National Black Law Students Association
2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP GUIDE
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
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 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 Executive & Staff

Sara Hubaishi- Director of Academic Affairs

Ijeoma Oti- Director of Advocacy

Alisha Burgin- Director of Alumni Advisory Board

Stephanie Herren- Director of Alumni Relations

Jaylen Amaker - Director of Career & Professional Development

Ebony Cormier- Director of Corporate Engagement

Nichelle Womble- Director of Communications

Catherine Sims- Director of Community Outreach

Lannette Richardson- Director of Programming and Events

Amanda West- Co-Director of Mock Trial

Oluremi Abiodun- Co-Director of Mock Trial

Willie Reynolds- Director of Membership

Bomkapr Kanu- Director of Moot Court

Brianna Cloud- Director of Negotiations

Sylvia Wilson- Director of Pre-Law

DeAngelo LaVette- Moot Court Advisor

Tania Williams- Mock Trial Advisor
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.
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.

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<th>Resource Development</th>
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<td>To be an added value to members, we work to develop resources such as webinars, outlines, &quot;how-to&quot; guides and other implements to further develop academic excellence and promote Bar passage.</td>
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<th>Career Fair Program</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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<th>Academic Retreats</th>
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<th>Legislative and Judicial Advocacy</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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<th>National Competition Series</th>
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<td>Our organization annually hosts three long-standing student competitions at both the Regional and National levels:</td>
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<td>Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition</td>
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<td>Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition</td>
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<td>Nelson Mandela International Negotiations Competition</td>
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NBLSA strives to effectuate legal change in the community. Through sincere advocacy and social action, NBLSA continues to be at the forefront of legal activism. NBLSA participates in grassroots work, voter protection, legislative outreach, environmental justice and judicial advocacy. Some initiatives will include, but are 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.
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.

For more information contact prelaw@nblsa.org

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

Mentorship Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities with various competitions

Alumni Mixer at National Convention

Participation on our Alumni Advisory Board

For more Information contact alumni@nblsa.org
JOIN NBLSA TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP DUES
2020-2021
LAW STUDENT: $35
LLM STUDENT: $35
PRE-LAW: $15
ALUMNI: FREE

https://nationalblsa.wilaapricot.org

NBLSA
Striving to Balance Since 1968.
BULK PAYMENTS AVAILABLE

(1 YEAR BULK PAYMENTS)

Ten Members: $350
Fifteen Members: $525
Twenty-Five Members: $875
Thirty Members: $1,050

"More Options Available"

https://nationalblsa.wildapricot.org
HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Join your NBLSA Chapter today! We want you as 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 Due. These funds give you access to and help your region and National Organization 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!
SAVE THE DATE!

NBLSA 53rd Annual National Convention March 3-7, Denver, CO

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