



MASSACHUSETTS  
BLACK WOMEN  
ATTORNEYS

# MBWA Quarterly Newsletter

November 30, 2020



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# President's Message

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Dear MBWA Members:

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Although we are all facing challenging times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MBWA remains resolute in our mission to advance Black women attorneys in the Commonwealth. This program year is special because 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of MBWA, and our program year is well underway!



In September, MBWA in collaboration with affinity bar partners, held a "Walk in Solidarity" for social change. During the walk, I discussed the need for immediate and permanent change to create a more inclusive bar that acknowledges the experiences of Black women attorneys. Additionally, during the walk, we issued a call to action for attorneys to pledge ten pro bono hours by February 15, 2021 to work on legal matters that impact communities of color. To learn more about the pledge, [please click here](#).

In September, MBWA also held its annual Swearing-In Ceremony virtually. The Honorable Julie J. Bernard presided over the ceremony, and she discussed the importance of lifting other sisters in the law as you climb the ladder to your success. This past Fall, we also transformed our annual membership brunch into a fun-filled apple picking outing at Honey Pot Hill Orchards, and we held an engaging Career Elevation Workshop.

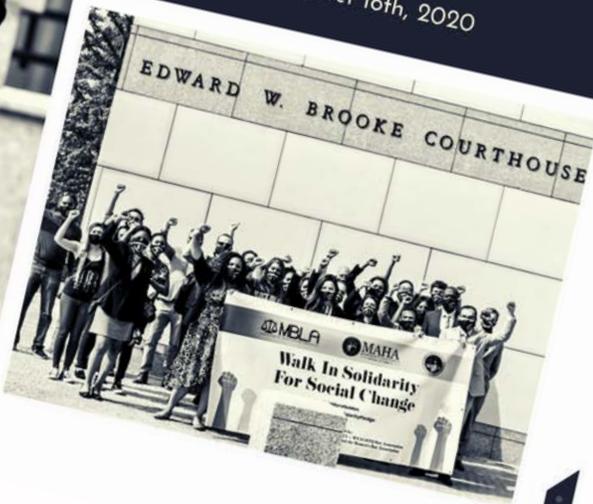
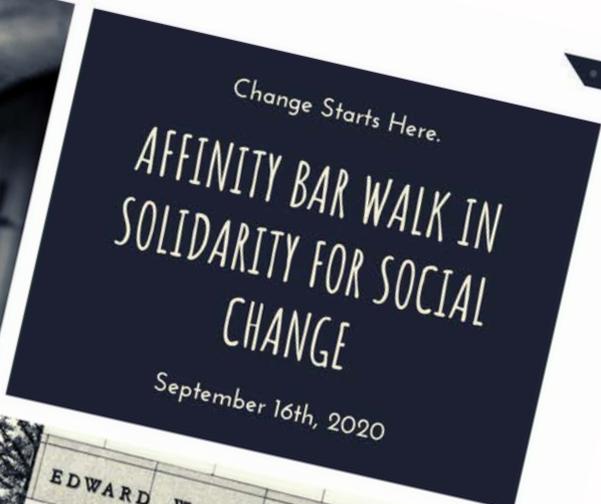
We are thankful to the Black women attorneys who have broken barriers, and we are excited about the recent historical elevations at the local and national level, but we know firsthand that there is still more work to do.

We look forward to continuing to provide you with meaningful programs, and ways to stay connected to each other. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at [president@massblackwomenattorneys.org](mailto:president@massblackwomenattorneys.org).

Warm Regards,  
Janette A. Ekanem, Esq.

# Program Year-In Review

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# Program Year-In Review



*Apple*



*Picking*



*Cutting*

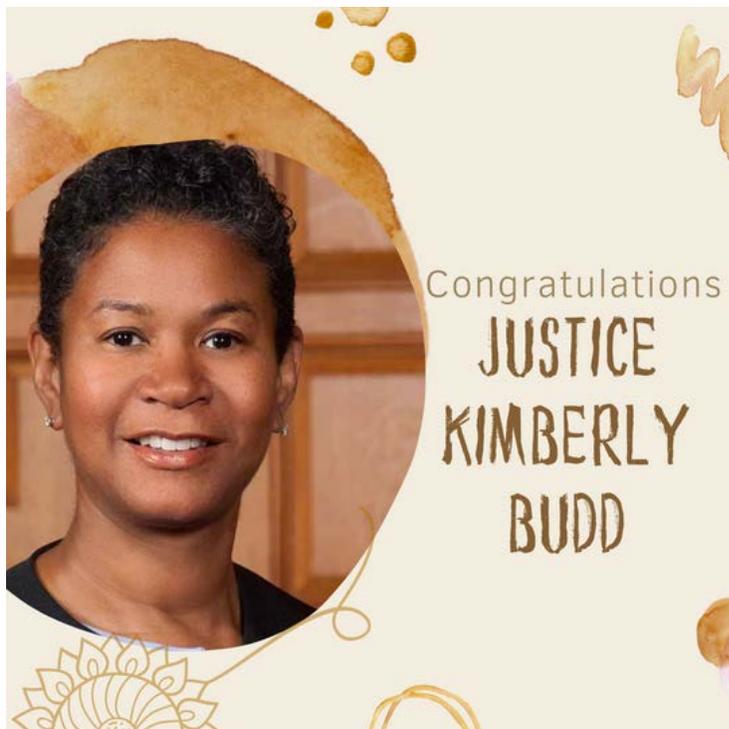


JOIN THE MBWA FOR OUR  
**CAREER ELEVATION WORKSHOP**  
OCTOBER 18, 2020  
SIGN UP VIA EVENTBRITE)

# Announcements

Check out the latest from MBWA and friends.

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The Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys would like to congratulate Justice Kimberly S. Budd on being confirmed as the first female Black Chief Justice in the history of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court!

Justice Budd has been a pillar of the legal community for many years, and we look forward to her continued leadership. We are thrilled to see Black women attorneys continuing to blaze trails.



# Announcements

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## A Statement from the SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being:

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Bar,

When you next log in to the Board of Bar Overseers' website in order to complete or renew your attorney registration, you will see that a new component has been added to the registration process. Starting with attorneys participating in the December 1, 2020 registration cycle, all attorneys submitting registration information to the BBO will be required to complete a demographic and law practice survey approved by the SJC with information about geographic location, practice area, racial identity, gender identity and other factors. This survey is a critical step in understanding the makeup of the Massachusetts bar, and its sole purpose is to aid the SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being (the "Standing Committee") in developing programs, initiatives, policy recommendations, and systemic changes to the profession aimed at supporting attorneys and increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the Massachusetts legal profession.

As a few key facts about the survey:

- While completion of the survey is a mandatory part of the registration process, your responses will not be associated with your BBO Attorney accounts, and they will be de-identified to prevent your personal identity from being revealed.
- SJC Rule 4:02 expressly provides that "[d]ata disclosed on the demographic and law practice survey shall be treated as confidential and used solely to develop services and programs to aid lawyers." (Emphasis added).
- While several of the questions on the survey include a "Prefer not to answer" response, we strongly encourage you to answer each question substantively.
  - Since the information collected from this survey will be de-identified, it cannot and will not be used against you in any way.
  - Further, getting as accurate an understanding of the makeup of the Massachusetts bar as possible is critical in order to enable the Standing Committee to fulfill its missions of (a) offering programs and services to help lawyers improve their professional and personal well-being, and (b) increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the Massachusetts legal profession.

[Visit this website](#) for further information about this survey.

For further reading about the importance of research and metrics to improve diversity, please read the Massachusetts Bar Association's "Comment on Proposed Amendments to SJC Rule 4:02".

Finally, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Standing Committee at [demographic-survey@lawyerwellbeingma.org](mailto:demographic-survey@lawyerwellbeingma.org).

# Announcements

VIRTUAL  
FOR  
2020-21



**MASSBAR**  
ASSOCIATION  
THE PREMINENT VOICE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION™

## TIERED COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM

*Help students take the first step toward a legal career*

The Massachusetts Bar Association's Tiered Community Mentoring Program pairs high school, undergraduate and law school students with practicing attorneys for a unique, real-world look at careers in the law. Student participants gain a better understanding of the legal profession, as well as the career opportunities available in the legal field.

Successfully run in Boston for more than a decade, TCM expanded to Worcester in 2017. Become a mentor and help students take the first step toward their own career discovery.



### *Mentors wanted*

TCM participants are assigned to mentoring groups, each comprised of a high school student, an undergraduate student, a law student and an attorney. Students benefit from a mix of information, guidance and real-life experiences shared by attorney mentors:

*Apply today!*

For more information, or to get involved as a mentor, contact Elizabeth O'Neil, Director of Public and Community Services at (617) 338-0560, or [BOneil@MassBar.org](mailto:BOneil@MassBar.org).

# Announcements

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## MCLE Volunteer Opportunities

MCLE is actively seeking to strengthen and diversify its pool of volunteer program faculty and book authors. Opportunities to share your expertise include serving as a faculty panelist for CLE programs, updating MCLE book chapters, and writing commentary for MCLE books on diversity, inclusion, and unconscious bias. Attorneys in all practice areas are welcome, but attorneys who practice in family law, criminal law, and estate planning are particularly needed.

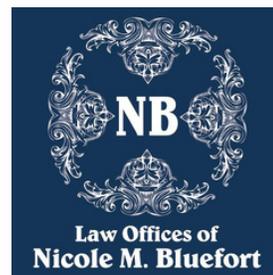
If you are interested in an MCLE opportunity, please email [Info@massblackwomenattys.org](mailto:Info@massblackwomenattys.org) for more information.

## Loan Pilot Program

SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Well Being seeks lawyers with student debt to participate in a pilot program to help alleviate stress around repayment. We have partnered with the nonprofit, AccessLex, to provide education, resources, and coaching specifically to Massachusetts attorneys. The program will include webinar options, focusing on loan repayment, public service loan forgiveness, and financial management, as well as one-on-one coaching sessions with loan repayment and financial experts.

Visit the [Committee's website](#) for more information.

# MBWA Classifieds



Check out the latest job announcements, volunteer opportunities and more!

## Judicial Vacancies:



MBWA is committed to seeing diversity within all areas of the legal profession, including the judiciary. The following vacancies are open for applications:

Probate and Family Court (The Honorable Joan Armstrong)

Application Deadline is Monday, January 4, 2021

For more information visit the [Massachusetts Judiciary's website](#). Applying for a judicial vacancy? Be sure to let MBWA know at [info@massblackwomenattys.org](mailto:info@massblackwomenattys.org).

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## Tufts University



Tufts University is seeking an Assistant General Counsel to represent the legal interests of the University by providing a range of legal services in the area of business and transactional law.

Interested candidates may [apply online!](#)

The Law Offices of Nicole M. Bluefort is seeking candidates for two positions:

- Of Counsel Attorney, Trust & Estate Planning
- Of Counsel Attorney, Real Estate (MA)

Interested candidates should contact the firm at [nicole@bluefortlaw.com](mailto:nicole@bluefortlaw.com). Replies without resumes attached will not be considered.

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## Massachusetts Office on Disability



The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) created in 1981, by MGL Chapter 6, Section 185, as the state advocacy agency that serves people with disabilities of all ages, is seeking a General Counsel. The candidate must possess a JD and an active license in good standing to practice law in Massachusetts.

For more information and to apply, candidates can visit the [MOD's website](#).

# MBWA Classifieds

Kenney & Sams



**KENNEY  
& SAMS**

Wayfair



Wayfair is looking for a lawyer with at least three years of legal experience to join its in-house legal team and support its rapidly-growing global business. This lawyer will directly support the business on cross-functional projects of all shapes and sizes. As part of a small legal team where all members contribute at every level, this lawyer must be able to think creatively, provide solution-oriented advice and develop a mastery of both the big and small picture.

Interested candidates may apply online.



Diversity Scholarship Opportunity:



Arent Fox LLP is once again accepting applications from second-year law students for its annual \$20,000 Diversity Scholarship. Applications from second-year law students can be submitted on a rolling basis until the deadline on Monday, February 1.

For more information visit the firm's website!

Kenney & Sams, P.C. currently seek a well-established litigation associate to join our Metro West office. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of five (5) years experience handling business disputes, employment claims, and general tort and contract litigation.

To apply submit your resume and a writing sample in confidence to [careers@KandSlegal.com](mailto:careers@KandSlegal.com).



Donovan Hatem, LLP

**DONOVAN | HATEM LLP**  
*counselors at law*

Donovan Hatem LLP has an opportunity for an experienced attorney with 5 - 7 years of litigation experience, preferably with design and construction professionals, to join the Litigation practice.

Responsibilities include evaluating, managing and monitoring significant and complex claims on a national basis and engaging in risk management of potential claims, developing litigation and resolution strategies, managing counsel, all experts and collaborate with multiple entities.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter, including salary requirements to Christene Hennessey of Human Resources at [chennessy@donovanhatem.com](mailto:chennessy@donovanhatem.com).

# MBWA Classifieds



Sunstein, LLP



Sunstein LLP is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Trademark Associate
- Intellectual Property (Litigation Associate)

For information visit the [visit firm's website](#).



Federal Bureau of Investigations



The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) is seeking qualified candidates with legal expertise to serve as Special Agents. For information and to apply visit the [FBI's website](#).



Burns & Levinson, LLP



Burns & Levinson LLP is seeking an Associate to join the Business Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group in the Firm's Boston Office. Interested candidates may [apply online!](#)

LCL seeks a seasoned and innovative leader to act as Director of its LOMAP program in Massachusetts (or willing to relocate) and provide additional operational and leadership supports to LCL's Executive Director as needed. Significant opportunity to work remotely, particularly during pandemic, but good faith intention to participate in future in-person meetings and work (public health concerns permitting) with lawyers and LCL | Mass LOMAP staff in Massachusetts is required.

For more information and to apply visit the [LOMAP's website](#).



Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius, LLP



Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, one of the world's leading international law firms, seeks to hire highly qualified junior/mid-level associates with law firm experience to join either its intellectual property or corporate and business transaction practice group in the Boston office.

For more information and to apply visit the [firm's website](#).

# MBWA Classifieds



## Burns & Farrey



Burns & Farrey is seeking two (2) associate attorneys for their Boston office and two (2) associate attorneys for its Worcester, MA office. Candidates must be interested in litigation and possess strong organizational, research, writing and analytical skills. For more information, visit the [firm's website](#).

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## Committee for Public Counsel Services



The Committee for Public Counsel Services ("CPCS") is seeking applications for several positions and internships, including:

- 2021 Children & Family Law Division Trial Attorney - Statewide Positions
- 2021 Public Defender Division Trial Attorney - Statewide Positions

For more information on how to apply, visit [CPCS' website](#).

Biogen is seeking candidates for the position of IP Counsel. The individual in this role will have responsibility for managing intellectual property matters critical to the Company's success, counseling senior Company business leaders, managing IP disputes, patent portfolio strategy and management, outside counsel budgets and performance, IP competitive intelligence, and due diligence in support of business transactions. The successful candidate will have significant depth of experience in diverse aspects of patent law practice, high technical competency in the life sciences, and will be adept at serving as a trusted business advisor.

For more information and to apply, visit [Biogen's website](#).

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## Greater Boston Legal Services



GBLS is seeking candidates for several attorney positions:

- Family Unit Long Term Temporary Staff Attorney - Asian Outreach Project
- (4) Long Term Temporary Staff Attorney Positions - Housing Unit
- Managing Attorney - Family Unit
- Part-Time Attorney - Employment (Low Income Tax Clinic)
- Senior Attorney - Housing Unit
- Staff Attorney - Family Unit
- Staff Attorney - Housing Unit

Visit [GBLS's website](#) for more information!



Not a MBWA member?

Need to renew your membership?

[Visit our website today!](#)