



MBWA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

November 29, 2021

*Happy
Holidays*

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President's Welcome Message



"My being a black woman is not a deficit. It is a strength. Because I could not be where I am had I not overcome so many other barriers. Which means you know I'm relentless, you know I'm persistent, you know I'm smart." - Stacey Abrams.

Dear MBWA Members, Supporters, and Friends:

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the President of the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys ("MBWA") for this new program year. I am so inspired to lead as MBWA celebrates 41 years of legacy, excellence, and sisterhood.

As we embark on this new Program Year, MBWA remains firmly rooted in its legacy, and committed to its mission of advancing justice and equality for people of color, with a particular emphasis on black women and/or women of African descent. There is no doubt that we have all endured a challenging season overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to move beyond the pandemic, MBWA aims to demonstrate that we are "Thriving, Not Just Surviving," which most appropriately serves as our theme for the program year.

Indeed, MBWA commenced the year with insightful and innovative programming. On September 22, 2021, MBWA held its Annual Swearing-In Ceremony at Boston's Intercontinental Hotel. We were grateful to not only celebrate with our members and supporters in person, but to also have the Honorable Angel Kelley, Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, preside over the ceremony. Next, thanks to Todd & Wells LLP's generous donation, MBWA members and friends ventured out to Tree Top Adventures on October 23, 2021, in Canton, Massachusetts, and navigated various obstacle courses and ziplines. We also managed to support programming produced by our fellow affinity bar organizations, and established new connections including with the Massachusetts Conference For Women. This year's conference will be held virtually on December 2, 2021, and will feature presentations from Stacy Abrams, Selma Blair, Regina King, and Chloe Zhao.

As we approach the holiday season, MBWA is focused on giving back. To that end, we launched a Giving Tuesday Campaign to support Hearth's Adopt-An-Elder Program, and to also generate funding for our Blanche E. Braxton Bar Preparation Scholarship in hopes of promoting diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession. On behalf of the entire MBWA Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your time and unwavering support. I wish you a wonderful holiday season!

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

Meet The Board of Directors | 2021-2022



Patrice C. Dixon
President



Desiree Murphy
Vice-President



Shahria Boston
Treasurer



Danielle Johnson
Corresponding Secretary



Janette A. Ekanem
Immediate Past-President

Meet The Board of Directors | 2021-2022



Francesse Canty
Board of Director



Tara Dunn
Board of Director



Tierra Jenkins
Board of Director



LaRonica Lightfoot
Board of Director



Raquel Webster
Board of Director



Jasmine Wells
Board of Director

Program Year in Review



Reach Your Peak:
MBWA'S
MEMBERSHIP PICNIC
FAMILY FUN DAY
OCTOBER 23, 2021
1:00 P.M.
Top Adventures
10000 W. Highway Drive

Program Year in Review



Esperanza, Perseverancia y Com^{UNIDAD}

We hope you will join us for this special evening on Thursday, October 14th, 2021. Help us celebrate and recognize our distinguished 2021 Award Recipients.

2021 MAHA'S ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION
DATE: OCTOBER 14TH, 2021
TIME: 5:30-7:30 PM (IN PERSON) 6-7 PM (LIVE-STREAMED)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Hon. Judge Robert Hornois
Associate Justice, Massachusetts District Court

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
Boston Bar Association

KEYNOTE SPEAKER & LEADERSHIP AWARD
Hon. Judge Gustavo del Puerto
First Justice, Hearing Court

Govin Alexander
Fellow, SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being



MBLA FALL STUDENT Reception

FREE FOOD & DRINKS | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | NETWORKING

Register by visiting <https://conta.cc/3io3tj5>
Sponsored By
Morgan Lewis



CONVERSATION
Black People's Mental Health & Total Well-Being

In Partnership With The Massachusetts Bar Association, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being, Burns & Levinson, Mintz Latham & Watkins and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

A TWO-PART VIRTUAL EVENT
TUESDAY OCTOBER 26 8 PM EST
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10 8 PM EST

TOPICS INCLUDE: Mindfulness As It Relates To Black Mental Health, Yoga's Potential To Address Racialized Trauma, The Concept of Conditioning, Mindfulness As It Relates To



MBLA FALL RECEPTION MAST Boston
45 Province Street
Boston, MA 02108
THURSDAY



Collaboration

connect




CONN KAVANAUGH
CONN KAVANAUGH ROSENTHAL PESCH & FORD, LLP

DAVIS MALM
ATTORNEYS



Adel R. Clemente
Sheba A. Emmanuel



REPRESENTATION MATTERS
November 4, 2021 @ 7PM

REPRESENTATION MATTERS
NOVEMBER 4, 2021 @ 7PM

THE POWER OF EQUITY
MAKING THE CASE FOR MORE BLACK WOMEN PROSECUTORS



SABA GB 2021 Gala

Gurbir Grewal, Esq.
Keynote Speaker
Director of Enforcement, SEC

November 4th
6-8:30 PM
Virtual Gal
November
9-10:30 AM
Yoga Class with Anu
November
10:30 AM
Cooking Class with

Announcements

THE LATEST NEWS YOU DON'T
WANT TO MISS

Congratulations



Honorable Angel Kelley

MBWA congratulates the Honorable Angel Kelley on her confirmation as a federal judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts! Judge Kelley is the second African-American woman and second Asian-American woman to serve on the court. Judge Kelley is a fierce advocate for justice, inclusion and creating pathways for the next generation of attorneys and judges.

MBWA was thrilled to have Judge Kelley administer the oath of office to MBWA's Board of Directors on September 22, 2021. She offered some words of inspiration that served to motivate and inspire us as we embark on this new program year. [Follow the link to learn more about Judge Kelley's historic nomination.](#)



Announcements

MBWA proudly celebrates the achievements of its members. Attorneys Jannette A. Ekanem, Stella T. Oyalabu, and Danielle Johnson truly exemplify and embody excellence as legal practitioners.



Janette A. Ekanem

On September 22, 2021, during MBWA's Annual Swearing-In Ceremony, Immediate Past-President Attorney Janette A. Ekanem received an award for her years of dedicated board service and commitment to advancing equality and justice in the Massachusetts legal community. MBWA appreciates Attorney Ekanem's continued support and dedicated service.



Stella T. Oyalabu

In September of 2021, MBWA's 2019 Blanche E. Braxton Bar Scholarship recipient Attorney Stella T. Oyalabu joined Sherin and Lodgen LLP as an Associate in its Litigation Department, representing clients in complex business, employment, professional liability, and real estate disputes. MBWA congratulates Attorney Oyalabu, and wishes her all the best in her new position!



Danielle Johnson

On October 25, 2021, Attorney Danielle Johnson received the Women's Bar Association's ("WBA") Emerging Women Leader in the Law Award! This award is presented to women lawyers who have excelled in the legal field while guiding other women in achieving success, and supporting their communities through volunteerism and social justice. MBWA congratulates Attorney Johnson!

Announcements

Annual Dues Notice

Dear MBWA Member:

Thank you for your continued support of the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys. The MBWA remains committed to advancing black women in the profession and providing a network of support. As we embark on the 2021-2022 membership year, I write to remind you to renew your MBWA membership which expired on August 31, 2021. We kindly ask that you remit your payment no later than November 30, 2021 to avoid any interruption in your membership status. Your annual dues enable us to continue providing you with unique programming in support of black women attorneys and will assist us in increasing our efforts and visibility in the Boston legal community at large.

2021-2022 Dues:

Attorneys admitted to bar more than 5 years: \$60.00

Attorneys admitted to bar less than 5 years: \$50.00

Legal Service/Public Sector Attorneys (admitted to bar 1 to 5 years): \$30

Judiciary: Honorary

Law Students: Free

Lifetime Membership: \$750

How to Pay your Annual Dues:

MBWA's online process via PayPal provides a fast, user-friendly option for paying dues. Just go to [the membership page of our website](#), and follow the instructions to pay online.

If you prefer to send the dues by mail, please make checks payable to "MBWA" and send to:

Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys
c/o Boston Bar Association
16 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Interested in joining a committee? Please email info@massblackwomenattys.org for more information.

Blanche E. Braxton Bar Scholarship:

In 2018, MBWA established the Blanche E. Braxton Bar Scholarship. The goal of the scholarship is to promote diversity in the legal profession in Massachusetts by providing financial assistance for bar exam expenses to a member of the MBWA. Donations can be made via [PayPal](#).

Please disregard this notice if you have already renewed your membership for the 2021-2022 program year. Thank you again for your support of and participation in MBWA! Please visit our [website](#).

With kindest regards,

Shahria H. Boston Kidd, Esq.
Treasurer, Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys 2021-2022
treasurer@massblackwomenattys.org

Upcoming Events

CHECK OUT THE LATEST FROM MBWA AND FRIENDS.

Join MBWA on #Giving Tuesday as we bring cheer to the elderly residents of Hearth, an organization dedicated to ending elder homelessness. Your gift is only a click away!

Giving
Tuesday

 MASSACHUSETTS
BLACK WOMEN
ATTORNEYS

 **Hearth**
ending elder homelessness

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
THE MASSACHUSETTS BLACK WOMEN
ATTORNEYS SUPPORTS

*Hearth's Holiday
Adopt-an-Elder Program*

A CHARITY DRIVE

Join us as we bring joy and cheer to the
elderly residents of Boston.

Adopt an Elder today by donating
gift cards and gifts to
Hearth, an organization dedicated to
ending elder homeless.

Gift card and gift donations must be
received by December 3, 2021
Click [here](#) to sign up
and learn more!

Upcoming Events

MBWA also invites you to give back to our scholarship fund on # Giving Tuesday. Your gift of support will promote diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession. [Click here to learn more, and support the scholarship!](#)



MASSACHUSETTS
BLACK WOMEN
ATTORNEYS

MBWA WELCOMES
YOUR SUPPORT AND
GENEROUS DONATION

BLANCHE E. BRAXTON SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Your generous donation will help promote diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM YOUR DONATIONS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about our scholarship, please contact us at massblackwomentattys@gmail.com or visit the [scholarship page](#) on our website.

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SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR GIVING TUESDAY!

YOUR GIFT OF SUPPORT WILL

- Break down financial barriers and open the doors to aspiring lawyers of color.
- Bring more diversity and inclusivity to the legal profession.
- Promote positive changes in our communities.

The Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys Foundation is proud to offer the Blanche E. Braxton Bar Scholarship in hopes of supporting aspiring African-American or Black women with financial resources as they prepare for the Uniformed Bar Exam and the Massachusetts Bar Exam.

**# Giving
Tuesday**

Upcoming Events

December 2, 2021
Forward, Stronger, Together

Stacey Abrams
founder, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author, & voter rights activist

Selma Blair
disability advocate and actress

Regina King
Academy Award-winning actress, director and activist

Chloé Zhao
Academy Award-winning director

2021 Virtual MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

PRESENTED BY
STATE STREET.

Register today maconferenceforwomen.org

MBWA proudly supports the Massachusetts Conference For Women! This year's conference features several dynamic speakers including Stacy Abrams, Selma Blair, Regina King, and Chloe Zhao!

As a conference supporter, MBWA's members, supporters, and friends get to attend this year's conference at a special discounted rate!

Get your tickets now!

Use promo code 2021MASO at checkout.

Upcoming Events



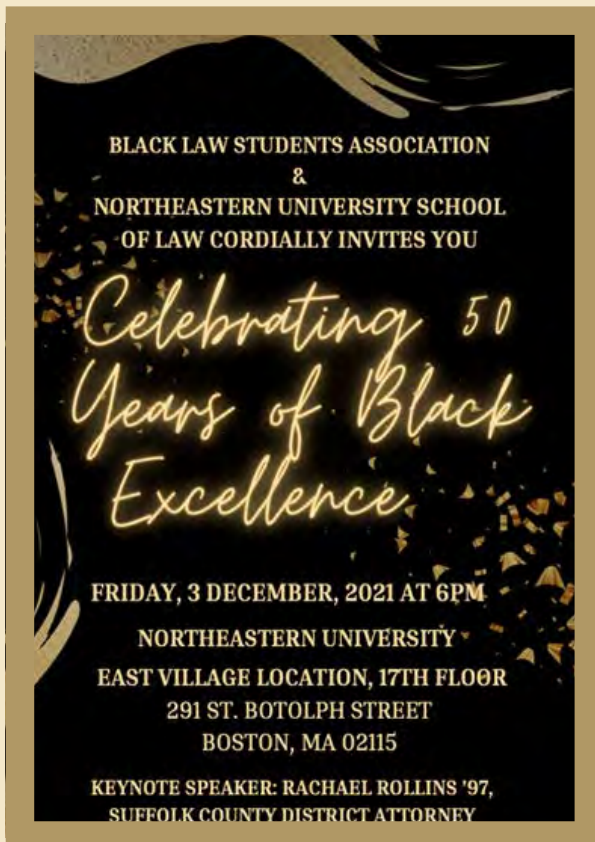
MWPC 50th Anniversary
Thursday, December 2, 2021
7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Via Zoom

Featuring:

Rachel Rollins, Suffolk District Attorney and nominated U.S. Attorney for
Massachusetts

Tickets are only \$25! [Click here to register!](#)



We hope you make plans to join Northeastern University School of Law ("NUSL") for the 50th Celebration for NUSL's BLSA Chapter on Friday, December 3, 2021 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET.

It will be held at the lovely East Village, 17th Floor space (291 St. Botolph Street, Boston, MA 02115).

*Per Northeastern University guidelines, you must be fully vaccinated to attend indoor events and show proof of vaccination. You must also wear a mask indoors, except while actively eating, drinking or presenting.

To register, please [click here](#).

MBWA Classifieds

The graphic is set against a light pink background. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo for the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, featuring a silhouette of a woman with a scale of justice and the text "MASSACHUSETTS BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS". The central element is a dark blue chalkboard with a wooden frame, containing the quote: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Below the quote, it is attributed to "- Harriet Tubman". To the left of the chalkboard is a black, torn-edge graphic containing a word cloud of job-related terms such as "job", "employment", "search", "interview", "network", "information", "motivation", "pressure", "growth", "idea", "opportunity", "goal", "teamwork", "occupation", "position", "future", "obtain", "salary", "hunting", "target", "success", "care", "skills", "roles", "responsibilities", "experience", "education", "certification", "training", "development", "collaboration", "communication", "problem-solving", "critical thinking", "analytical skills", "creativity", "innovation", "leadership", "management", "organization", "planning", "execution", "monitoring", "evaluation", "reporting", "documentation", "compliance", "ethics", "integrity", "honesty", "transparency", "accountability", "responsibility", "ownership", "initiative", "proactivity", "flexibility", "adaptability", "resilience", "perseverance", "determination", "commitment", "dedication", "passion", "enthusiasm", "energy", "positivity", "optimism", "can-do attitude", "growth mindset", "continuous learning", "curiosity", "open-mindedness", "emotional intelligence", "cultural awareness", "diversity and inclusion", "social skills", "interpersonal skills", "public speaking", "writing skills", "technical skills", "industry knowledge", "market research", "competitive analysis", "strategic thinking", "decision-making", "risk management", "time management", "prioritization", "delegation", "collaboration", "teamwork", "conflict resolution", "negotiation", "mediation", "arbitration", "litigation", "dispute resolution", "legal research", "legal writing", "legal analysis", "legal strategy", "legal advocacy", "legal ethics", "legal compliance", "legal risk management", "legal counseling", "legal education", "legal training", "legal mentorship", "legal networking", "legal community", "legal industry", "legal profession", "legal career", "legal education", "legal training", "legal mentorship", "legal networking", "legal community", "legal industry", "legal profession", "legal career". To the right of the chalkboard is a white, torn-edge graphic of a resume template with the word "RESUME" in large, bold letters. The resume template includes sections for "Career Objectives", "Education", and "Professional Experience".

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

Have a job you want advertised? Email us at
massblackwomenattys@gmail.com



Not a MBWA member?

*Need to renew your
membership?*

Visit our website

today!