeast Regional Chair

Stacey Anderson- Mid-Atlantic Regional Chair

Maya Brown - Southern Regional Chair

Arielle Comer - Southwest Regional Chair

Corina Johnson - Western Regional Chair

Breeana Minton - Midwest Regional Chair

Bola Adeniran- Board Member-at-Large

Amber Bynum- Board Member-at-Large

Anthony Ealy Jr. - Board Member-at-Large

DeVaughn Swanson - Board Member-at-Large

Marquisa Wince - Board Member-at-Large

NBLSA

LEADERSHIP

**NBLSA 52nd National Executive &
Staff**

McKenzi Baker- Director of Career and Professional
Development

Dominique Brown - Director of Alumni Relations

Anthony Ealy Jr. - National Convention Coordinator

Conisha Hackett- Director of Advocacy and External Initiatives

Morgan Henson - Director of Mock Trial

Kekelly Ketemepi - Director of Membership Operations

Dami Lawal - Directors of Corporate Engagement

Andrea Rivers- Director of Pre-Law Affairs

Amanda West - Assistant Director of Mock Trial

Subria Whitaker- Director of Communications

Anyssa Williams - National Parliamentarian

NBLSA

MEMBERSHIP TEAM



KEKELLY KETEMEPE
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF
MEMBERSHIP OPERATIONS
MEMBERSHIP@NBLSA.ORG

The NBLSA Membership Team constitutes the front-line of engaging with NBLSA as a new or returning member. These dedicated individuals help to manage NBLSA's membership, provide insight into new benefits, and explore ways to make the member experience better through recognition and networking.



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SRBLSA DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP
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WHY

NBLSA?

The National Black Law Students Association, for fifty-one years, has worked to develop culturally responsible Black and minority law students that excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. Our members are activists, thought leaders, and strategic thinkers. Our alumni are general counsel, judges, non-profit executives, and business operatives. We connect our members and alumni with unparalleled opportunities to network, seek new professional avenues, and develop life-long friendships.

NBLSA PROGRAMS EQUIP LEADERS

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.

Resource Development

To be an added 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.

Career Fair Program

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

Each of the six regions host an annual academic retreat. Students receive crucial academic support from professors, lawyers, and fellow students to help maximize opportunities during their law school experience.

Legislative and Judicial Advocacy

Since its inception, NBLSA members and officers have taken part in the country's legal and legislative discourse, which helps to shape and sharpen advocacy skills. NBLSA annually authors an amicus brief, participates in the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, and, on the Regional level, discusses pertinent issues in statehouses across the nation.

National Competition Series

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

NBLSA PRE-LAW STUDENT DIVISION

In addition to our law students and alumni, NBLSA'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.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN NBLSA?

Join your NBLSA Chapter today! We want you as a part of our family and part of this community of legal leaders. Follow the steps below to join:

1



Go to your local chapter general body meeting to learn more about NBLSA. You can join through the local chapter.

2



Pay NBLSA dues. These funds give you access to and help your Region and National organization produce job fairs, conventions, and other resources for you.

3



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 NBLSA Today!

2019-2020

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

LAW STUDENT \$35

LLM \$35

PRE-LAW \$15

ALUMNI - FREE!

<http://nationalblsa.wildapricot.org>

NBLSA

**** 2 Year Membership \$60**

***** 3 Year Membership \$90**



NBLSATM

Striving to Balance Since 1968.



SAVE THE DATE!

**52ND NBLSA NATIONAL CONVENTION
MARCH 3-8, 2020 | CINCINNATI, OH**

**Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza and
Westin Hotel in Downtown Cincinnati**

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