



MBWA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 30, 2022

HAPPY
New Year's

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President's Welcome Message



Dear Members and Supporters:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys (MBWA), I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

I am humbled, honored, and privileged to assume the role of President of the MBWA for a second term. I am deeply grateful to the Board of Directors for their outstanding leadership, and collective commitment to highlight the visibility of Black women attorneys in their legal professional journeys.

Each year we aim to strengthen MBWA's foundation, and build upon the legacy of the women who established and led this outstanding organization. In the spirit of this year's theme, "This is OUR Time," we firmly believe that this year marks a time for us to not only elevate this organization, but to actively promote the advancement and recognition of Black women attorneys, judges, law professors, and students within every facet of the legal community and beyond.

MBWA has been busy during the first quarter of its 2022-2023 program year. We officially launched the year on September 28, 2022 with our Annual Swearing-In Ceremony at Nutter McClennen & Fish. The firm not only sponsored this event, but expressed its commitment to continue supporting our organization. We were grateful to not only celebrate with members and supporters in person, but to also have the Honorable Shannon Frison, Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, preside over the ceremony, and inspire us to continue to taking up space in the legal community.

On November 5, 2022, MBWA members and friends connected in-person over brunch at Bistro781 in Waltham, Massachusetts, and ventured out on December 2, 2022 to our first wine-tasting holiday party at the Urban Grape, a Black-owned and woman-owned small business in Boston, dedicated to building community through beverage. We also hosted a panel on December 5, 2022 discussing "How Black Women Entrepreneurs Are Redefining Business." With help from our Black women attorney-entrepreneurs, we learned about opportunities outside of the legal profession and how they navigated being Black women in business in spite of the profound professional and financial risks it took to fill the void in the marketplace. Finally, some of the initiatives we are most proud of so far are the opportunities we have found to give back to community service organizations, namely Justice 4 Housing, New Beginnings, Brookview House, and DOVE Inc., who are all dedicated to responding to the urgent needs of women and families as they rebuild their lives. For all those who participated in these initiatives, many thanks!

As we close out 2022 and enter into the New Year, we look forward to continuing to provide you with meaningful programs, and ways to stay connected to each other. I hope that you and your families stay safe, healthy, and in good spirits.

Warm regards,
Patrice C. Dixon, Esq. President,
Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys 2022-2023

Meet The Board of Directors | 2022-2023



Patrice C. Dixon
President



Desiree Murphy
President-Elect



Tara Dunn
Vice-President



Shahria Boston
Treasurer



Danielle Johnson
Secretary



Janette A. Ekanem
Immediate
Past-President

Meet The Board of Directors | 2022-2023



Jasmine Brown
Board of Director



Francesse Canty
Board of Director



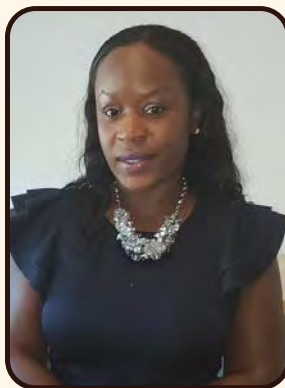
Tierra Jenkins
Board of Director



LaRonica Lightfoot
Board of Director



Cassandra L.M. Prince
Board of Director



Raquel Webster
Board of Director



Jasmine Wells
Board of Director

Program Year in Review



Annual Membership Brunch



Saturday | November 5, 2022 | 2:00 PM
Bistro781
336 Moody Street, Waltham, MA, 02453
Register Here: [\[Link\]](#)

MASSACHUSETTS BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS
November 3, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Season of Giving Fundraiser
SUPPORT TWO WOMEN+RUN NONPROFIT INCARCERATED WOMEN AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Swag Shop

Program Year in Review



proceeds benefit Brookview House and DOVE. For help, we will bring warmth and hope to families in need this holiday season.



Featured Program

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



The MBWA kicked off the program year with our Annual Swearing-in Ceremony on September 28, 2022. We were sworn in by the Honorable Shannon Frison. Our theme for this year is "This is OUR Time." Judge Frison's remarks embraced our chosen theme and reminded us about the strides that we as Black women have taken this year and our impact on our communities.



The newly sworn-in Board of Directors were inspired by her remarks, warmed by the presence of our members, old and new, and determined to guide the organization with a service-minded heart. We would be remiss if we did not mention how extremely grateful we are to our host and sponsor for the night, Nutter. Thank you for letting us and our members share your space and for your continued support of MBWA Board of Director Cassandra Prince!



Featured Program

SEASONS OF GIVING FUNDRAISER



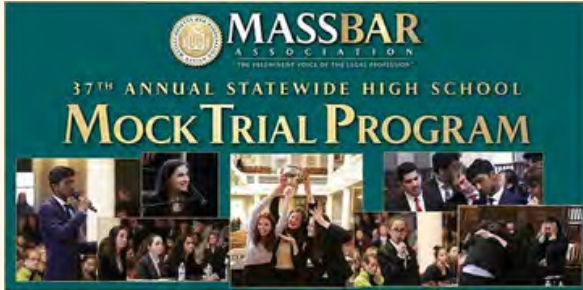
On November 3, 2022, MBWA hosted its first Season of Giving Fundraiser MBWA at Vico Style, a vintage clothing store in Kendall Square, Cambridge to support New Beginnings Re-Entry Services and Justice 4 Housing, two organizations dedicated to reintegrating formerly incarcerated members into society.

Widmine Lola Remy, Director of Pro Bono Programs at the Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts, moderated a fireside chat with Stacey Borden, Founder and Executive Director of New Beginnings Re-Entry Services, and Leslie Credle, Founder and Executive Director of Justice 4 Housing. These dynamic leaders shared their stories highlighting challenges that formerly incarcerated black women and BIPOC community face while reintegrating into society. With the help of the MBWA, we raised over \$1000 to help these organizations respond to the needs of women and the BIPOC community. We especially want to thank the host for that evening, Vico Style, a vintage clothing store owned and operated by a woman of color, and the speakers for their time spent with the MBWA and the work they do in our communities!

Upcoming Events

CHECK OUT THE LATEST FROM THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

Massachusetts Bar Association 37th Annual Mock Trial Program



Do you enjoy working with students? Do you have trial experience? Would you like to share your knowledge of the law and courtroom procedures with eager young minds? Volunteer as a judge in the annual Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) High School Mock Trial Program.

MBA provides judges with an in-depth bench memorandum, all of the case materials, affidavits, and legal background. A virtual judges' orientation will be on Thursday, January 5, 2023 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer as a judge and plan on attending the orientation, please RSVP to Mock Trial Central at mocktrial@massbar.org. The Zoom link will be sent via email closer to the date of orientation.

You can find more information on the Mock Trial on the [MBA website](#).

Equal Justice Coalition Annual Talk to the Hill



MBWA is pleased to serve as a cosponsor for the Annual Talk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid. At the Talk to the Hill, hundreds of attorneys, law students, and advocates convene online with their state legislators to discuss the importance of increased civil legal aid funding. By consistently lending its name to the campaign, the MBWA has amplified this call to action for the governor and legislators. This year's event will take place virtually on January 26th, 2023.

You can find more information on how to "Talk to the Hill" [here](#).



Upcoming Events



REGISTER NOW!

MARCH 22-24, 2023
J.W. MARRIOTT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR REGULAR UPDATES VISIT:
www.leadingwomenofcolor.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

OPENING RECEPTION	SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON	CLOSING RECEPTION
 Jennifer Burns Senior Vice President, US Legal Equifax	 The Honorable Anita Josey-Herring Chief Justice Superior Court of the District of Columbia	 Jacqueline "Jaci" Lee Vice President and General Counsel Flynn Restaurant Group

2023 Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys (LIWOCA) Conference

The LIWOCA 18th Annual Conference will convene in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is "Elevating Women of Color Attorneys: Keys to Succeed in the Profession" where attendees will hear from law firm shareholders, partners, general counsel, and attorneys in alternative careers who will share their valuable expertise, experiences, and insight.

LIWOCA looks forward to seeing women of color take advantage of the informative training and mentoring opportunities where they can connect with peers for guidance and support.

More information can be found on the [LIWOCA website](http://www.leadingwomenofcolor.org).



2023 NATIONAL SUMMIT OF BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS

ENGAGE
ENCOURAGE
EMPOWER

MARCH 30-
APRIL 1, 2023

CHICAGO, IL
THE FAIRMONT

Together.
WE SOAR

BWLA

Black Women Lawyers Association (BWLA) of Greater Chicago's 2023 National Summit of Black Women Lawyers

Tickets for the 2023 National Summit of Black Women Lawyers on March 30-April 1, 2023 are now available for purchase! The Summit will be held at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park Hotel in Downtown Chicago. Rooms can be booked and reserved at a special rate by summit attendees [here!](#)

As a sponsor, MBWA members are eligible to attend the summit at a discounted rate. To access the discounted rate, members should use the code Mass330. There will be a Flash Sale on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day where your members can get an additional \$100 off by entering coupon code NYE23! More information can be found on the [website](#).

MBWA Classifieds

U.S. Department of Education



The Boston Regional Enforcement Office of the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), located in Boston, MA, is collecting resumes for General Attorney positions at the GS-0905-11 and GS-0905-12 grade levels, promotion to a GS-13. OCR is an agency within the U.S. Department of Education that is responsible for enforcing civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in the nation's schools and colleges, and certain other entities.

Applicants must be a graduate from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association and must be a member in good standing of the bar of a state, territory of the United States, District of Columbia, or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Current Step 1 salaries for GS-11, GS-12, and GS-13 positions are available [here](#).

Applicants should submit a resumé to:
OCRJobs@ed.gov, and cc:
OCR.Boston@ed.gov.

Candidates are also encouraged to check www.usajobs.gov for positions within OCR as well.



CAFL Trial Panel Certification Training –
Spring 2023



CPCS/CAFL is now accepting applications for its Spring 2023 CAFL Trial Panel Certification Training to represent children and parents in Care & Protection (C&P) cases and Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) cases. This is your opportunity to grow your legal practice and to help children and families across the state involved in state intervention cases. The training will be a mix of live and on-line sessions and substantial self-directed learning. The training will begin with an orientation via Zoom on Wednesday, March 8, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. The live Zoom sessions will be held from 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM on the following dates: March 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 30, April 3 and 6, and April 12 (from 2:00-4:30). Attorneys accepted into the training will also complete a one-day mock temporary custody hearing on either April 25, 26, or 27.

Participants will receive a “Certification Payment” of \$5032 upon the following:

- successful completion of the CAFL Trial Panel Certification Training;
- receiving appointments on 12 care and protection cases; and
- submission of 600 hours of billing on care and protection cases.

For more information about this training and to download the application, go to [website](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but preference will be given to attorneys who submit completed applications by Monday, February 6, 2023. CPCS actively seeks to diversify its private attorney panel membership.





Thank you for your support !

Not a MBWA member?

Need to renew your membership?

Visit our website

today!