



MASSACHUSETTS  
BLACK WOMEN  
ATTORNEYS

# MBWA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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March 31, 2022

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



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# President's Welcome Message

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Dear MBWA Members, Supporters, and Friends:

Thank you for your continued support!

It has been an incredible program year, centered around this year's theme "Thriving, Not Just Surviving." Our programs this past quarter empowered us through professional development panels, strengthened our connections across the legal community, and inspired us as we witnessed the Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson being selected as the first Black woman U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

Our Black History Month featured some of MBWA's most engaging programs of the quarter. On February 9, 2022, MBWA held a judicial panel to help lawyers as they navigate the judicial application process. The panel featured Honorable Angel Kelley, U.S. District Court Judge, District of Massachusetts; Honorable Stacey Fortes, First Justice of Lowell District Court; Honorable Shannon Frison, Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court; Honorable Raffi Yessayan, Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court; and Honorable Asha White, Associate Justice of the District Court. On February 17, 2022, in partnership with the Women's Bar Association Women of Color Committee, attendees reflected on the meaning and significance of Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem "The Hill We Climb".

MBWA's two-part Black History Month collaboration with Day Pitney on February 24, 2022, inspired attendees in the Massachusetts legal community and beyond to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession. Dean Angela Onwuachi-Willig's Statement on the student experience anchored the day's discussion. Our afternoon panel discussion was led by moderator Tara Pollard, Day Pitney's Director of Diversity & Inclusion, and featured Charlsa (Sandy) Broadus, Esq., a prominent DEI Strategist; Sharon Bridges, VP & Deputy General Counsel of Bay State Community Healthcare; and April English Chief of Organization Development & Inclusion at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Our evening professional keynote led by Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, Racial Equity Strategist, harnessed the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession.

As we continue into the next quarter, we pledge to remain connected through our ongoing programs and initiatives. We invite you to save the date for our annual Ida B. Wells Celebration on Saturday, June 11, 2022, where we will honor the achievements and contributions of remarkable Black female attorneys in Massachusetts. On behalf of the entire MBWA Board of Directors, we are grateful for all we were able to do thus far and look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Warm regards,  
Patrice C. Dixon, Esq.  
President, Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys 2021-2022

# Program Year in Review

**TALK TO THE HILL FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID**  
JOIN US ONLINE AT [equaljusticecoalition.org](http://equaljusticecoalition.org)  
SAVE THE DATE  
**JANUARY 27, 2022**  
11:00 AM

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE HOUSING CRISIS**  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 | 6 - 7:30 PM

**PANELISTS**

**BETHANY SEROTA**  
**VALDERRAMA**  
**EMMANUEL**  
**WILLIAM ONUOHA**

**SERIES.**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
RISING THROUGH THE RANKS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE UGLY

**PANELISTS**

**DUCH GONCALVES**  
ATTORNEY IN CHARGE  
COMMITTEE FOR  
PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

**BORNEE BACHAL**  
PARTNER  
SIDLEY AUSTIN

**STEPHEN HALL**  
PARTNER  
CORKRICK

**RACHEL WEBSTER**  
SENIOR COUNSEL  
NATIONAL GRID

**Join us for our next meeting!**  
Join the Women of Color Committee for our February meeting, where we

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**  
12:00PM - 1:30PM

**MBWA INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR VIRTUAL EVENT**  
From The Bar To The Bench:  
Successfully Navigating The Judicial Application Process in Massachusetts

**Featured Judicial Panelists:**

**Keynote:**  
Hon. Raffi Yerushalmi, Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court

**Moderator:**  
Tara Pollard, Director of Organizational Development & Inclusion at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

**A BLACK WOMAN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE ON DEI PROGRESS**  
February 24, 2022  
Two Exciting Sessions!  
Virtually through Zoom

**Day Pitney LLP**

**Part 1:** Fireside Chat Panel Discussion 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.  
**Part 2:** Professional Development Keynote 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Fireside Chat:**  
Dr. Angela Onyechi-Willing, Professor of Law at Boston University School of Law

**Panel:**  
Charissa (Randy) Broadus, Esq., Interim Executive Director, Anti-Racism Education, Day Pitney

**Sharon Bridges:**  
Vice President & General Counsel, Bay Women Lawyers Division

**April Engle:**  
Chair of Organizational Development & Inclusion at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

**Keynote:**  
Dr. Dennis Amante-Jackson, A Black equity justice champion, an inspiring voice for the marginalized, and a true disruptor of the BIPOC community

**Moderator:**  
Tara Pollard, Director of Organizational Development & Inclusion at Day Pitney LLP

**Date:** February 24, 2022  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**Are We There Yet? – From the Black Female Attorney's Perspective**  
A fireside chat followed by a panel discussion moderated by Tara Pollard, Day Pitney Director of Diversity & Inclusion.

**Fireside Chat:** A discussion with a scholar and expert in criminal law, who are advocating the values of diversity, inclusion, and academic, professional environment.

**Panel Discussion:** The discussion will be sharing life and career perspectives.

**Part 2:** How to Be an Ally? Building a Diverse Team

**Date:** March 24, 2022  
**Time:** 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP no later than March 23, 2022 at [cbillsbury@fbi.gov](mailto:cbillsbury@fbi.gov). You will then receive a link to the MS Teams meeting.

**Questions:** If you have any questions, please contact Special Agent Courtney Billsbury, [cbillsbury@fbi.gov](mailto:cbillsbury@fbi.gov), 857-386-2685.

**INCARCERATION**  
Presented by Catherine Sevcenko And Danielle Metz

**March 28th, 2022**  
**2:00pm - 3:30pm**

**Registration at:** [www.wbawbf.org](http://www.wbawbf.org)

**Engage in a riveting discussion with our panelists about incarceration, race and gender.**

**SABAGB**  
SOUTH BOSTON AREA BAR ASSOCIATION

**FAMILIES JUSTICE**

**MASSACHUSETTS BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS**

# **Women's History Month Spotlights**

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MBWA celebrates newly appointed women leaders and trailblazers leading and shaping the way in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!



**Lydia Edwards**

Senator Lydia Edwards became the first woman of color to be elected to the District 1 City Council seat in 2017. In January, 2022 she became the first woman elected to the 1st Suffolk & Middlesex State Senate seat. MBWA congratulates Senator Edwards!



**Ruthzee Louijeune**

Councilwoman Ruthzee Louijeune is the first Haitian-American to serve on the Boston City Council At-Large. She was elected to the council in November, 2021. MBWA congratulates Councilwoman Ruthzee Louijeune on her historic tenure!

# **Women's History Month Spotlights**

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**Rachael Rollins**

In January, 2022, Attorney Rollins became the first Black woman to hold the office of the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts. In 2018, Attorney Rollins was elected District Attorney of Suffolk County and was the first woman of color to serve in the role. MBWA congratulates Attorney Rollins on her accomplishments!



**Nakisha Skinner**

On March 8, 2022, Attorney Skinner was appointed as a Commissioner of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Attorney Skinner is a former Board of Director and Officer of MBWA. On behalf of MBWA, congratulations on your appointment!

# Announcements

## NEWS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

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Save The Date!  
Ida B. Wells Celebration  
Saturday, June 11, 2022



Please save the date for our in-person Ida B. Wells Awards Celebration! The Ida B. Wells Award is given to an African-American or Black female attorney who exemplifies the pioneering spirit and courage of Ida B. Wells, as well as those whose intellect, skill, and achievement make them great contributors to the Massachusetts legal community.

Please click here to explore the [Ida B. Wells Page](#) on our website.

# Announcements

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Blanche E. Braxton

Bar Preparation Scholarship

Accepting scholarship applications soon. More details to follow!



Applicants must submit all of the following:

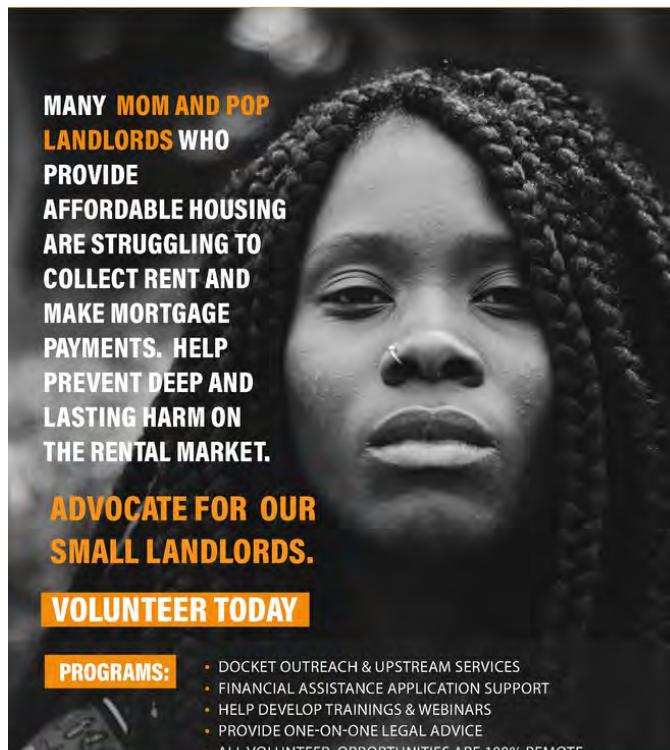
- Completed Blanche E. Braxton Scholarship Application, attaching additional sheets as necessary to provide complete answers
- Resume
- Current transcript
- Class registration or other proof of enrollment for the current academic year
- Essay of 500 words or less discussing applicant's academic, personal, and professional accomplishments, the importance of having black female attorneys in the legal profession, and how the applicant intends to contribute to the legal profession in Massachusetts.

[Click here to learn more about the scholarship.](#) Please email questions to  
[massblackwomenattys@gmail.com](mailto:massblackwomenattys@gmail.com).

# Announcements

## A PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

### Small Landlord Project Collaboration with the Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys



MANY **MOM AND POP LANDLORDS WHO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ARE STRUGGLING TO COLLECT RENT AND MAKE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS. HELP PREVENT DEEP AND LASTING HARM ON THE RENTAL MARKET.**

**ADVOCATE FOR OUR SMALL LANDLORDS.**

**VOLUNTEER TODAY**

**PROGRAMS:**

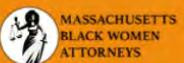
- DOCKET OUTREACH & UPSTREAM SERVICES
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION SUPPORT
- HELP DEVELOP TRAININGS & WEBINARS
- PROVIDE ONE-ON-ONE LEGAL ADVICE
- ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE 100% REMOTE

**SAVE OUR SMALL LANDLORDS.**  
EXPLORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT.

 Signup here

For more information:  
[vlpnet.org/landlord-volunteer](http://vlpnet.org/landlord-volunteer)

 VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

 MASSACHUSETTS BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS

The Volunteer Lawyers Project in collaboration with the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys (MBWA) invites you to volunteer with our Small Landlord project. With your help, small landlords will receive much needed legal support that will prevent lasting harm on the rental market. We look forward to your support.

Scan the QR code to sign up!

# Upcoming Events

## CHECK OUT THESE LATEST EVENTS

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Investiture Ceremony  
for the Honorable Angel Kelley  
April 4, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.



You are invited to District Judge Angel Kelley's investiture ceremony on April 4, 2022. The event will be held at the John J. Moakley Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Way, Boston, Massachusetts. Virtual access will be provided for all who wish to attend remotely via Zoom.

To attend in person or remotely, please RSVP through the link below. For those attending in person, please note the ceremony will start promptly at 4:00 p.m. There will be a pre-reception at 3:30 p.m. Please plan accordingly to pass through security to find a seat.

Please register [here](#).

Please direct questions to: [rsvp@mad.uscourts.gov](mailto:rsvp@mad.uscourts.gov) or (617) 320-8554.

# Upcoming Events

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Dress For Success Boston - Compelling Conversations  
With Remarkable Women

April 6, 2022, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Four Seasons Hotel

The graphic features the Dress For Success Boston logo at the top left. To the right, the event title 'COMPELLING CONVERSATIONS WITH REMARKABLE WOMEN' is displayed in large, bold, black and red text. Below the title, the location 'FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BOSTON' and date 'APRIL 6TH 2022' are listed. A red banner indicates the time '6:30 - 9:30PM' and ticket price '\$50'. At the bottom, eight women are shown in small portrait photos, each with their name and title: Kristen Daly (Event Moderator), Anne Macnevin, Ara Campbell, Tanisha Sullivan, Rhonda Kallman, Lynette Glover, Myechia Minter-Jordan, and Shayna Seymour.

Join Dress For Success Boston for engaging conversations with some remarkable women in our community. Attendees will get to hear their stories and be inspired by them too.

[Purchase tickets here.](#)

# Upcoming Events

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National Bar Association - Women Lawyers Division  
40th Anniversary of  
U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In Ceremony, Tuesday, May 31, 2022  
Application deadline: April 11, 2022



This ceremony is held annually in an effort to enhance the posture of African-American lawyers as legal advocates and to increase the number of minority lawyers who are readily able to represent clients before the nation's highest court.

Applicants must be members in good standing of their highest state court bar for a period of three (3) years prior to admission and must have their applications signed by two (2) members of the U. S. Supreme Court Bar. A certificate of good standing obtained from your highest state court bar must be submitted together with your application. The cost of participation in this group swearing-in event is \$350.00. Completed applications are due no later than April 11, 2022.

Please visit the [Supreme Court's website](#), to complete you application. Please submit your application, your check for payment, and your certificate of good standing directly to:

Iris McCollum Green, Esquire  
GREEN & FOUSHÉE  
1714 15th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Additional information may be obtained by writing Attorney Green at the above stated address, telephoning her at (202) 785-1171 (office) or (202) 494-9882 (Cell) or emailing her at [iriseagain@aol.com](mailto:iriseagain@aol.com).

# MBWA Classifieds

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**NOW  
HIRING**

- ATTORNEY - MULTIPLE DIVISIONS
  - CPCs
- JUNIOR ASSOCIATE
  - CHOATE, HALL & STEWART
- REGULATORY ANALYST
  - MFS INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
- ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
  - SIMMONS UNIVERSITY
- LECTURER AND CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR
  - BOSTON UNIVERSITY
- MULTIPLE POSITIONS
  - MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT

**EXPLORE THESE JOBS AND MORE ON  
OUR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES PAGE.**



Your next career awaits. Apply now through MBWA's  
[Employment Opportunities Page!](#)

Have a job you want advertised? Email us at  
[massblackwomenattys@gmail.com](mailto:massblackwomenattys@gmail.com)



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***membership?***

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**today!**