

# EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION

42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala

*The Power of a Star: It Leads,  
It Lights, It's Limitless...*



NOVEMBER 10, 2018

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# *42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala Program*

## *The Power of a Star: It Lights, It Leads, It's Limitless.*

### *Cocktail Reception*

### *Gala Program*

Welcome & Introduction of Master of Ceremony .....	Abrina Wheatfall, Foundation President
Invocation.....	Reverend Doctor G. A. Williams
“Lift Every Voice & Sing” .....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir San Diego
Foundation’s Highlights & Special Recognitions .....	Abrina Wheatfall, Foundation President Yahairah Aristy, 2018 Gala Chair
2018 Association Highlights .....	Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

### *Presentation of Foundation Awards*

Presentation of Awards .....	Joy Utomi, Awards Committee Chair Geneviève Jones-Wright, Awards Committee Member
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Frederick Douglass Community Service Award  
Honoree: Christie Hill, ACLU

Legal Trailblazer Award  
Honoree: Sherry Thompson-Taylor, San Diego District Attorney’s Office

### *Presentation of Keynote Speaker*

Introduction of Keynote Speaker .....	Yahairah Aristy, 2018 Annual Gala Chair
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**Keynote Address**  
*The Honorable Carol D. Codrington*  
California Associate Justice for the Fourth Appellate District

**Presentation of President’s Award**

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation  
Presentation of President’s Award ..... Abrina Wheatfall, President

Honoree: Aaron Dumas, Jr.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association  
Presentation of President’s Award ..... L. Marcel Stewart, President

Honoree: Josi Swonetz

**Presentation of Scholarships**

Presentation of Scholarships ..... Aaron Dumas, Jr. , Scholarship Committee Chair

**Installation Ceremony**

Installation of the Foundation and Association Board of Directors..... Honorable Dwayne Moring  
2019 Association President’s Message .....Andrea St. Julian  
2019 Foundation President’s Message ..... Yahairah Aristy  
Closing Remarks..... Yahairah Aristy

# *Master of Ceremonies*

## Kevin J. Greene, Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law



A graduate of the Yale Law School and a veteran of the United States Marines, Professor Kevin Jerome Greene is a tenured professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where he teaches Contracts and Entertainment law as well as Music law. Greene has also served as a visiting professor at University of San Diego Law School and Hofstra Law School in New York.

Before becoming a law professor, Greene practiced law in New York at the premier law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where he represented high profile companies such as Time Warner and HBO in litigation matters. He later joined New York's top entertainment law boutique firm, where he represented clients such as film production companies, including Director Spike Lee's 40 Acres and a Mule film company, iconic music artists including Harry Connick, Jr., Bobby Brown and the seminal rap group Public Enemy.

Professor Greene was the first law professor voted a Top Ten attorney by the San Diego Bar in the field of IP in 2005.

In 2016, the Intellectual Property Institute of the State Bar of California selected Professor Greene as its Vanguard Award winner, the highest award given by the Bar, in the category of Academics.

# *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*

by James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has  
brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been  
watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of  
the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we  
met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we  
forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.





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November 10, 2018

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation  
P.O. Box 124923  
San Diego, CA 92112

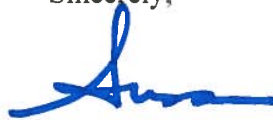
Dear Friends,

I am honored to have the opportunity to greet you during Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation 42<sup>nd</sup> annual scholarship and awards dinner.

Since 1976, the Earl B. Gilliam Foundation has been committed to ensuring and promoting diversity within the legal community in San Diego County. As a member of Congress, I commend you for your many achievements. I applaud your continued dedication to ensure that African-American legal professionals are empowered to grow as sole practitioners or partners within law firms.

I extend my best wishes to you. I hope you have an enjoyable event and many continued successes in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0079  
OFFICE (916) 319-2079  
FAX (916) 319-2179

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1350 FRONT STREET, SUITE 6046  
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EVALUATION

SELECT COMMITTEE  
CHAIR: CAMPUS CLIMATE

November 10, 2018

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to extend a warm welcome to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundations (EBGBF) 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner. The theme, "The Power of a Star: It Leads, It Lights, It's Limitless..." illustrates the star power and luminary presence our African American jurists and attorneys hold in the State of California.



This year's celebration is truly a reflection of the vision and dedication of the organization's founders. Since its founding in 1976, the EBGBF has continued to carry the torch of leadership within the community. Their mission has been to consistently advance African Americans in the legal community, promote diversity, and to ensure social justice for all. I commend the EBGBF for its tenure, strength and outstanding growth throughout the years.

Today, we face tremendous challenges within our judicial system which requires our collective work. Being at the forefront of most controversial legislation in the State Capitol, I can attest to the uphill battle we face to provide solidarity, equality and justice. I admire your ability to defend the legal and human rights of African Americans by working to eliminate the root causes of poverty, powerlessness and racism.

On behalf of the California State Assembly 79<sup>th</sup> District, I wish you continued success and happiness for many years to come. Once again, congratulations on reaching this milestone of success.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Shirley N. Weber". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.**  
*Assemblymember, 79<sup>th</sup> District*



## Office of Council President Myrtle Cole

Proudly representing the Fourth Council District  
City of San Diego



### Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala “The Power of a Star: It Leads, It Lights, It’s Limitless” November 10, 2018

It is an honor to congratulate the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation as you celebrate your 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala, themed “The Power of a Star: It Leads, It Lights, It’s Limitless.”

I commend the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation for your work in advancing African Americans in the legal profession. Your efforts provide access to justice, promote and advocate the interest of the members of our community, and preserve our culture, heritage and diversity.

On behalf of the Fourth Council District, I congratulate the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation for your service and dedication to our community. Best wishes on a successful event.

Warm Regards,

Myrtle Cole  
Council President, Fourth District  
San Diego City Council

#### Contact Information

Address:	202 C Street, 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor   San Diego, CA 92101
Office:	(619) 236-6644
Email:	MyrtleCole@sandiego.gov
Website:	<a href="http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd4/">www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd4/</a>





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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 10, 2018

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation  
PO Box 124923  
San Diego, CA 92112-4923



### Foundation Members and Supporters:

It is my great pleasure and honor to recognize the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and the 42nd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala event, for recognizing judges and attorneys that are excelling in the African-American legal community and awarding scholarships to commendable African-American law students.

The dedication of the Foundation to promote equality and diversity in the legal profession as well as, investing in the African-American legal community by honoring law students who have demonstrated a commitment to the community by awarding them with scholarships is admirable.

The Foundations scholarships are an essential program that provides leadership on political and civic issues while providing vital programs to advance the legal, economic, social, educational and political interests of African-American legal professionals throughout San Diego County.

I offer my sincerest appreciation to the Foundation for all of their tireless efforts and endless dedication to upholding the values and integrity of the African-American legal community and creating a meaningful impact to our future generation of legal scholars.

Yours in Service,

A blue ink signature of Racquel Vasquez.  
Racquel Vasquez,  
Mayor

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DISTRICT OFFICE  
1350 FRONT STREET, SUITE 4061  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
TEL (619) 645-3133  
FAX (619) 645-3144

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## SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS

### PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

November 10, 2018

### Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala *"The Power of a Star: It Leads, It Lights, It's Limitless"*

As President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Scholarship and Awards Gala.

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's mission is to represent and advance the interests of African-Americans in the San Diego legal community. As the first African-American judge in the city and county of San Diego, Earl B. Gilliam's legacy continues to be celebrated. His trailblazing achievements have paved the way for emerging Black attorneys in the San Diego region and the Foundation has ensured to provide a supporting network. This year's gala will reinforce the Foundation's continued quest to nurture new generations of leaders by providing scholarships to law school students who demonstrate talent, ambition, and character.

I extend my congratulations to Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation on your 42<sup>nd</sup> year of celebrating the accomplishments African-American leaders in the legal community. I also commend this year's distinguished awardees who embody academic excellence and commitment to public service. I am proud to represent such a vibrant and diverse community in the state Legislature.

My best wishes for another successful event.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toni G. Atkins".

SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS  
Senate President pro Tempore  
39<sup>th</sup> District

TGA:ct



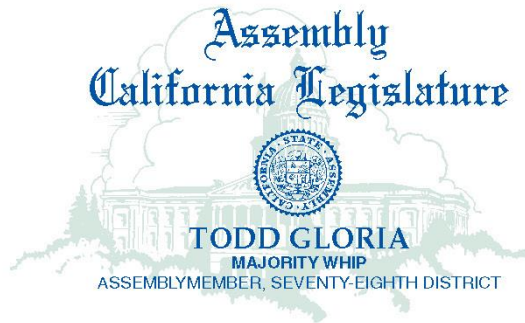


STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0078  
(916) 319-2078  
FAX (916) 319-2178

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1350 FRONT STREET, SUITE 6054  
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(619) 645-3090  
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October 12, 2018

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation  
PO Box 124923  
San Diego, CA 92112-4923

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to extend my warmest greetings and congratulate the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation on their 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. For more than 40 years, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation has been a vital organization advancing the interests and recognizing the achievements of African Americans in our legal community.

I want to personally thank and congratulate the trailblazing honorees and this year's deserving Scholarship and Award recipients. Your legal service – past, present and future – advances justice and representation in our legal institutions. Your leadership and excellence provide a shining example for all legal professionals to emulate.

I regret that I cannot attend this year's Scholarship and Awards Gala. Please accept my best wishes for a successful celebration and support for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

  
TODD GLORIA  
Assemblymember, 78<sup>th</sup> District



**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0070  
(916) 319-2080  
FAX (916) 319-2180

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
1350 FRONT ST, SUITE 6022  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
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November 10, 2018



## ***Congratulations, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation!***

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony & Scholarship Dinner, "The Power of A Star: It Leads, It Lights, It's Limitless." We are grateful for your contributions to San Diego's legal community and beyond.

We celebrate the African American attorneys and jurists that hold notable firsts in the legal community. With your tireless work and dedication, you serve as beacons of hope for those to follow. Your efforts to uphold justice, challenge adversity, and help ensure representation in the legal profession are more important than ever.

I want to especially thank you for providing scholarships and mentorship programs, which play a critical role in heightening diversity, inclusivity and opportunities for our future leaders. Year after year, you continue to build on the momentum of your mission to eliminate the root causes of poverty, powerlessness and racism.

I congratulate all of tonight's honorees and look forward to continuing to work alongside you all to advance initiatives that ensure justice and equity for all members of our community.

Sincerely,



**LORENA GONZALEZ FLETCHER**  
Assemblywoman, 80<sup>th</sup> District

330 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 531-4040

OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
SUMMER STEPHAN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**JESUS RODRIGUEZ**  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY



November 10, 2018

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner.

San Diego County is fortunate to have the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, which has stood as a beacon in the community protecting the rights of African American lawyers, judges and law students since 1976.

Our work as prosecutors has a heavy impact on the lives and safety of people in our communities. Having a prosecution team as diverse as the community it serves, brings unique perspectives and experiences, which enhances trust and fairness of the judicial system. I commend Earl B. Gilliam's achievements and contributions in promoting a greater understanding of the criminal justice system within the African-American community and for mentoring law students to join one of the best and most noble professions. I am proud of the Earl B. Gilliam members within my office, who serve our community so well.

As District Attorney of San Diego County, I am committed to having the People's Prosecutor be a true reflection of fairness and equality in justice through expanding diversity and inclusion throughout our ranks.

I commend the organizers, volunteers and participants, who have contributed to the success of the tonight's event. This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your work and accomplishments throughout the years.

On behalf of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, I offer you my best wishes for a very successful event.

Sincerely,

SUMMER STEPHAN  
San Diego County District Attorney





**Office of the San Diego City Attorney**

**Mara W. Elliott**  
City Attorney

November 10, 2018

Dear Attendees:

Congratulations to everyone celebrating the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner and, in particular, the recipients of the coveted Foundation scholarships.

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation has played an invaluable role in San Diego by effectively advocating for the advancement of African Americans in our legal community. Its efforts are evident. This organization has produced some of our most respected leaders, including judges, law firm partners, community activists, and government officials. It is, and will continue to be, a strong and valued voice in our community, particularly as we work together to address difficult issues associated with race and equality.

My office looks forward to a long and productive relationship with the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mara W. Elliott".

Mara W. Elliott  
City Attorney



**Office of Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry  
City of San Diego, District 1**



November 10, 2018

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation on your 42nd Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala, “The Power of a Star: It Leads, It Lights, It’s Limitless”.

I applaud the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation for your commitment and unwavering efforts to represent and advance the interests of African Americans in our legal community. Your scholarships and support for African American legal professionals are crucial components to that mission.

We have all benefitted greatly from the Foundation’s transformative efforts to diversify San Diego’s legal community. Now more than ever, we need to champion diversity and support and empower those who repudiate bigotry and intolerance.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bry  
San Diego City Council President Pro Tem, District 1



**DAVID ALVAREZ  
COUNCILMEMBER**

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

October 31, 2018

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation  
PO Box 124923  
San Diego, CA  
92112-4923

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on the "42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarships and Awards Gala" on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

This event recognizes to the individuals who have worked hard throughout the year to advance and represent the interests of African Americans in the legal community. Regretfully, I will not be able to attend, but would like to wish you the best for a successful event.

I would also like to take this time to recognize the tremendous work that the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation has done throughout the years. My best wishes for continued success

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Alvarez".

David Alvarez  
Councilmember, 8<sup>th</sup> District

(DAA/EN)

# *History of the Organization*

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association was originally established in 1976 as the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County (“ABASDC”). In 1982, under the presidency of Daniel Weber, ABASDC formally changed its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (“EBGBA”) in recognition of the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam, the first African-American United States District Court judge for the Southern District of California. Judge Gilliam was also the first African-American to serve as a San Diego County Superior Court judge.

In the mid-1970s there were very few Black attorneys in San Diego County. On a Saturday morning a small group of the ones who were here met up at Emma’s Pancake House at 54th and El Cajon. When they finished the meeting they all went out to go about their day and it started to rain. The men all began running to get out of the rain and no sooner had they started then a police car came up and stopped all of them. The policeman said there had been a robbery in the area and these men fit the description of the suspect. After being harassed for several minutes, upon being asked for identification all but one of the men produced their California State Bar cards. Surprised but apparently not deterred the policeman arrested the one man, attorney Willard Anthony, who did not have his bar card with him.

The others called the only local judge they could, Hon. Earl B. Gilliam. Judge Gilliam got Mr. Anthony immediately released and his record expunged. They were also able to determine that no such robbery had been reported and made sure that the conduct of the police was noted in each officer’s personnel file. As a result of this experience, the men came together to form the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County. The organization was set up primarily to serve the community and to advocate for issues impacting Black attorneys. After several years of operation, at the urging of member Daniel Weber, who later became a judge, the organization changed its name to honor the first African American to serve on the bench in San Diego, Hon. Earl B. Gilliam.

Today, many members of the organization have gone on to successful careers as lawyers and judges and in other pursuits. And our challenge continues to be how to make sure that success for some translates into opportunity for all members of the community.

\*The above information is paraphrased from a speech given by Daniel Weber’s widow, Assemblywoman for the 79th Assembly District Dr. Shirley Weber, on November 9, 2013 at the 37th Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner\*

In 2014, the Board and the members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association voted to create a 501(c)(6) organization to increase the organization’s political and civic voice in the San Diego community. As a result, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association is the 501(c)(6) membership organization and the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to raising money for the scholarship fund.



## *Honorable Earl B. Gilliam*

Earl B. Gilliam received his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State College in 1953 and his Juris Doctor from Hastings College of Law in 1957. That same year, he began his legal career as a deputy district attorney in the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

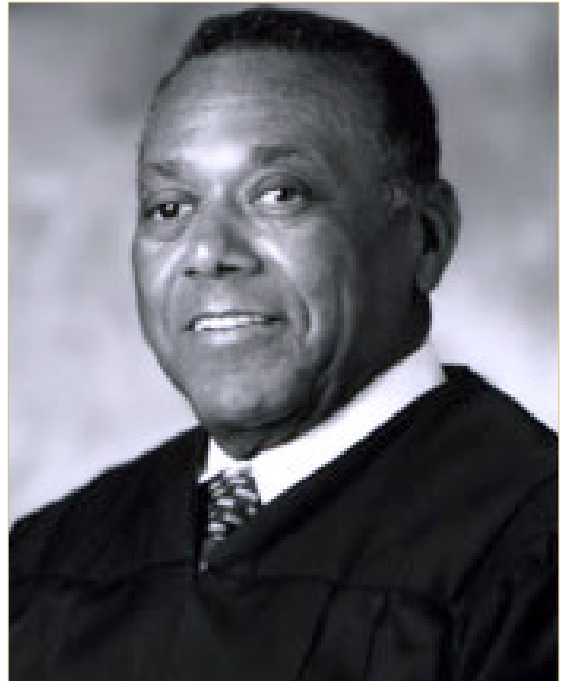
In 1961, he went into private practice and continued in that capacity for two years before becoming a San Diego Municipal Court judge in 1963. He subsequently became the first African American to serve as a San Diego County Superior Court judge in 1975. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as a judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of California. In 1993, he attained senior status at the United States District Court. Judge Gilliam was the first African American U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

In addition to serving as a judicial officer, Judge Gilliam also worked as a law professor at Western State College of Law, an instructor in Urban and Rural Studies at the University of California at San Diego and as a guest lecturer at the United States International University.

Due to his many contributions to the legal community and the community at large, Judge Gilliam was honored with more than a dozen awards during his legal career, including the following: San Diego Chamber of Commerce Young Man of the Year (1965), San Diego Citizen of the Year (1973 and 1994); San Diego Good Guy Award (1974); Boy's Club of San Diego Golden Man of the Year (1981); San Diego Trial Lawyers Association Trial Judge of the Year (1981); and a place on the San Diego High School Wall of Honor (1994).

Judge Gilliam's community and civic activities included participation in the following organizations: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Founding Member); Founder and Organizer, Black Jewish Dialogue; Chairman, Legal Committee of the NAACP; Board of Directors and Vice President YMCA; and Advisory Committees for the Board of Education on Equal Education. Additionally, Judge Gilliam served as a member of the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including the following: Villa View Hospital Foundation; San Diego Kind Corporation; Burn Institute; San Diego State University Alumni Association; Salvation Army; YMCA; Urban League; Navy League; and 200th Anniversary of the City of San Diego.

Judge Gilliam was also awarded the national Bar Association's Wiley A. Branton Award (1997) and the California Association of Black Lawyers' Judicial Pioneer Award (1998). Judge Gilliam was also inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame, which honors lawyers who have been licensed to practice for forty years or more and have made a significant contribution to the cause of justice.



# *Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association*

## *Past Presidents*

L. Marcel Stewart 2017, 2018	Vickie E. Turner 1995
Dennis Dawson 2016, 2015	Janice P. Brown 1994
Omar Passons 2014	Daniel E. Eaton 1993
Udoka Nwanna 2013	Douglas A. Oden 1992
Christian Scott 2012	Randy K. Jones 1991
Valoree Wortham 2011	Hon. Randa M. Trapp 1990
Antoinette Middleton 2010	Thomas Gayton 1989
Doc Anthony Anderson, III 2009	Barbara Davis 1988
Tina M. Fryar 2008	Hon. H Wesley Pratt 1987
Lei-Chala I. Wilson 2007, 2006	Mary A. Franklin 1986
Petrina M. Branch 2005	Patricia Robinson 1985
S. Maria Hannah 2004	Robert Bennett 1984
Hon. Roderick Shelton 2003	Hon. Daniel Weber 1983
Marvin Mizell 2002	Keith Burt 1982
Sherry E. Thompson 2001	Dennis W. Dawson 1981, 1980
H.J. Sims 2000	Hon. Joseph K. Davis 1979
Doc Anthony Anderson, III 1999	Delroy Richardson 1978
Lei-Chala I. Wilson 1998	Hon. Napoleon Jones, Jr. 1977
Ben E. Johnson 1997	Hon. Elizabeth Riggs 1976
Harold G. Murray 1996	

# *Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation*

## *Past Presidents*

Abrina Wheatfall 2018

Aaron Dumas, Jr. 2017

Joy Utomi 2016

Honorable Tilisha T. Martin\* 2015

Charles Bell 2014-2015

Omar Passons 2014

\*The Honorable Judge Tilisha T. Martin was appointed to the San Diego County Superior Court 11 days after being sworn in as President.

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## *Pillars of the Foundation*

A. King Amanpour

Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis

Janice Brown; Dave Carothers

Hon. Dwayne Moring

Dennis Dawson

Rebecca Prater

Hon. Robert Dahlquist

Patricia Robinson

Hon. Raymond Edwards (ret)

Kelly Rand

Hon. Joe Littlejohn (ret)

Hon. Roderick Shelton

Hon. Elizabeth Riggs

Hon. Randa Trapp

Tina Fryar

Vickie Turner

Hon. John Houston

Lei-Chala Wilson

\*The above individuals were lifetime members of the original 501(c)(3) now known as the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors with no membership. Pillars of the Foundation recognize individuals that have helped sustain the organization through monetary support. If you would like to become a Pillar of the Foundation, please contact [ebgbfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ebgbfoundation@gmail.com). If we omitted you, please accept our apologies and help us correct our error.



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# *Keynote Speaker*

Honorable Carol D. Codrington

## Associate Justice of the Fourth District Court of Appeal



Justice Carol D. Codrington was nominated in 2010, unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments and confirmed by the electorate. Justice Codrington is the first African American to serve in the Fourth District Court of Appeal. Prior thereto, Justice Codrington was appointed to the Riverside Superior Court in 2007. As a trial judge, she presided over various civil and criminal assignments. Prior to her elevation to the bench, she practiced complex civil litigation in state and federal court. Justice Codrington was an associate at Burke, Robinson & Pearman, an associate then partner of Mallory and Brown-Curtis, Director of Litigation at the Western Law Center for Disability Rights (now Disability Rights Legal Center), and an adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School. She was also a Deputy City Attorney with the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney and an Associate General Counsel with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Prior to being

elected Commissioner of the Superior Court by the Judges of Riverside County in 2006, she was in private practice.

Justice Codrington was active in many bar associations. She is a Past-President and a life member of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc. She also became a life member of the California Association of Black Lawyers and the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles. Justice Codrington is an ex officio member of the Riverside County Bar Association, San Bernardino County Bar Association, and the Richard T. Fields Bar Association. Justice Codrington has served as Judicial Master and President of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court. She is a member of the California Judges Association, the National Association of Women Judges, the International Association of Women Judges, among other various organizations. Justice Codrington serves on several statewide and local advisory committees and boards. She completed the prestigious Sir Richard May Seminar on International Law and International Courts, in The Hague, Netherlands.

Justice Codrington has received numerous commendations and resolutions for her commitment to public service from the California State Senate, California Legislature Assembly, Secretary of State, California State Controller, State Board of Equalization, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, City of Inglewood, County of Riverside, the Mayor of Riverside, Riverside City Council, San Bernardino Board of Supervisors, City of Upland, and the City of Fontana. Justice Codrington has received professional awards, including the Employment Round Table of Southern California Leadership Award; the William L. Strickland Excellence Award from Loyola Marymount University's African American Alumni Association; the Professional Excellence Award 100 Black Men; Judicial Officer of the Year from the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association; the Bernard S. Jefferson, Jurist of the Year Award-John M. Langston Bar Association; Judge Elwood Rich Outstanding Jurist Award; Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, Leadership in Jurisprudence Award, 16th Annual Celebration of Excellence and Jurist of the Year Award; Richard T. Fields Bar Association Judicial Officer of the Year; Champions of Justice Award from the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County Inc.; among other awards. Justice Codrington enjoys mentoring elementary, high school, college, and law students. She is a frequent lecturer, panel member, and keynote speaker. Justice Codrington was named one of 50 Inspirational Alumni of Loyola Law School of Los Angeles.

Born in Los Angeles, Justice Codrington is of Belizean descent. Justice Codrington is married, has one son, four stepchildren, and several grandchildren. She is the first in her family to earn a law degree. Justice Codrington earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola Law School and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Cum Laude, from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.

# *Outgoing Foundation President's Message*

Abrina Wheatfall

What a privilege it's been to represent the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation as President. It is quite a daunting task to lead such an historic organization rich with the legacy of so many outstanding legal professionals.

Yet, I submit to you that I am truly proud of what we've been able to accomplish over the past year. At our 41 st Gala, I echoed the common phrase, "To whom much is given, much is expected." From changes within our internal operations to new bar preparation opportunities for students, and sold-out events, we've been able to capitalize on the work of those who came before us, build upon our rich legacy, and pave new paths. As illustrated in our year in review, the Foundation has truly honored the idea that, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

Thank you to our Board of Directors, my family, and my friends for their support and encouragement. I would also like to thank the past presidents, Pillars of the Foundation, and others that offered counsel during my term as President. As I move into my new role as Immediate Past President, I encourage the Foundation to continue to engage with our stakeholders to ensure that while our organization moves forward, we continue to seek advice and input from those with the institutional knowledge and investment that has sustained us for so long. As the saying goes, "Each one, teach one." May we continue to lead and light the way for those that come after us and to see the power in our own star.

Thank you for an amazing year. May the best be yet to come.





# 2018 Foundation Year in Review

*Thank you to our Board of Directors, our sponsors, and our supporters for making 2018 a great year!*

## CIVIL RIGHTS LUNCHEON

The Foundation's first major event of the year was a sold-out Civil Rights Luncheon honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination. The theme was, "Defending the Dream" and the discussion focused on the current state of the civil rights and what is still needed to achieve equality for people of color. The esteemed panel included Cal Western Professor I. India Thusi, former ALCU Advocate Monica Montgomery, and attorney and former Earl B. Gilliam Bar and NAACP President Leichala Wilson. It was moderated by Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professor Maurice Dyson. As a result of overwhelming community support the Foundation was able to sponsor 18 law students to attend the luncheon. The successful and insightful event was featured in the San Diego Union Tribune.

## MLER PARTNERSHIP

With the help of generous sponsors Jose & Laura Castillo, the Foundation was able to sponsor law students to participate in the inaugural Minority Legal Education Resources (MLER) California Bar Process Management Course for the July 2018 exam. MLER is a supplemental bar prep program aimed at helping students with their analytical and writing skills and managing the stress of bar exam preparation. President Abrina Wheatfall, and Vice-President Yahairah Aristy personally volunteered for MLER which included weekly tutoring sessions and exam grading. The program was very well received by students, and the Foundation will again partner with MLER for the February 2019 exam.

## DAY AT THE RACES

In July 2018, the Foundation hosted its annual "A Day at the Races." A social fundraiser aimed at providing networking opportunities for students, attorneys, judges and community members, while

raising funds to support our charitable mission. A catered lunch was graciously sponsored by AbacusNext, a Technology-as-a-Service (TaaS) provider. Guests heard from Earl B. Gilliam Bar representatives about our mission and efforts in the San Diego community and how they could get involved and support.

## NEW WEBSITE

The Foundation debuted a new and improved website in May 2018. The new website includes revolving news updates to help visitors keep up on the activities of the Foundation, a reorganization of our historical documents, highlights of past scholarship honorees, and recognition of our sponsors. The new website also provides better convenience for donors to support our mission. The Foundation looks forward to adding more highlights of our diversity and inclusion efforts in the San Diego legal community.

## SUPPORT FOR THE EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The Foundation is proud to support our sister organization in its efforts to increase attorney and law student engagement and retention. This year, the Foundation sponsored events that gave law students an opportunity to network with seasoned attorneys and judges, including Coffee with Counsel, Tri-BLSA Mixer, and Speed Networking. The Foundation also sponsored a women's retreat which gave women lawyers of color an opportunity to network and discuss issues they face in the workplace, and resources and tips for navigating their career advancement.



# Lighting the Way

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We are proud to support the  
**Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation**  
and its dedication to cultivating a vibrant  
community of African American legal  
professionals in San Diego County.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship  
recipients and honorees. We salute your  
achievements and commitment to the  
Greater San Diego community.



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# *Outgoing Association President's Message*

L. Marcel Stewart

Serving two terms as President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (“EBGBA”) has been a tremendous honor. The Bible says “to whomever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked.” So, three years ago, when I was asked by a well-respected Black Judge and attorney to serve as Vice President of EBGBA to prepare for becoming President, I immediately accepted, because I knew it was my time to pay up. By then, I had been practicing in San Diego for over 12 years and I was benefitting from the decades of hard work and sacrifice of Black Judges and attorneys, many in this room, who understood the importance of building a strong association of Black attorneys to advocate for the interests of the Black community and pave the way for attorneys like me to have a successful legal practice in San Diego.

I had a few main goals for my presidency. Most importantly, we needed to strengthen EBGBA by increasing institutional knowledge through firmly institutionalizing core activities that had been part of EBGBA for many years. Unfortunately, some of the EBGBA’s most important activities would come and go depending on the Board in charge. To solve this problem, we identified core and premier activities that needed to continue year after year, then revised EBGBA’s bylaws to include these activities as duties of various Standing Committees. Additionally, we increased Board Member accountability by requiring that each Board Member chair one or more Standing Committee. Now, activities such as Neighborhood Law School, Juneteenth and various mentoring programs including Judge Johnson’s Annual Judge, Attorney and BLSA Mentorship Potluck are required activities pursuant to the Bylaws.

Another important goal was to elevate EBGBA’s standing by increasing engagement in the legal community and cultivating stronger organizational relationships. To this end, the President’s duties are more fully laid out in the Bylaws, including the President’s responsibility to actively liaison with the broader legal community on behalf of EBGBA. Over the last two years, EBGBA has increased its meaningful interactions with other legal organizations. For example, EBGBA is now a regular member the San Diego County Bar Association’s Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, formerly ERDC. Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association’s bylaws have also been amended to require the President or a designee to join the SDCBA to represent EBGBA’s interests. We have begun a relationship with the Bench Bar and we have deepened our relationships with other diversity bar associations through social and professional networking activities and joint sponsorships.

Additionally, past President Christian Scott brought the Board a very specific goal of obtaining MCLE multiprovider status from the California State Bar. Now, EBGBA is MCLE multiprovider #15615.

Notably, over the last two years, EBGBA has strongly reengaged with San Diego’s communities of color and political leaders through active participation in various coalitions with progressive political agendas. We advocated for bail reform, increased authority and independence for the Citizen’s Review Board and eradication of unjust and biased policing practices that perpetuate overincarceration by unfairly and illegally targeting minority and poor communities for increased policing.

EBGBA is a strong and active bar association and I am very proud of what we have accomplished. Kudos and a very sincere thank you to the wonderful lawyers who labored with me on EBGBA’s Board and the other members who contributed to EBGBA’s efforts.



# 2018 Association Year in Review

## MENTORSHIP

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (EBGBA) takes particular interest in its law-student members, and it goes to great lengths to mentor them. This year, EBGBA's mentoring events included Coffee and Conversation, where law students obtained career advice from our most seasoned judges and lawyers. Judge Vallera Johnson once again hosted the annual Tri-BLSA Potluck for EBGBA and the Black Law Student's Associations from each of the local law schools. Other mentoring events included speed mentoring and mixers.

## NEIGHBORHOOD LAW SCHOOL

EBGBA annually holds a six-week legal education course for the community called, The Neighborhood Law School. This year's courses were *Expunging Your Record*, *Know Your Rights*, *Immigration Law*, *Small Business Formation and Taxation*, *Employment Law*, and *Wills, Trusts and Estates*.

## PARTICIPATORY DEFENSE

EBGBA has partnered with other civic organizations to create a participatory defense group in San Diego called, Families Reunited, Engaged, and Empowered, San Diego (FREE SD), which is a hub of the national participatory defense organization, De-Bug. FREE SD empowers families to work with defense counsel to obtain the best results possible for their loved ones who have been accused of a crime.

## SAN DIEGO CHARTER AMENDMENT REGARDING THE COMMUNITY REVIEW BOARD ON POLICE PRACTICES

EBGBA has taken a lead role in working with other organizations to enact a proposed amendment to the San Diego city charter, creating a commission to adjudicate complaints against police officers. The new commission will replace San Diego's current Community Review Board on Police Practices.

## COALITION FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUST

EBGBA is a member of the Coalition for Police Accountability and Trust (CPAT), an organization seeking police reform in San Diego County. Members of the coalition include the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties and La Raza Bar Association, among many others. Because of EBGBA's work with CPAT, Mayor Faulconer's office invited EBGBA to participate in the community panel to advise the Mayor on his 2018 appointment of the new chief of police.

## SAN DIEGO WOKE TOUR

EBGBA sponsored the *Woke San Diego College Tour* where EBGBA-endorsed candidates explained what the offices they were running for do and offered students opportunities to gain valuable experience in civic engagement.

EBGBA's additional activities include the endorsement of candidates for local and state elective offices as well as candidates for local bar associations' boards of directors; the hosting of a women's retreat entitled, *The Politics of Having Double Minority Status*; the presentation of several continuing legal education seminars; participation as a member in activities of the California Association of Black Lawyers which included a Meet and Greet with gubernatorial candidate, Gavin Newsom; and, social events including our annual Juneteenth Celebration which this year included a presentation by the San Diego Black Storytellers, a barbecue lunch, and music.



# *Frederick Douglass Community Service Award*

## Christie Hill

Christie Hill serves as Deputy Advocacy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of San Diego & Imperial Counties. In this role, she helps to oversee the organization's public policy work and to coordinate the integrated advocacy strategies of its policy, organizing, communication and legal teams. Christie leads the ACLU's police accountability work in this region and is deeply committed to partnering with and within affected communities to bring an end to biased policing. In 2017, she was instrumental in the creation of the Coalition for Police Accountability and Transparency to ensure broader community outreach and engagement in the selection of the City of San Diego's current police chief.



Christie has long been invested in protecting and expanding the rights of women, children and lower-income communities, with professional experience in California, Washington, DC and New York. Her priority concerns center around issues that impact the lives of people of color: racial justice, economic justice, education equity, and police transparency and accountability.

Christie received her bachelor's degree from the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley and received her juris doctorate from Columbia Law School, where she also served for two years as an adjunct faculty member.

In 2006, Christie joined a New York-based public interest law firm representing older youth who had been pushed out of school where she fought to secure them appropriate educational services. While at Advocates for Children of New York, she led a statewide coalition to challenge "diplomas" offered to students with special needs that did nothing to further their goals after high school.

Prior to joining the San Diego ACLU staff in 2016, Christie served as the program and policy director for the Center on Policy Initiatives. There, she helped launch a campaign focused on promoting equity and transparency in the City of San Diego's budget and fought for the establishment of a higher minimum wage.

Christie Hill is active in her community, children's schools and her church. She is a member of Emerald Hills Town Council and serves on the board of the Chollas Valley Community Planning Group. Christie is married to Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., Senior Pastor of Christian Fellowship Congregational Church UCC. They are blessed with two wonderful and active sons, Hezekiah and J. Lee who remind them who the real bosses are on a daily basis.

# *Legal Trailblazer Award*

## Sherry Thompson-Taylor



Sherry Thompson-Taylor received her undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and graduated from the University of Arizona College Of Law. Sherry was a law clerk to the Hon. Gilberto Veliz in Tucson, Arizona, served as legal intern to the Hon. Senator John McCain, handled cases as a Guardian Ad Litem for the Tohono Odham tribe in Sells, Arizona and prepared cases in landlord tenant law at the Nevada Legal Services. Ms. Thompson maintains an interest in Tribal Law & Indian Rights and has published an article on Indian Gaming in the Arizona International & Comparative Law Journal.

After law school, Ms. Thompson-Taylor accepted a position as a Post-Bar Law Clerk with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and was promoted to Deputy District Attorney after passing the California Bar Examination.

Sherry has handled misdemeanor and felony jury trials.

She then took a leave of absence from the District Attorney's Office and work with Entertainment Group, Angelic Entertainment. While at Angelic Entertainment, Sherry served as General Counsel and Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs. Ms. Thompson-Taylor later returned to the District Attorney's Office and continued her career. Upon returning to the District Attorney's Office, Ms. Thompson-Taylor handled preliminary hearings, felony trials including homicides and robberies. She later joined the mental health team where she handled Sexually Violent Predator, Mentally Disordered Offender, Restoration of Sanity and Competency cases.

After completing a turn in the mental health unit, she joined the JUDGE Unit, a grant funded unit, designed to combat gangs and drug enforcement where she has prosecuted juveniles and adults for gangs and narcotics offenses. Sherry began supervising both the issuing unit and preliminary hearing teams and seven months later she was appointed to the position of Assistant Chief in the South Bay Branch of the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

In December 2016, Ms. Thompson- Taylor was appointed as the Division Chief of the Insurance Fraud Division, supervising 60 employees including attorneys, paralegals, investigators and support staff. Sherry's responsibilities also include preparing, coordinating and maintaining grant applications for 6 grant funded units with a \$12 million dollar budget.

Ms. Thompson-Taylor has been very active in local bar associations. In the past, Sherry volunteered for the Women's Resource Fair for five years. Year after year, bringing together and organizing over 100 volunteers for the childcare component of the Fair. She's participated in the Halloween Read-in and Dine Arounds. For one year, Sherry served as the Lawyers Club representative to the California Women Lawyers Association. In 2016, she joined the Diverse Women's Committee and in 2017, became the Co-Chair of the Professional Advance Committee. Sherry and co-chair Arlene Yang, hosted several well-attended and dynamic events for Lawyers Club and Ms. Thompson-Taylor continues to serve as co-chair this year.

In addition, Ms. Thompson-Taylor is a Past President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association of San Diego and sat as the co-chair to the San Diego County Bar Association Criminal Law Section for two years. She has taught at the State Bar of California Annual Meeting and served as a member of the Executive Committee for the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar. Ms. Thompson has also represented the Bar Association in the Courts & Their Communities Planning Project sponsored by the California Judicial Council.

# Scholarship Honorees



**Andrea S. Anderson**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2019**

## **The Honorable Judge Elizabeth Riggs Scholarship sponsored by Gilleon Law Firm - \$2,500**

Andrea is a third-year law student at California Western School of Law. She graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, with her Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies and Criminal Justice. Andrea was born and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She decided to move to San Diego to pursue her dream of becoming an attorney. She has always had an interest in criminal law, and she hopes to have a legal career as a criminal defense attorney. Andrea interned for the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. where she had the opportunity to gain insight and practical experience in federal criminal law. Over the summer she was a certified legal intern for the Office of the Primary Public Defenders where she had the opportunity to advocate for clients and gained real in-court experiences. Andrea was formerly the President of the Black Law Students Association and remains very active in the African American community.

## **Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield LLP - \$1,500**

Kiana Caton is a second-year law student at UC Davis School of Law (King Hall). Kiana was born and raised in Sacramento, California and later attended San Diego State University (SDSU), where she earned a bachelor of science degree in child development in 2015. While studying at SDSU, Kiana was introduced to legal analysis and mock trials through the A.I.M. for Law program. Having enjoyed her experiences in A.I.M. for Law, Kiana endeavored to attend law school. Between graduating from SDSU and attending law school, Kiana worked at the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) in San Diego, serving in various capacities as receptionist, decision proofreader, staff trainer, and other miscellaneous roles. In addition to her employment with OAH, Kiana engaged with the San Diego community through local events and organizations, such as the Jackie Robinson YMCA, Kuumba Fest, and Diego Valley Charter School. Kiana is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and strives to live by its mission, "Service to All Mankind".



**Kiana M. Caton**  
**UC Davis**  
**School of Law, 2020**





**Jacquelyne R. Crockett**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2019**

### **Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch LLP - \$1,500**

Jacquelyne Crockett is a native San Diegan, growing up in the cities of Imperial Beach and Chula Vista. She learned courage from her hard-working mother, who relied on public assistance and the help of community support. Jacquelyne worked in accounting and business management to support herself through undergraduate school. Now in law school, Jacquelyne devotes free time to mentoring neighboring communities, fellow student organization members, and Black law students through CWSL's Diversity Services. She is intrigued by the value lawyers bring to the community. As a lawyer, Jacquelyne plans to use her professional experience as a business litigator.

### **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Scholarship - \$5,000**

Evangeline Dech is a graduate from California Western School of Law where she earned several academic excellence awards. Evangeline is currently a law clerk at Hyde & Swigart APC. She is a member of the Pro Bono and Public Service Honor Society. During law school Evangeline served as the Executive Editor of Notes and Comments for Law Review, and also had published articles on the topics of immigration detention and racial exposure on social media. She served as the treasurer of the Black Law Student Association. Evangeline interned for the Community Law Project and the Office of the Public Defender. She graduated summa cum laude from Xavier University of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Arts. in Spanish Literature and Political Science. During her free time Evangeline volunteers helping build houses for families with the Habitat for Humanity.



**Evangeline Dech**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2018**



**Lorna Gerlt**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2019**

### **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000**

My name is Lorna Gerlt. I was born in Yuma, Arizona, a small desert community. As the child of a military service member, I had the opportunity to travel extensively as a child. I grew up in Arizona, Texas, Hawaii, and Japan. After completing high school, I went to the University of Washington in Seattle where I obtained a bachelor's degree in English Literature. After graduation, I moved to Imperial County where I was hired at Imperial County Superior Court in El Centro, California as a court clerk. Over the course of my legal career, I have over ten years of legal experience working with the Superior Court of California as a Judicial Assistant in the courtroom as well as a Court Services Assistant serving the public at the court calendar. I continued my legal education throughout my employment, by attending Imperial Valley College and also travelling to University of California, San Diego to obtain a master's degree in Health Policy and Law.





**Krishna Hammond**  
**University of San Diego**  
**School of Law, 2021**

**Jose and Laura Castillo - \$1,000**

Krishna Hammond grew up in San Diego, California, and is currently in his 1L year at the University of San Diego, School of Law. He received his Bachelor's of Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in Chemistry. He served as Vice Chair of the Irvine Green Environmental Ribbon Committee from April 2017 to August 2018, as well as a science policy adviser for Irvine City Council Member Melissa Fox. He plans on specializing in chemical patent law.

**Banker's Hill Law Firm, A.P.C. - \$1,000**

Jilliane Jackson is a second-year law student at University of San Diego, School of Law. Miss Jackson is originally from Morgan Hill, California and completed her undergraduate degree at Stanford University, where she majored in Classics with a focus on Ancient History.

Prior to law school, Miss Jackson worked at Orrick, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich Rosati. She is currently a law clerk at Broussard Law. After law school, Miss Jackson plans on practicing Intellectual Property litigation in San Diego, California.

Miss Jackson is dedicated to giving back to her community and very involved with campus organizations that strive to do the very same. She is the Vice Chair of Law Students for Cross Racial Understanding, the Treasurer for USD's chapter of the Black Law Students Association, and serves as the Chief of Staff for the Western Region of the National Black Law Students Association.



**Jilliane A. Jackson**  
**University of San Diego**  
**School of Law, 2020**



**Lillie Lawrence**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law Fall, 2018**

**Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000**

Lillie Lawrence is a 3L at California Western School of Law, who will complete her Juris Doctor Degree this December. Throughout her law school journey, she has not only been an active participant in Earl B. Gilliam events, but she also has served as the Secretary for her school's Black Law Student Association, she was selected as a Diversity Fellow in 2017, and she has volunteered countless hours to mentoring women of color who have entered law school behind her. Moreover, Lillie has worn her passion for public service on her sleeve by interning at the Public Defender's office and becoming a member of San Diego's chapter of the NAACP.

Last Summer, Lillie completed her clinical internship at Morris Law Firm, where she assisted plaintiffs who sought redress for various police-misconduct grievances. After Lillie graduates, she hopes to combine her passion for defending The People against criminal charges with her desire to impact policing policies through civil rights litigation into one zealous, social-justice solo practice.



**Emani S. Lawrence**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2021**

**Brian E. Watkins & Associates - \$1,000**

Emani is a 1L at California Western School of Law. She will complete her Juris Doctorate in 2021. Emani is a member of the California Western chapter of the Black Law Students Association. Throughout her journey to law school, she worked as a grassroots activist driving change in the transportation industry. During her undergraduate career, she utilized her passion to make a difference by mentoring at-risk children in Chicago through the UCANN program. Emani joined law school to take her community service to the next level. Upon graduating, she intends to become a San Diego Prosecutor, where she can use her position to focus on rehabilitative justice for the defendants.

**Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. - \$1,500**

Yvonne Locke is in her second year of Law School at California Western School of Law. She is also the current Social Chair for her school's Black Law Student Association. Prior to attending law school, she attended Georgia State University (GSU) in Atlanta, Georgia. Due to her high academic achievements in high school, she received a full scholarship to GSU from Georgia's Hope Scholarship program. While at college, she pursued an undergraduate education in political science while working as the Public Relations Director for the Association of Political Scientists. She maintained high grades throughout her years at GSU and was placed on either the Dean or President lists each semester. While focusing on her political science studies, Yvonne also worked as Resident Assistant (RA). As an RA, Yvonne was responsible for over 80 first-year students. She notes that her biggest accomplishment as an RA was her ability to bring gender-neutral housing to GSU with the help of one of her transgender residents.

Yvonne is the daughter of Ethiopian and Jamaican immigrants. She is the first person in her immediate family to attend college in the United States and the first to be admitted into law school.



**Yvonne M. Locke**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2020**



**Taylor A. O'Neal**  
**University of San Diego**  
**School of Law, 2019**

**Wilson Turner Kosmo - \$1,500**

Taylor O'Neal was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2012, she began her undergraduate career at Spelman College where she majored in Psychology. In 2016, she began her law school career at the University of San Diego School of Law, where she is now a 3L. Taylor is involved in numerous extracurricular activities at law school. She is the President of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Mock Trial team, as well as the Student Bar Association and Women's Law Caucus. Taylor plans to enter into the employment legal field upon graduation. In her spare time, Taylor enjoys hanging out with friends, cooking, shopping, and travelling.



**Austin M. Pegues**  
**University of San Diego**  
**School of Law, 2019**

### **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000**

My name is Austin Pegues and am from the small town of Brawley, Ca. After being raised and inspired by my single mother, I attended and graduated from Arizona State University. My undergraduate degree was in Interdisciplinary Studies with focuses on Business and Film. Shortly after graduating I applied to law school and gratefully was accepted to Thomas Jefferson School of Law. I set out to master my performance and reflect my hard work upon my grades. After an amazing first year at Thomas Jefferson I decided to apply for transfer to the University of San Diego. I ended up with an acceptance email from USD and a decision to make. I decided to continue my law school journey at the University of San Diego where I am currently a third year law student. With the bar just around the corner I cannot wait to continue in my hard work and perseverance to ultimately achieve my goal of passing the bar and becoming an attorney.

### **The Honorable Judge Earl B. Gilliam Scholarship sponsored by San Diego Gas & Electric - \$2,500**

Kalkidan (Kally) Temesgen is a law student at California Western School of Law. A San Diego native, Kally eventually moved to Los Angeles to attend California State University Northridge where she earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science and English Writing and Rhetoric. Now, in her 3L year, Kally serves as President of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA). She also works as a certified legal intern at the San Diego Public Defenders Office – juvenile division. Kally has also recently been admitted into California Western's Pro Bono Honors Society. She will sit for the July 2019 bar exam and, in the future, hopes to continue her work in public interest as a public defender.



**Kalkidan Temesgen**  
**California Western**  
**School of Law, 2019**



**Ashlee Walcott**  
**University of San Diego**  
**School of Law. 2019**

### **Sony - \$1,500**

I, Ashlee Walcott, am a 27-year-old black female born in Inglewood, CA. When I was 5 years of age, my mother and I moved to Moreno Valley, CA, where I resided until I move to San Diego for law school. I am an only child and was raised by a single-mother. After I graduated high school in 2009, I began attending Riverside Community College. In 2012, I transferred to California State University of San Bernardino where I majored in Sociology with a concentration in Social Service. While in college I held various jobs including tutoring, Subway, and Starbucks. I graduated college in 2014, and the following year got my first full-time job at Oak Grove Center as a Life Coach for foster and probation youth. I worked at Oak Grove until I left to attend law school full-time. I am currently a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law and plan to pursue a career in public interest, primarily working with children. My goal is to establish and run my own legal non-profit to assist disadvantaged children in our communities.



A woman with curly hair, wearing a tan trench coat, black pants, and a white shirt, is walking down a wide set of concrete steps. She is smiling and holding a coffee cup in her right hand and a folder in her left. The steps are made of large, light-colored concrete slabs.

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# Congratulations to Tonight's Honorees, the Real Stars of Our Legal Community

We are very proud of **Charles E. H. Gulley, III** who is concluding his year as Treasurer. To the members of EBGGA and the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, thank you for promoting diversity, fostering tomorrow's attorneys, and helping the stars of our local legal community rise to new heights.

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# *Installation Officiant*

## Judge Dwayne Moring



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Dwayne K. Moring to a judicial seat on the San Diego County Superior Court on July 21, 2008.

Judge Moring currently hears criminal matters in a general trial department in the San Diego South County Courthouse where he presides over serious felony trials. His previous assignment was in one of the downtown Felony Settlement Departments where half of all the felony cases filed at the main courthouse were heard in his department. He was also assigned to the Juvenile Delinquency Court for three years.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Moring was a Deputy District Attorney in the Sex Crimes and Stalking Division of the San Diego District Attorney's Office. Previously, Judge Moring was a Deputy Alternate Public Defender with the San Diego Alternate Public Defender's Office, a Deputy City Attorney in the San Diego City Attorney's Office.

Judge Moring is a board member of the San Diego Judges Association, a Sustaining Member of the San Diego Lawyers Club, a lifetime member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, a Master with the J. Clifford Wallace American Inn of Court, a Board of Director for the Crawford High School Academy of Law, and a member of the San Diego Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Judge Moring is the recipient of several awards for his involvement in the legal community. In October 2017 he was recognized by Pepperdine University as one of its Top 40 Over 40 Alumni. He was honored with the "Flame Of Inspiration Award" by the Thomas Jefferson School Of Law Black Law Student Association in March 2008 acknowledging his mentorship of minority law students. In 2007, Judge Moring received the "Outstanding Service By A Public Attorney Award" from the San Diego County Bar Association. He also received the San Diego County Sexual Assault Response Team's "Response With A Heart Award" in appreciation of his significant contribution to sexual assault prosecution in 2007.

Judge Moring received his juris doctor degree from Pepperdine School of Law in 1991. He also attended Pepperdine University as an undergraduate where he received a Bachelor's degree in journalism.

Judge Moring was born and raised in San Diego, California.





# *Incoming Foundation President's Message*

Yahairah Aristy

*“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”*

- Muhammad Ali



I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as the next President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. When I moved to California 18 years ago to begin law school I did so with a blank canvass for the journey ahead. I did not grow up in a home with lawyers nor knew any lawyers. I decided to become a lawyer after I worked as a social worker advocating for the protection of children from abuse and neglect in the Chicago juvenile court. As I drove from Chicago to San Diego with my tuxedo cat and my yellow labrador retriever dog, I did not know anything about bar associations or foundations. Working full-time as a policy analyst for the County Child Welfare Services agency and going to law school simultaneously left no time for me learn about bar associations or foundations. When I became a new lawyer I learned about the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. I instantly felt at home and welcome at the events, and the mentorships that I gained from participating in the events have been invaluable.

In 2016 I was invited to apply to serve on the board of directors for the Foundation. I applied because I believed in our mission and felt a personal responsibility to ensure that I did all I could to help assist African American law school students and attorneys succeed in our legal profession. Serving on the Foundation board has been one of the most rewarding experiences because we strive to achieve our mission and we truly see our work directly benefit the population we aim to help. Our ability to achieve our mission is founded on the generosity of our sponsors. In addition, it is possible because of the hard work of our wonderful board to ensure that our events provide valuable insight about the importance of African Americans in the legal and non-legal community.

As President, I will continue to solidify our infrastructure to substantially increase our financial capacity to assist more meaningfully our law students and new attorneys. I will also seek to create new opportunities to collaborate with organizations that aim to diversify the legal community. This in turn will provide more access to resources that help our law students and new attorneys succeed in the legal profession. I am truly privileged to lead the Foundation.

Thank you for being part of this very special evening. May you always remember that you are a star with your own luminary presence.

*“The Power of A Star: It Leads, It Lights, It's Limitless”*



# *Incoming Association President's Message*

Andrea St. Julian



In 2014, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (EBGBA) underwent a fundamental change. At that time, EBGBA was a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. After much soul-searching, members believed that EBGBA needed to broaden its abilities, and for that reason, we decided to re-envision EBGBA and also create a second organization. Thus was born the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association as a 501(c)(6) and the Earl B. Giliam Bar Foundation as a 501(c)(3). As a 501(c)(6), EBGBA has the freedom to engage in a wider range of civic activities.

At the time the two organizations were born, Dennis Dawson became president of the new EBGBA. A year later, Marcel Stewart was elected as president and has served two terms. Under their leadership, EBGBA took its first steps as an expanded organization, seeking to more fully accomplish its mission to advance the political, economic, educational, social, legislative and legal interests of the African American community in San Diego County.

As detailed in this program (see Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association 2018 Accomplishments), during the past year, EBGBA worked with other organizations to found FREE SD, a participatory defense group that supports the friends and families of those who are charged with crimes. EBGBA continues as an active member of the Coalition for Police Accountability and Trust. It has taken a lead role in working with other organizations to enact a proposed amendment to the San Diego city charter which will create a strengthened commission to adjudicate complaints against police officers. In addition to these and other accomplishments, EBGBA remains committed to its annual, six-week community education course, called the Neighborhood Law School and to mentoring law students and youths.

I am profoundly enthusiastic about continuing to build on the work begun by Dennis Dawson and Marcel Stewart to fully embrace EBGBA as a 501(c)(6). I thank the EBGBA membership for giving me and the new Board this opportunity.



# *2019 Foundation Board of Directors*



**President**  
**Yahairah Aristy**

Yahairah Aristy is a Deputy Public Defender in the Public Defender's Office since 2005 and handles a wide array of felony cases. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and a Masters in Clinical Psychology from Roosevelt University. She is an alumna of The Women Campaign School at Yale University. Yahairah serves as the Vice President for the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. She previously served as Secretary and Co-Chair of the 2017 Annual Dinner. Yahairah serves as a board director for Lawyers Club of San Diego and is the Affiliate Governor for the board of directors for the California Women Lawyers. Yahairah also co-chairs the Lawyers Club Diverse Women's Committee, and previously co-chaired the Membership Development and Law Student Outreach Committees. Yahairah serves as the Vice President – PAC for the National Women Political Caucus – San Diego.



**Immediate Past President**  
**Abrina Wheatfall**

Abrina Wheatfall is a Senior Legal and Corporate Compliance Specialist at ICW Group. Her responsibilities include conducting investigations of high-priority allegations of ethics violations, overseeing corporate policy and procedures to advance the Company Code of Business Conduct, and serving as the Legal Subject Matter Expert on compliance related matters. Abrina is a Certified Compliance & Ethics Professional, and a member of the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. Prior to joining the private sector, Abrina spent five years at the University of California San Diego as an NCAA Compliance Officer. She was responsible for investigating and submitting findings of NCAA violations, monitoring compliance, and providing counsel to the University on NCAA regulations.

Abrina received a J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and a bachelor's degree in political science and ethnic studies from the University of Oregon where she became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Abrina has held various leadership roles within the Earl B. Gilliam Bar since 2013.



**Vice President**  
**Brittney Dobbins**

Brittney Renee-Moss Dobbins is a National Black Lawyers' Top 40 Under 40 member in California. She is currently an associate in the San Diego office of Buchalter and a member of the firm's Labor and Employment and Intellectual Property Litigation practice groups. Brittney focuses her practice on employment litigation and counseling representing Fortune 500 corporations, startups, and nonprofits in class action, individual litigation, mediation, and arbitration. She practices before state and federal courts and agencies and has represented clients in the areas of labor, employment, intellectual property, product liability, and business law. She has also provided clients with preventative advice on employee discipline and investigations, employment agreements and policies, and compliance with all aspects of labor and employment law.

# *2019 Foundation Board of Directors*



**Treasurer**  
**Joscelyn Campbell**

Joscelyn (Jay B) Campbell is a Deputy Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender for San Diego County. He is a product of Brooklyn, New York, moving to San Diego in 2011 to attend Thomas Jefferson School of Law. During his time in law school, Joscelyn served as Vice President of the Black Law Students Association, as well as Captain of the schools National Trial Team.

Joscelyn joined the Office of the Public Defender upon graduating from law school in 2014. There, he represents indigent individuals charged with felony offenses. He often returns to his alma mater to speak to newly admitted law students and to help coach the schools National Trial Team.



**Secretary**  
**Euketa Oliver**

For the past twelve years, Euketa Oliver has been employed as a Deputy Public Defender with the San Diego County Office of the Primary Public Defender. Her practice has focused on representing indigent individuals in their criminal and appellate matters. She earned her Juris Doctorate in 2004 from Whittier Law School. Ms. Oliver also earned a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from John F. Kennedy University and a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development from California State University, Sacramento. In addition to being licensed to practice law in the State of California, she was also admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

In addition to being a member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Ms. Oliver is a member of Lawyers Club of San Diego and the San Diego County Bar Association. She also has taught at the California Public Defender's Association Basic Trial Skills and is a coach for the Bonita High School Mock Trial Team.



**Parliamentarian**  
**Brad Muldrow**

Born in Buffalo, New York, Bradley Jordan Muldrow moved to San Diego in 2011 to attend the University of San Diego School of Law. He served as Academic Affairs Chair for USD's Black Law Students Association from 2012-2013, and served as Co-President of the organization from 2013-2014. Since graduating from law school, Bradley has served as an attorney in San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Litigation Department and Robbins Arroyo LLP's New Matters Department. Bradley joined the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board in 2016.



# *2019 Foundation Board of Directors*



**Director**  
**Robert W. Lincoln**

Robert W. Lincoln is an associate at Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP in the Business Litigation practice group. Mr. Lincoln represents businesses and government entities in complex litigation and general liability matters. Mr. Lincoln served five years in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, attaining the rank of Captain. As a Judge Advocate, he served as prosecutor for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and subsequently defense counsel, representing soldiers throughout California, Hawaii, and Nevada. In both roles, Mr. Lincoln served as lead counsel in more than 30 felony and misdemeanor court martial actions and adverse administrative hearings.

Mr. Lincoln participated in moot court as a member of the Giles Sutherland Intellectual Property Team. He was also involved in the New York City Bar National Moot Court Competition. Mr. Lincoln was a second-year intern for the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and a law clerk for a national health care services provider. He is licensed in Minnesota and California.



**Director**  
**Omar Passons**

Omar Passons is a construction and land use attorney who has worked to elevate inclusive workforce and economic development in San Diego for several years. During his career, Omar represented large public and private clients in the development and construction of projects throughout the San Diego region and he has developed an understanding of the workforce challenges and labor shortages that frustrate construction sector growth. Omar grew up in San Diego County's foster care system and brings a unique perspective to the work of elevating workforce opportunities for young people of varied backgrounds. He is the Vice Chair of the San Diego Workforce Partnership's Workforce Development Board and serves as the liaison to the San Diego Brewer's Guild. Omar is deeply passionate about creating opportunities for all young people to succeed and arming them with the tools and knowledge necessary to compete in the modern economy. Omar is a past-President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and a San Diego native.



**Director**  
**Samira Seidu**

Samira Seidu is a Deputy District Attorney with the County of San Diego District Attorney's Office. Samira is originally from New York and graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She then earned a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College, before moving to San Diego where she earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School Of Law. Samira is also a member of the San Diego Lawyer's Club and coaches the University City High School Mock Trial Team.



# *2019 Foundation Board of Directors*



**Director**  
**Taylor S. Williams**

Taylor Williams is a Deputy District Attorney at the San Diego District Attorney's Office. She prosecutes an array of misdemeanor crimes and has taken several cases to verdict. Taylor received her Bachelor of Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University and Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law. Taylor is a member of Lawyers Club of San Diego, and she serves as a coach for the Association of Business Trial Lawyers moot court competition.



**Director**  
**Joy Utomi**

Joy Utomi is a deputy attorney general in the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. She works in the Criminal Appeals, Writs, and Trials unit where she prosecutes felony cases. As a deputy attorney general, she has argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and all three divisions of the Fourth District of the California Court of Appeal, and has filed briefing in the California Supreme Court. In recent years, she has worked with a statewide team of appellate advocates who prosecute sexually violent predators. Born in Nigeria, Ms. Utomi immigrated to the United States as a young child. She received her law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Loyola Marymount University. Prior to law school, she was a news producer at the ABC affiliate in Las Vegas.



## *Thank You to the Outgoing 2018 Foundation Board!*

Abrina Wheatfall, President

Aaron Dumas, Jr., Immediate Past President

Yahairah Aristy, Vice President

Jaymes Sanford, Treasurer

Brittney Dobbins, Secretary

Brad Muldrow, Parliamentarian

Omar Passons, Director

Joy Utomi, Director

Euketa Oliver, Director

# *2019 Association Board of Directors*



**President**  
**Andrea Renee St. Julian**

Andrea St. Julian's San Diego practice focuses on federal and state civil and criminal appeals. She is certified by the California Board of Legal Specialization as an appellate specialist and is the author of a range of articles found in various legal publications. Ms. St. Julian's social justice interests have led her practice to include pro bono matters such as the civil rights action of *Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc) and the *Republic of Marshall Islands v. United States*, 865 F.3d 1187 (2017), arising from the U.S.'s breach of its obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As a board member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Ms. St. Julian is active in the community, working on such projects as the San Diego Participatory Defense Group, also known as Free San Diego.



**Vice President**  
**Geneviève Jones-Wright**

As a fourth grader, Geneviève Jones-Wright decided to follow in the steps of Justice Thurgood Marshall and become a "social engineer." Since then, she has been determined to "carry the bags" of Justice Marshall as he had done for Charles Hamilton Houston. In keeping with the vision, Geneviève obtained a J.D. from Howard Law after graduating from the University of San Francisco with a B.A. in communications. She obtained an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy specializing in federal criminal defense from California Western School of Law. Since 2006 she has proudly served San Diego County as a public defender. Geneviève serves on San Diego's Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention and on the Board of the David's Harp Foundation, and is a member of the State Bar of California's Council on Access and Fairness. Geneviève is determined to use the law as a tool for our most vulnerable.



**Treasurer**  
**Shanly Hopkins**

Shanly Hopkins is a fair housing attorney at Kimball, Tirey & St. John. In her position, Shanly works with landlords and property management companies to ensure compliance with various fair housing laws. Additionally, she conducts fair housing trainings and seminars throughout California. Shanly was admitted to the State Bar of California in December 2015. She attended law school at Thomas Jefferson School of law and earned her bachelor's degree in finance real estate and law, with an emphasis in capital markets, from California State University Long Beach. Shanly is currently a member at large of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Board and has served on the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Board since 2015 in various capacities. Shanly is also an active member of the Lawyers Club of San Diego, and has served on various committees since 2012.

# *2019 Association Board of Directors*



**Secretary**  
**Maresa Martin**

A Texas native, Maresa Martin Talbert graduated from Baylor University with her degree in Political Science & Economics. After graduating from college, Maresa served three years as a Legislative Aide at the Texas State Capitol performing bill analyses, and consulting with lobbyists, government officials, and interest groups to provide sound recommendations to state senators. In March 2010, upon leaving the capitol, Maresa joined the U.S. Navy. The following July, she was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer, and reported onboard her first ship, homeported in San Diego, California. In 2014, Maresa resigned from active duty to attend law school. She graduated from California Western School of Law in April 2017, and was subsequently licensed as a California attorney. Now a solo practitioner, Maresa operates Talbert Law Office, a law practice focused on business & intellectual property law, and continues to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve.



**Parliamentarian**  
**Marquetta**  
**Stewart-Brown**

Marquetta Stewart-Brown has a 35+ year career in telecommunications in AT&T's Government Solutions organization where she reviews, edits, and drafts responses to government Requests for Proposals. Additionally, Ms. Stewart-Brown is an adjunct professor of mediation courses at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and California Western School of Law. Ms. Stewart-Brown volunteers with the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) on the Service Member Civil Relief Act Panel and is a Court Appointed Attorney (CAA) for the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, in the Probate Department. On a referral basis from the Probate Court, she provides mediation services for the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Probate Mediation Clinic. Ms. Stewart-Brown is also a certified arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Ms. Stewart-Brown's professional affiliations include the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, San Diego County Bar Association, Probate Attorneys of San Diego (PASD), and the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.



**Board Member**  
**Hali Anderson**

Hali Anderson is an employment litigator who specializes in wage and hour class actions as well as single plaintiff discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination cases. After 10 years of representing employers, Hali found her home representing workers at GrahamHollis. She uses her insider knowledge to predict and shut down employer delay and defense tactics. Hali is originally from Wilmington, Delaware and attended undergraduate school at the American University in Washington D.C. Hali then moved to Philadelphia to help recipients of federal assistance find employment. Thereafter, she moved to San Diego to attend law school and has remained here ever since. Hali is on the Board of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association; is a San Diego LEAD IMPACT graduate; and has graduated from the Black Women's Institute of Leadership Development. She is also a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity fellow (Class of 2014).



# *2019 Association Board of Directors*



**Board Member**  
**Kia Roberts Brady**

Kia Roberts Brady is currently employed as an attorney at Procopio Cory Hargreaves Savitch LLP where she is a member of the Real Estate, Energy and Environmental practice group. She counsels clients on general real estate matters relating to acquisition, disposition and development of retail, commercial, multi-family, office and industrial properties. She is also well experienced in preparing homebuyer purchase documentation for subdivided land projects and obtaining public reports from the California Bureau of Real Estate. She is a 2018 recipient of the National Bar Association's Top 40 Under 40 –Nation's Best Advocates and 2016 recipient of San Diego Business Journal's Best of the Bar. She received her B.A. from University California at Berkeley and her J.D. from University of Southern California Law School.



**Board Member**  
**Keith Lollis**

Keith Lollis is a Prosecuting Attorney at the San Diego District Attorney's Office. He was raised in Kansas City, Missouri and graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, earning a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Mathematics. Keith Lollis earned his Juris Doctorate from Georgetown Law Center. From 1996 to 1998, Keith worked for the San Diego City Attorney's Office. From 1998 to 2007, he worked for the San Diego District Attorney's office in the following divisions: Vista Branch, Juvenile, Central Pretrial, C.A.T.C.H Unit, Superior Court, Gang Unit, and the Economic Crimes Unit. From 2007 – 2017, Keith owned a small business, Georgia KL Venture's dba McDonald's in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Keith has been married to Kirsten Lollis for 23 years. They have three children, Keith A., Kennedy T. and Kaley A.. Keith A is a senior at Arizona State University. Kennedy is a freshman at University of Southern California, and Kaley is a sophomore at Cathedral Catholic High School.



**Board Member**  
**Omar Passons**

Omar Passons is a construction and land use attorney who has worked to elevate inclusive workforce and economic development in San Diego for several years. During his career, Omar represented large public and private clients in the development and construction of projects throughout the San Diego region and he has developed an understanding of the workforce challenges and labor shortages that frustrate construction sector growth. Omar grew up in San Diego County's foster care system and brings a unique perspective to the work of elevating workforce opportunities for young people of varied backgrounds. He is the Vice Chair of the San Diego Workforce Partnership's Workforce Development Board and serves as the liaison to the San Diego Brewer's Guild. Omar is deeply passionate about creating opportunities for all young people to succeed and arming them with the tools and knowledge necessary to compete in the modern economy. Omar is a past-President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and a San Diego native.



# *2019 Association Board of Directors*



**Board Member  
Donté Wyatt**

Attorney Donte T. Wyatt is a solo practitioner in San Diego that focuses on Federal and State Criminal Defense. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from San Diego State University where he majored in both Political Science and Africana Studies. Attorney Wyatt was the Outstanding Graduate for the Africana Studies Department and he obtained his degree in Political Science with Distinction. Donte T. Wyatt obtained his Juris Doctorate (Law Degree) from California Western School of Law with a Concentration in Criminal Defense and Prosecution with Distinction. Prior to opening up his own criminal defense law practice Donte Wyatt served as a Deputy District Attorney for the County of San Diego for over ten (10) years.



## *Thank You to the Outgoing 2018 Association Board!*

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Andrea Renee St. Julian, Vice President

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## CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT W. LINCOLN, III

on your recent election to serve on the **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation** Board of Directors.

Higgs Fletcher & Mack LLP supports the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and congratulates this year's honorees and scholarship recipients.





