



Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation



Scholarship and Awards

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

TODAY'S DREAM, TOMORROW'S REALITY

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

November 12th, 2020



Supporting diversity in this and the next generation of San Diego's lawyers

SDG&E® is proud to support the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation in its efforts to diversify the legal community through scholarships for law students and by inspiring the next generation of black lawyers through career presentations to college and K-12 students, networking events, bar preparation and community service projects.

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D&I is in our DNA

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—LLP—

WILSON TURNER KOSMO
IS PROUD TO BE A SILVER
SPONSOR OF THE EARL B.
GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION'S
44TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
AND AWARDS VIRTUAL

Hyundai Motor America is proud to support the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association's 44th Annual Scholarship and Awards Virtual Celebration, and applauds Gilliam for its work in the community.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners and award recipients!

Hyundai-Genesis are committed to diversity and inclusion as a core value. We are a company with bold ideas and big dreams for today and the future. We believe that through an inclusive business process and a diverse team, we can meet the challenges of the market place, while reflecting the conviction of our values.

To learn more about our diversity Initiatives, please visit HyundaiDiversity.com.



HYUNDAI



GENESIS





Scholarship and Awards Virtual Celebration

Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality

Working Together For A Brighter Future



Welcome & Opening Remarks

Euketa Oliver

Foundation President

Invocation

Mother Gloria Lynch

Supervisor of Women,

So. California II Jurisdiction, C.O.G.I.C.

“Lift Ev’ry Voice & Sing”

Isaac Jackson

2020 Virtual Celebration Co-Chair

2020 Foundation Highlights

Euketa Oliver

Foundation President

2020 Association Highlights & Presentation of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Awards

Andrea St. Julian

Association President

Presentation of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Awards

Euketa Oliver
Foundation President

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Excellence Award

Honoree

Honorable Judge Randa M. Trapp

Presentation of Keynote Speaker

Samira Seidu
2020 Virtual Celebration Co-Chair

Keynote Address

Honorable Judge Kevin C. Brazile
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Presentation of Scholarships

Yahairah Aristy
Scholarship Committee Chair

~ Installation Ceremony ~

Installation of the 2021 Association Board of Directors

Honorable Judge Randa M. Trapp

Installation of the 2021 Foundation Board of Directors

Honorable Judge Randa M. Trapp

2021 Foundation President's Message and Closing Remarks

Joscelyn B. Campbell
Foundation President



Invocation Officer



Mother Gloria Lynch



Mother Gloria Lynch is the General Supervisor of Women for the Southern California II Jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ. Mother Lynch also serves as the 1st Lady of Revival Time Church of God in Christ in San Diego, California where her husband, Bishop Lonnie Lynch is founder and Sr. Pastor. Her extensive ministry has included community service programs that provided nutrition to homeless and low-income children, pregnant mothers, and impoverished families. She has also provided counseling for battered and displaced women. Mother Lynch conducts revivals and is a keynote speaker at conferences and retreats nationally. Above all, Mother Lynch loves the Lord and has committed her life to ministry.

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson, Music by J. Rosamond 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.

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 than 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.

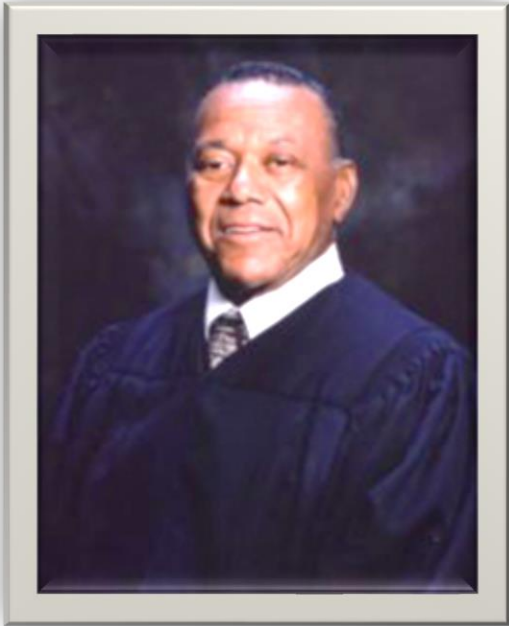
The others called the only local judge they could, Hon. Earl B. Gilliam. Judge Gilliam got Mr. Anthony immediately released and his record expunged. They were also able to determine that no such robbery had been reported and made sure that the conduct of the police was noted in each officer’s personnel 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.

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ATTORNEYS
of
San Diego County

755 Union Street, Suite 302 • San Diego, California 92101

Executive Committee

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Napoleon A. Jones
233-9281

Vice President

Deiroy Richardson
232-4252 ext. 1786

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Beatrice W. Kemp
233-7755

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Clarence Irving
263-2196

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231-1326

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236-9351

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Dennis Dawson
236-7880

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297-8330

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Jacqueline Walker
263-2269

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263-2489

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Roy Landers
452-9655

Public Relations

Clarence Irving
263-2196

Employment

Curtis Morrison
231-1326

Membership

Daniel Weber
231-1326

March 28, 1977

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

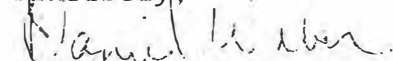
Dear Sir:

Recently, we organized the Bar Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County. Our Association was organized because we were and are concerned with, among other things, the fair, impartial and proper administration of justice. We believe that justice can only be fairly, impartially and properly administered when those who dispense justice reflect the communities they serve. We do not believe that the Courts in the Fourth Appellate District properly reflect the communities they serve. There are very, very few Black and women judges in this district.

Recently, it has come to our attention that there are, or will be very soon, vacancies on the Fourth District Court of Appeal and the San Diego Municipal Court. We recommend for your consideration Superior Court Judge Earl B. Gilliam for appointment to the Fourth District Court of Appeal. We also recommend the appointments of Attorneys Napoleon A. Jones, Jr., and Clifton D. Blevins to the San Diego Municipal Court.

If we can be of any further assistance in this matter, do not hesitate to contact us. Also, we are looking forward to working with you on other matters of concern to the people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



DANIEL WEBER,
Court Committee Chairman
2845 Imperial Ave., S.D., CA 92102
(714) 293-5081

c.c.: J. Anthony Kline
Dr. Carlotta Herman Mellon

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

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

DAVID P. GREENBERG
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUMMER STEPHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 12, 2020

Dear Friends:



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's 44th Annual Awards and Scholarship Gala, which for the first time in the foundation's history will be a virtual celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. Now more than ever, the Earl B. Gilliam Foundation's work, achievements and contributions in promoting a greater understanding of the criminal justice system is critical as we all move forward as a society in the pursuit of equity. As you celebrate your theme **"Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality: Working Together for a Brighter Future,"** you will be acknowledging the dreams of the past, while striving to a future reality for a better and more inclusive legal community and society.

Our work in the District Attorney's Office in the areas of crime prevention, prosecution and victim support, has a very real impact on the lives and safety of everyone in our communities. Having a team in our Office that strives to be as diverse as the community it serves brings unique perspectives and experiences, enhancing trust and fairness in the judicial system. I am committed to making the DA's Office a reflection of fairness and equality in justice by expanding diversity and inclusion throughout our ranks. I am proud of those in my office who are Earl B. Gilliam members and serve our community so well.

On behalf of all of us in the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, may your virtual event be as successful as each of your previous galas and may your members and the community rally around your organization during this important time.

Sincerely,

SUMMER STEPHAN
San Diego County District Attorney



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER MONICA MONTGOMERY
FOURTH DISTRICT



November 12, 2020

Greetings Earl B. Gilliam Foundation Gala Attendees,

Welcome to the 44th Annual Earl B. Gilliam Foundation Scholarship and Awards Gala!

I am honored to serve as Co-Chair for this incredible event and commend the Foundation's work, as it has awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to law students in the past two years.

This year, the pandemic has impacted every aspect of our daily lives, including the way we can assemble for celebrations. Although this evening, the 2020 Gala is a virtual celebration, we must take time to reflect on the theme - *"Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality: Working Together for a Brighter Future."*

As we recognize and bestow honor on some of the best minds in our legal community and award scholarships to law students, we must also look to the annals of history, embrace our roots and cast a vision for our shared dreams for a brighter, more inclusive future, legal community, and society.

On behalf of the City of San Diego, thank you to all the Foundation's faithful supporters, and congratulations on another successful annual event.

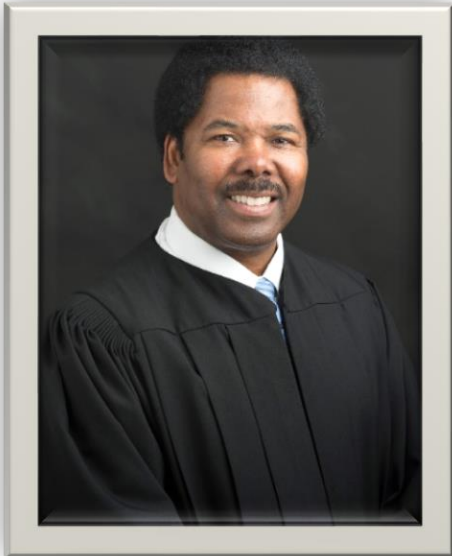
Sincerely,

Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe
City of San Diego, District 4

Keynote Speaker



The Honorable Kevin C. Brazile



Judge Kevin C. Brazile was appointed Judge to Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) by Governor Gray Davis in December 2002.

Judge Brazile graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Cum Laude) in 1980 and earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the UCLA School of Law in 1983.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Brazile was a Civil trial attorney for the Los Angeles County Counsel's Office from 1984-2002, where he handled Personal Injury (PI), employment discrimination, dangerous condition of public property, and Federal civil rights litigation.

Judge Brazile has been assigned to LASC's Stanley Mosk Courthouse since October 1, 2007. On January 1, 2008, he was given a general civil (unlimited) calendar where he conducted jury and non-jury trials and heard law and motion matters. From January 2013 to December 31, 2014, Judge Brazile was one of two Assistant Supervising Judges of Civil for LASC. On January 2, 2015, he became the Supervising Judge of Civil for LASC, where he was assigned to the Master Calendar Courtroom (Dept. 1) of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

In October 2016, Judge Brazile was elected Assistant Presiding Judge for LASC, effective January 1, 2017. In September 2018, he was elected as the Presiding Judge for the LASC, effective January 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2020.

Prior to his assignment at Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Judge Brazile was the Site Judge of the West Covina Courthouse, where he handled criminal trials, felony preliminary hearings, and arraignment in 2005.

During his LASC career at Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Judge Brazile has presided over numerous general civil (unlimited) jury trials based upon employment discrimination/harassment, intentional and negligent personal injury torts, wrongful death actions, breach of contract claims, medical and legal malpractice claims, premises liability and asbestos litigation.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Past Presidents



Yahairah Aristy 2019

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.

Pillars of the Foundation



A. King Amanpour	Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis
Janice Brown	Hon. Dwayne Moring
Dave Carothers	Rebecca Prater
Dennis Dawson	Patricia Robinson
Hon. Robert Dahlquist	Kelly Rand
Hon. Raymond Edwards (ret)	Hon. Roderick Shelton
Hon. Joe Littlejohn (ret)	Hon. Randa Trapp
Hon. Elizabeth Riggs	Vickie Turner
Tina Fryar	Lei-Chala Wilson
Hon. John Houston	

* 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 info@ebgbf.org If we omitted you, please accept our apologies and help us correct our error.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Past Presidents



Andrea St. Julian 2019
L. Marcel Stewart 2017, 2018
Dennis Dawson 2016, 2015
Omar Passons 2014
Udoka Nwanna 2013
Christian Scott 2012
Valoree Wortham 2011
Antoinette Middleton 2010
Doc Anthony Anderson, III 2009
Tina M. Fryar 2008
Lei-Chala I. Wilson 2007, 2006
Petrina M. Branch 2005
S. Maria Hannah 2004
Hon. Roderick Shelton 2003
Marvin Mizell 2002
Sherry Thompson-Taylor 2001
H.J. Sims 2000
Doc Anthony Anderson, III 1999
Ben E. Johnson 1997
Lei -Chala I. Wilson 1998

Harold G. Murray 1996
Vickie E. Turner 1995
Janice P. Brown 1994
Daniel E. Eaton 1993
Douglas A. Oden 1992
Randy K. Jones 1991
Hon. Randa M. Trapp 1990
Thomas Gayton 1989
Barbara Davis 1988
Hon. H Wesley Pratt 1987
Mary A. Franklin 1986
Patricia Robinson 1985
Robert Bennett 1984
Hon. Daniel Weber 1983
Keith Burt 1982
Dennis W. Dawson 1981, 1980
Hon. Joseph K. Davis 1979
Delroy Richardson 1978
Hon. Napoleon Jones, Jr. 1977
Hon. Elizabeth Riggs 1976

2020 Foundation Outgoing President's Message



Euketa Oliver



It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as the 2020 Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation President. It seems like it was just yesterday that I stood before a crowd of over 300 people and shared my personal journey on becoming an attorney and being the “first” in so many different areas of my life. When I gave that speech, I had no idea that two pandemics were right around the corner and again I would be the first. This time I would be the first president of the Foundation to lead the organization in the midst of a global pandemic, COVID-19 and social/racial justice movements. However, I am blessed that although I was the first, I was not alone.

I had the privilege of serving with a dynamic board of directors, that no matter what was going on, their commitment to the Foundation never wavered. Together we were able to navigate through these uncharted waters and ensure that we had a successful year and were able to fulfill our mission of advancing the interests of African Americans and increasing diversity in the legal community.

I want to personally thank each board member for all of your hard work in these trying times. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the Past Presidents and Pillars of the Foundation. It is because of your vision, determination, structure and guidance that I had the tools and support necessary to make 2020 the successful year it has been. Through it all, we were able to not only put on a dynamic Civil Rights Forum, but we are able to award over \$35,000 in scholarships.

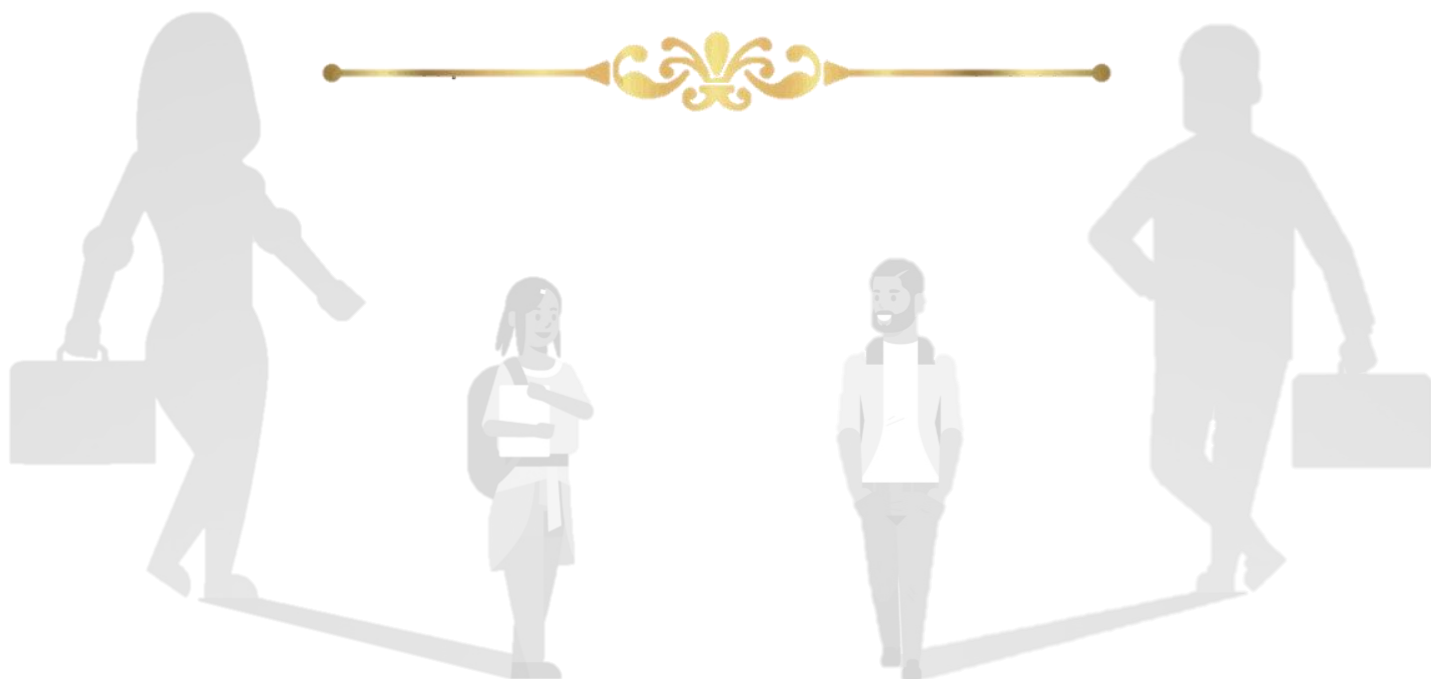
I would also like to thank our sponsors, the judiciary, and community supporters, because your generosity makes it possible for us to help change the lives of law students and it shows them just how supportive the legal community in San Diego is. Lastly, I would like to thank my friends, family and my PD family for all of your support and encouragement.

As I transition into my new position of Immediate Past President, I am confident that this new board will take the Foundation to new heights and cannot wait to see how they do it.

Thank you for a wonderful year!



2020 Foundation Board of Directors



2020 Foundation Year in Review



CIVIL RIGHTS VIRTUAL FORUM

On June 24, 2020, The Foundation held its virtual Civil Rights Forum titled: The Continued Struggle: The Past, Present & Future of the Civil Rights Movement. This year's forum was co-chaired by Josi Swonetz and Kevonna Ahmad. This highly anticipated event was attended virtually by an audience of over 240 judges, attorneys, law students and community members. The Honorable Roderick W. Shelton moderated a riveting panel discussion between Cheryl Alethia Phelps, Communications Director with the ACLU -San Diego and Imperial Counties; Professor Jody Armour, USC Gould School of Law; and Leila Steinberg, Former Manager to Tupac Shakur and Founder of the Aim4TheHeart Foundation.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

The Foundation issued a statement denouncing police brutality. Euketa Oliver, President, participated in the San Diego County Bar Association's Bench-Bar-Media Event: Meeting this Moment, which addressed how the bench, bar, and media addressed the intersection of COVID-19 and the Social Justice Movement.

SCHOLARSHIPS

An integral part of the Foundation's mission is to diversify the legal community by awarding scholarships to law students. Through the generous donations of our sponsors, this year the Foundation awarded over \$35,000 in scholarships.

HONORING JUDGE LEO VALENTINE

The Foundation nominated Judge Leo Valentine for the San Diego Bar Foundation's Distinguished Lawyer Memorial. The nomination was accepted and Judge Valentine was inducted.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Foundation's Board of Directors are committed to personally supporting organizations that aim to support and diversify the San Diego County Legal Community. This year, the Foundation Board of Directors attended the YMCA Martin Luther King All-Hands Breakfast and the Voice and Viewpoint Annual Gala, where Judge John Houston was honored. Euketa Oliver, President, volunteered for the 2020 Read Across America Read-In at Porter South Elementary School, where she read several books and answered questions about becoming a lawyer to a 2nd grade class of students, with the goal of planting the seed that being an attorney is attainable. Euketa Oliver, President, also participated in the virtual welcome reception for 1L law students hosted by the USD BLSA. Immediate Past President, Yahairah Aristy, Secretary, Taylor Williams, and Parliamentarian, Isaac Jackson coached mock trial programs at the high school and law school levels. Also, the Foundation is extremely delighted and proud that Ms. Aristy was sworn in as the 2020-2021 President of Lawyers Club of San Diego. Although we were not able to physically interact with the community, the Foundation Board of Directors sent law students a video message to offer words of support and encouragement in these unprecedented times. The Foundation Board of Directors also sent our previous sponsors a video message expressing our gratitude for their support.

2020 Association Outgoing President's Message

Andrea St. Julian



The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (EBGBA) certainly did not go untouched by the turbulence of 2020. Social mixers with other affinity bars screeched to a halt. The cherished mentorship of our law students became arm's-length, and we received increasing numbers of pleas for legal help from the community.

Every year, EBGBA offers a six-week course entitled, "Neighborhood Law School" at the Malcolm X Library. During this course, we give seminars to the public on various areas of the law affecting their daily lives. COVID-19 threatened the continuation of the event. But, thanks to Board member Hali Anderson and Zoom, the series took place as scheduled.

Despite the many changes EBGBA undertook, there is one area where our work remained constant. In a recent interview, I was asked, "How has EBGBA's work changed in light of George Floyd's death and the corresponding social unrest?" I was proud to say that EBGBA'S focus had not changed because we had been doing the needed social justice work all along.

More than six years ago, EBGBA became one of the chief proponents of an amendment to the San Diego city charter seeking to create a robust, community-led commission to adjudicate complaints against the police. After years of effort, EBGBA and its coalition partners were successful in getting the San Diego City Council to place the charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot as Measure B.

The placement of the charter amendment on the ballot, is undoubtedly, EBGBA's greatest achievement during my two-year tenure as President. I am also pleased to have been part of EBGBA's growth as an organization committed to civic engagement more generally. We have deepened our commitment to endorsing political candidates and extended the support we give those candidates.

Geneviève Jones-Wright, EBGBA's Vice President during my presidency, has been key in moving our organization forward in its efforts to support worthy political candidates. I thank her for her commitment to EBGBA and the work she has done in this regard and in other endeavors.

I often joke that Maresa Martin Talbert, EBGBA's Secretary, has been both my right and left hand during the last two years. Maresa has been a dedicated EBGBA board member whose dazzling work has been instrumental to EBGBA's progress. I could not be more grateful to her.

As an EBGBA board member, Donté Wyatt freely offered his sage counsel. Armilla Staley-Ngomo, Treasurer; Andrew Feaster, Parliamentarian; Josi Kennon Swonetz, EBGBF liaison; and board members Evangeline Dech and Kia Roberts have all been important to EBGBA's success. I want to give special thanks to board member Hali Anderson for her considerable work putting on our annual Neighborhood Law School Programs.

The EBGBA membership has supported me throughout my tenure on the Board, as has the San Diego legal community, and I am deeply grateful for that. I look forward to providing EBGBA's new leadership with commensurate support in what I know will be its excellent work.

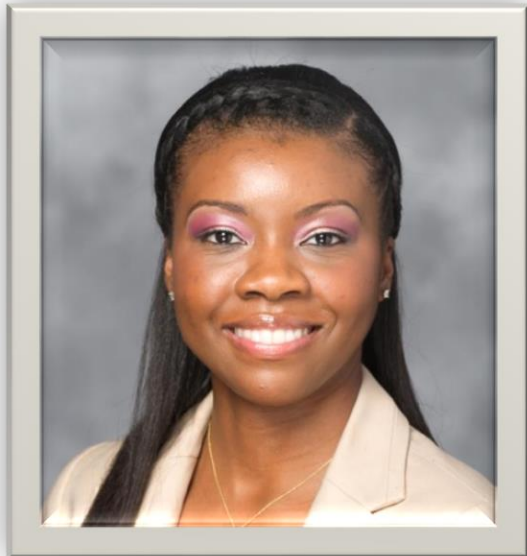
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
Thurgood Marshall
Legal Professional of the Year Award



Presented to
Maresa Martin Talbert

In Honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall

*A trailblazer for equality for all, a living legacy of commitment to excellence,
unwavering perseverance, and unyielding justice*



Maresa Talbert owns and operates Talbert Law Office, a business and intellectual property law practice that provides representation and general counsel services to help businesses, nonprofits, and individuals with entity formation, governance and compliance issues, and intellectual property ownership to protect their brands and creative assets.

Maresa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics from Baylor University, a Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law. In addition to running her practice, Maresa currently serves in the Navy Reserves as the Executive Officer of Littoral Combat Squadron Mine Countermeasure San Diego, on the Board of Directors for the National Naval Officers Association and the California Western School of Law Alumni Association, San Diego County Bar Intellectual Property Section, and is the Secretary of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.

In her spare time, Maresa enjoys spending time with her husband, Sharef Talbert.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
President's Award



Presented to
Hali Anderson

*In recognition of outstanding service
to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association*



Hali Anderson is in her 12th year of practicing employment law. Hali spent the first 9 years of her legal career representing employers at Sheppard Mullin and then spent her next year at Wilson Turner Kosmo, the largest certified women-owned law firm in San Diego. In 2018, Hali made the decision to switch sides and she now represents employees and defends workers' rights at GrahamHollis, APC.

Hali currently serves as a Board Member on the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and she is an alumnus of the LEAD IMPACT Program, the

Black Women In Leadership Development Fellowship, and the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Hali, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, went to American University for her undergraduate degree and to the University of San Diego School of Law for her law degree. Between college and law school, she worked in Philadelphia helping long-term recipients of welfare find employment. Hali lives in Bay Park with her husband, Brian, her three children, Zoey, Zaden, and Ziggy; and her dog, Pinky.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

President's Award for Distinguished Service



Presented to
Isaac Jackson

“Each year at the President’s discretion, a member of our service community is singled out for their dedication and commitment to helping others. Recipients of this award show a willingness to go above and beyond the call to duty in their aid to others. This year’s recipient encourages others through their actions and does so without any desire for recognition. Tonight, we honor the recipient’s indefatigable spirit to push the EBGBF into future growth.”



This year’s honoree, Isaac Jackson, joined the Foundation’s Board of Directors in 2019. As Parliamentarian, Mr. Jackson was an expert in meeting procedures, however, his role was that and so much more. He has been instrumental in planning the 2020 virtual gala, volunteering to take on tasks which not only assist other board members, but tasks that are essential to the success and sustainability of the Foundation. And when Mr. Jackson takes on a task he does so without hesitation and with a smile. Mr. Jackson is vital part of the Foundation and it is an absolute joy to serve with him.

Isaac is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office currently assigned to the Felony Trial Team in Northern San Diego County. A San Diego native, Isaac was in the first graduating class from High Tech High International in 2007. Isaac received his BA from UC Berkeley in 2012 where he was a double major in Political Science and Rhetoric. Throughout college Isaac worked as a Resident Assistant and Program Coordinator for Bowles Hall. Since 2013, Isaac has served on the Board of Directors for the Bowles Hall Foundation which owns and operates Berkeley’s first Residential College. While at Cal, Isaac was also a four-year member and manager of the UC Men’s Octet, Cal’s premier a cappella group.

Isaac received his JD from UC Hastings College of the Law, cum laude in 2016. At Hastings, Isaac was the recipient of the Pavlosky Scholarship in 2014 and the Rummel Award in 2015, both of which recognize a student for academic excellence and outstanding contributions to the school. Isaac also received CALI/Witkin Awards in four of his classes and was an inaugural member of the Hastings Honor Society. As a member of the Hastings Mock Trial team, Isaac also won two Best Advocate Awards and placed first at the Western Regional Black Law Student Association’s Annual Mock Trial Tournament here in San Diego. In addition to academics, Isaac was the President of the Legal Notes Musical Ensemble and the Legal Eagles Running Club.

Currently, Isaac mentors elementary school students in connection with the DA’s Power League program, coaches mock trial for the UC Hastings Trial Team, and is an active member of the South East San Diego Rotary Club and the Revival Time C.O.G.I.C. An avid performer, Isaac has most recently been seen in two productions with San Diego Musical Theater at the Horton Grand Theater in Downtown San Diego.

Foundation Award for Dedicated Service

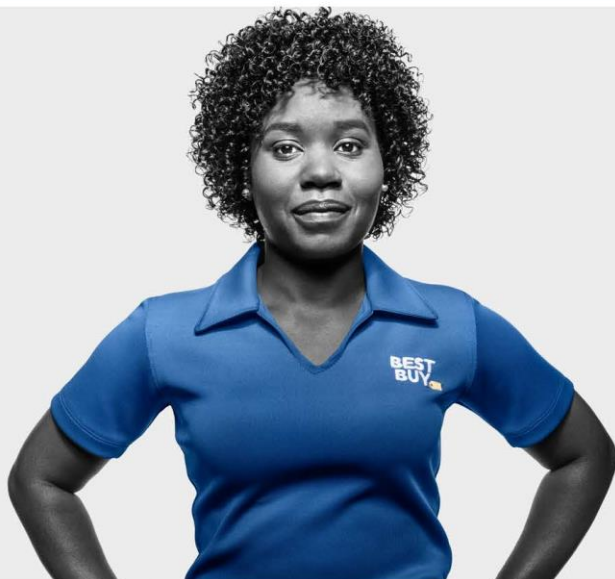


Presented to
Yahairah
Aristy
&
Robert
Lincoln III



Thank you both for your years of dedicated service to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. The Foundation would not be what it is today were it not for your tireless efforts, skill, and generosity.

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Scholarship Recipients



***Alexandria
Pritchett***

Honorable Elizabeth A. Riggs Scholarship
Sponsored by San Diego Gas & Electric ~ \$7,500

Alexandria Pritchett is a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law. She is an Atlanta, Georgia native and received her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University. During her time at Syracuse University, Alex majored in Psychology and minored in Management Studies and Dance. Presently, Alex serves as the president of the Black Law Students Association at USD, is a member of USD Mock Trial Team and in the past volunteered with the San Diego Clean Slate Clinic, worked as a LexisNexis Student Ambassador, and externed with a federal district court Judge.



***Rhian
Crodale***

Judicial Scholarship
Sponsored by EBGBF Scholarship Fund ~ \$5,000

Rhian Crodale is currently a 3L at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and a Criminal Law Fellow. She was born in Harrow, England, to Jamaican parents, and was raised in Marietta, Georgia. After working as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Atlanta, Georgia, Rhian chose to embark upon a legal career to try and improve the injustice and inequity that she has witnessed in the courtroom and in society. As a law student, Rhian earned the highest grade in her Advanced Legal Research and Evidence classes. Rhian intends to work as a Legislative Attorney, in the criminal law or family law field, to reform and create new policy to establish equity for minorities.

Scholarship Recipients



3L Diversity Scholarship

California ChangeLawyers & EBGBF Scholarship Fund ~ \$5,000



***Monet
McCord***

Monet is a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law with a concentration in Public Interest Law and Health Law. She is the youngest of four children and grew up in South Central, Los Angeles. Monet volunteers with multiple non-profit organizations to provide pro bono legal services to various communities, such as assisting with temporary restraining orders, unlawful detainers, veteran's disability claims and discharge upgrade petitions, IEPs for students with disabilities, and petitions for limited conservatorship of the person. Upon graduation, she plans to practice special education law.

General Scholarship

Sponsored by Best Buy Co., Inc. ~ \$3,500



***Alexandria
Hopson***

Alexandria Hopson is a 3L at Thomas Jefferson Law School. While in college Alex interned for the United States Attorney General's Office in Washington, D.C., and the District Attorney's Office in Winfield, Kansas. After college Alex moved to Portland, Oregon and worked as a paralegal before moving to San Diego, California to attend law school. Presently, Alex works as legal secretary for the State of California, Department of Transportation. She has received two CALI awards in Criminal Procedure and Legal Writing II. Alex plans on staying in California and working in civil litigation after she finishes law school and passes the bar.

Scholarship Recipients



***Bria
Chappell***

General Scholarship Sponsored by Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP ~ \$3,500

Bria Chappell is a 3L at California Western School of Law. Bria attended UCLA, where she double majored in African American Studies and Political Science. Bria's undergraduate studies and her involvement with UCLA Athletics and Pac-12 Networks sparked an interest in business and entertainment. As a law student, Bria has sought to merge her interests of committing to social equity and pursuing a career in business and entertainment by working at law firms and other agencies that maintain diverse clientele and allow her to explore various transactional issues. After law school, Bria hopes to encourage black entrepreneurs and creators to expand their business and digital portfolios to help recreate the narrative for black professionals.



***Lationa
Simpson-James***

General Scholarship

Sponsored by Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savich ~ \$3,500

Lationa Simpson-James is a 3L at California Western School of Law. Lationa was born and raised in San Diego, California. She attended Arizona State University for college and always knew she wanted to be a lawyer. Being raised by immigrant parents, Lationa saw firsthand what hard work could accomplish. Lationa is the current president for the Black Law Student Association at California Western School of law where she is working hard to create a better learning experience for diverse students. After graduation, Lationa plans to pursue a career at the San Diego District Attorney's office where she can continue to make sure the most vulnerable members of our community are ethically protected.



***Kendall
McKee***

General Scholarship Sponsored by Hyundai Motor America ~ \$3,500

Kendall is a 2L at the University of San Diego School of Law. As a Southern California native, Kendall has lived in Southern California throughout her childhood and undergraduate education. Before coming to law school, Kendall worked for several years at a group home treating teenagers and adolescents with mental health disorders. Kendall serves as SBA Representative of the Black Law Students Association at USD Law. She is also a legal volunteer at USD's Workers' Rights Clinic. After graduating, she hopes to practice employment law.

Scholarship Recipients



***Adrielli
Ferrer***

General Scholarship Sponsored by Union Bank Of California ~ \$2500

Adrielli is first-generation, 2L student at the University of San Diego School of Law. She is a law clerk at the Children's Advocacy Institute, associate editor of the San Diego International Law Journal, and associate board member of the Appellate Moot Court Team. Adrielli earned undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of California, Riverside. Prior to law school, she was an outreach counselor encouraging underrepresented and talented students to apply to college. Adrielli plans to use her law degree to dismantle the school-to-prison pipelines through advocacy via education, juvenile delinquency, and/or juvenile dependency laws.



***Emani
Lawrence***

General Scholarship Sponsored by EBGBF Scholarship Fund ~ \$1,500

Emani is a 3L at California Western School of Law. She is a member of the Black Law Students Association, president of the XONR8 student organization, and a member of the Trial Team. Emani has interned at the San Diego County - Office of the Public Defender, the California Innocence Project, and currently interns with the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. Throughout her law school journey, Emani has worked as a grassroots activist driving change in the transportation industry. Upon graduation, she intends to practice criminal law, where she can advocate for rehabilitative justice for her clients and for positive change in the legal system.



***Megan
Divine***

General Scholarship Sponsored by EBGBF Scholarship Fund ~ \$1,500

Megan is a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law. She grew up in Los Angeles California, and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California. During her 1L year, Megan was accepted to the San Diego County Bar Association and Association of Corporate Counsel Diversity Fellowship Program. She is currently a member of San Diego Law Review and is on the boards of the Black Law Students Association, the La Raza Law Students Association, and the Student Bar Association. Megan intends to practice corporate transactional law, advising business organizations on complex and challenging legal issues.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Excellence Award



Honoree

The Honorable Randa M. Trapp



The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation is proud and honored to present the Excellence Award to The Honorable Randa M. Trapp. Judge Trapp has been a pillar in the San Diego legal community since she was admitted to the practice of law and embodies this year's theme "Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality: Working Together for a Brighter Future."

Judge Trapp has committed her life to service and leaving things better than she found them. Among her many service positions, Judge Trapp is a past President of the local chapter of the NAACP, past president of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, was a Regional Director of the California Women Lawyers, board member of the Directors of the California Association of Black Lawyers and the Lawyers Club of San Diego. In recognition of her service, Judge Trapp has been awarded many accolades and tributes including the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Ward and in 2001 was honored by the San Diego City Council which declared October 15,

2001 as "Randa Trapp Day." In 2003, Judge Trapp became only the third African American woman to be appointed to the San Diego Superior Court, following in the footsteps of the Honorable Elizabeth A. Riggs and the Honorable Desiree Bruce-Lyle. Judge Trapp is currently the Supervising Judge of the San Diego Superior Court's Civil Division and is the first African American to hold that title.

Judge Trapp's professional accomplishments are a testament to her hard work and commitment to her craft. But she credits her professional achievements to her service and activism. "Everything that has happened in my professional life, I chalk up to my service to community even though I did not go into it with that mindset. I went into with the mindset that 'I'm going to give back, this my debt to society, and this community, our community at large does so much for me, I've got to do something.' And what you get out of it is just a bonus."

Judge Trapp's appointment to the bench did not diminish her desire to help her community. Judge Trapp continued her community service efforts, again, receiving several awards for her inspiring efforts including honors from the San Diego Voice and Viewpoint and San Diego Lawyers Club among many others. Judge Trapp currently serves on the Lawyers Club Advisory Board and is Chair of the Judicial Advisory Board of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. Judge Trapp is also a Pillar and lifelong member of our Foundation.

As Judge Trapp told us in her own words, "One of the greatest lessons that I have learned from service is that you get more out of it than you give. You get more in terms of the satisfaction of giving back and trying to leave something better than you found it. It has meant a lot to me." Judge Trapp has meant so much to the San Diego Legal Community and we are proud to honor her for her dedicated service.

Installation Officiant



The Honorable Randa M. Trapp

The Honorable Randa M. Trapp is a graduate of San Jose State University with a B.A. in Political Science and earned her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1985. In 2003, after practicing law for nearly 20 years, she was appointed by then Governor Gray Davis to the San Diego County Superior Court, the third largest court system in the United States. For the last 10 years, Judge Trapp has presided over all aspects of complex civil litigation and is currently the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division.

Judge Trapp has been active in all aspects of her community. She is a past president of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and past Regional Director of the California Women Lawyers. She was formerly a member of the Board of Directors of the California Association of Black Lawyers, Lawyers Club of San Diego, and for five consecutive years, was president of the J. Clifford Wallace Inn of Court. Judge Trapp was also Treasurer of the National Association of Women Judges and Chair of the National Bar Association Judicial Council. She currently serves on the Lawyers Club Advisory Board and is Chair of the Judicial Advisory Board of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Judge Trapp, a veteran of the United States Navy, was an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law for nearly 20 years and has served on numerous boards and commission. She has also received numerous awards and tributes including the National Bar Association's prestigious Sankofa Award in 2009, the 2017 Unsung Hero Award from the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper and the 2018 Belva Lockwood Award from Lawyers Club of San Diego.

In Her Own Words: A Conversation with the Honorable Randa M. Trapp



How it All Began...

My parents are from East Texas and relocated to San Diego before I was born. My father was a laborer, who worked construction. My mother babysat for a family in La Jolla before becoming a chef in an Italian restaurant. Early in my education, I experienced being one of the few people of color in class. This caused me to focus more on my studies and that's when I first recall becoming really interested in my education. As a junior high student at Gompers, I participated in walk outs because we wanted African American teachers and an equal education. This was my first foray into Civil Rights and politics. By the time I got to Lincoln High School, we had more African American teachers, who became my mentors, which was important. As a student I was good at math and science, so I went to USC to become a pharmacist. However, I left college and served active duty in the Navy for 5 years, 5 months and 5 days as a pharmacy technician. During that time, I decided I wanted to do something more challenging. We were still in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement and law sounded like something I would be interested in. That eventually led me to Georgetown University Law Center.

On her Path to the Bench...

It was always in the back of my mind to get to what I believe is the pinnacle of the profession, but I never thought it would happen. It was one of those things where you just do things because it's the right thing to do and the bonus is that it will take you to places that you never dreamed of. I was always active in the community. It was not "go to work and go home." It was "go to work and go to meetings." Nobody is going to know you if you sit at home on your couch after work every day. I think that exposed me to how the process works. But even more important is perfecting your craft. You need to make sure that you are the best lawyer that you can be. As a good lawyer, and being active in the community, people will naturally think of you and they are going to think of you when they have their meeting with the governor's appointment secretary. So those kinds of things happened organically for me. It was a matter of working very hard to hone my skills and to have a good reputation, and because of my activism and my service, not just with the bar, but with the community as well.

On Being African American and a Woman in Law...

It has certainly made it more challenging. As an African American and as a woman, I have had to deal with challenges that my colleagues who are neither women nor people of color have to even think about. I think I have experienced more discrimination. I think I have been held to a higher standard than my colleagues at various points of my career and I think it has been more difficult. But the effect it has had on me was to make me all that more determined. These challenges, while they could be discouraging and could make you want to give up or just go into your shell, I had to resist the temptation to do those things. Instead I had to work harder and to fight harder. Not just for myself, but for those coming behind me.

On Community Service and Activism...

It was good to come back home because I was able to get involved in the community. I was president of the NAACP. I was appointed to the South Eastern Economic Development Corporation. I was involved in Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association right off the bat. And I got involved because of all the sacrifices that people made during the Civil Rights Movement. Sacrifices that gave me the opportunity to go to a USC, and then to Georgetown. I wanted to give back to the community that had done so much for me. I felt a sense of responsibility to keep the doors open for others coming behind me. One of the greatest lessons that I have learned from service is that you get more out of it than you give. You get more in terms of the satisfaction of giving back and trying to leave something better than you found it. It has meant a lot to me.

On Friends, Allies and Support Systems...

It was important for me to have friends and colleagues that I could be honest with. One of my good friends and colleagues, Janice Brown, has been instrumental in every position I have had since my first one at the Attorney General's office. In addition to Janice Brown, there were other women of color that I formed a special bond with because we were experiencing the same types of things and we helped each other. There were also white women and white men that were sponsors and mentors who tried to understand and tried to help. These days we call them allies. All of that was Important. It was also important for me to be active in the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. That was my support system. It extended to CABL and ultimately to the National Bar Association (NBA). I have been an active member of NBA and have not missed a meeting since 1989. That's where I go to get rejuvenated. Being with my people who are doing great things inspires me and is spiritual to me.

On Advice to New Lawyers...

Perfect your craft. That is important. Spend the time to learn how to be a good lawyer. You have to do that first and foremost. And then find your place. I remember when I first came back to San Diego, I had not been a part of the Legal Community so finding a place was difficult. And as with any organization, if you are the new person it is not always a real welcoming environment. But you hang in there. I started going to Gilliam Bar meetings and I would not go away. The older, seasoned lawyers would say "we do it this way and we've always done it this way." But I never went away, and I finally got to the point where I felt confident enough to say "well, when I'm president of Gilliam Bar Association we're going to do it differently." And Gilliam Bar became my mainstay and my anchor. So, do not be discouraged. Find your place in the profession. Everybody's journey is different, but there is a place for everyone.

On Regrets...

I have not had a straight path to where I am now. I still feel incredibly blessed to have been entrusted with this position. I have to think that it would not have happened if things had not happened the way they did. I think I had to go through all those experiences, the good and the bad, to end up here. So, I am just grateful and blessed and I do not have any regrets.

On her Legacy as a Judge...


How do I hope my colleague and lawyers would describe me as a Judge? I hope they would describe me as a judge who was fair. A judge who was prepared and a judge who treated everybody who came before her with dignity and respect.

On her Plans for Retirement...

I plan to live every day to its fullest. Travel when the world opens up. Spend time with my adorable three-year-old grandson and try really hard not to be busier in retirement than I was at work.

On The Honorable Earl B. Gilliam...

Judge Gilliam was a mentor, supporter, and friend. I am grateful to him and his legacy and I want to give tribute to the namesake of our organization. Thank you very much for this honor. I am humbled by it all.



“Something which we
think is impossible now
is not impossible in
another decade.”

Hon. Constance Baker Motley
First African American woman
appointed to a federal judgeship

**DARE TO CREATE
A MORE PERFECT
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DEMAND EQUAL
JUSTICE FOR ALL.**

We proudly support the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and
congratulate the daring recipients of this year's scholarships.

ACLU San Diego and
FOUNDATION Imperial Counties

2020 Foundation Incoming President's Message



Joscelyn Campbell



"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." —Arthur Ashe

It is with great honor and humility, that I assume the role of President for the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. I thank my fellow, wonderful Board Members for entrusting me with this honor and responsibility, and I promise that I will try my hardest every day to make you all proud.

The theme of tonight's program is **"Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality. Working Together for a Brighter Future."** Like so many others, my own current reality started with a dream. A dream of my parents, my family and the community that surrounded me. When I began my legal journey a little over 9 years ago, there was no blueprint for me to follow. There were no lawyers in my family nor anyone who had ever been to law school. Additionally, I was moving to San Diego as a

stranger, with no friends and no family around me. While there were feelings of exhilaration in starting a new adventure, there was also trepidation, fear and anxiety. Thankfully along the way, I met people who helped me, believed in me, and taught me what it meant to dream big, and to dream even bigger than I knew I was capable of. I truly do stand on the shoulders of giants, and I would not be addressing you today without their help, love and support.

While my story may be heartwarming, it is by no means unique. Many among us share the fears and anxieties I had almost a decade ago. Many law students and young attorneys today, particularly those in the African American community start their legal journeys with no blueprint, no support and no roadmap for success. Two years ago, I was encouraged to serve my community by applying to the board of directors for this Foundation. Answering this call has been life changing. This Foundation seeks to provide others with the help and support that I received along the way, and I cannot think of a more noble cause. My parents always taught me to leave things in a better state than which I found them. The members of this Foundation strive to leave the San Diego legal community in a better state than which we came, and it is an honor to lead them in this endeavor.

This year has been a tough one for all of us. A global pandemic, economic hardships, and a future that seems uncertain. In these times, the mission of this Foundation could not be more important or more necessary. As President I will continue working closely with our public and private sector partners, so that our ability to provide financial assistance to law students continues. The Foundation will continue providing quality and innovative programming to not only educate our community but to continue bringing us together.

The road ahead may be challenging, but this Foundation will continue striving to fulfill our mission, and make the dreams of so many today, the realities of tomorrow.

2021 Foundation Board of Directors



Joscelyn Campbell
President

Joscelyn (Jay B) Campbell is a Deputy Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender for San Diego County, and current Treasurer of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. 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 school's 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 is also a member of the Public Defender's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Panel. He often returns to his alma mater to speak to newly admitted law students and to help coach the schools National Trial Team.



Euketa Oliver
Immediate Past President

Euketa Oliver is a Deputy Public Defender with the San Diego County Office of the Primary Public Defender, where she is currently assigned to the Writs and Appeals Unit. Euketa has served on the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board of Directors for the past three years and is the 2020 President. Euketa also served as co-chair of the Foundation's 2019 Annual Gala. She is dedicated to diversity and inclusion and currently serves as co-chair on the Lawyers Club of San Diego, Diverse Women's Committee. Euketa has also served as an attorney coach for the San Diego County Bar Association High School Mock Trial Competition. Euketa earned a Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School, Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from John F. Kennedy University, and Bachelor of Arts in Child Development from California State University, Sacramento.



Isaac Jackson
Vice President

Isaac Jackson is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office assigned to the Felony Trial Team in the North County Division. A San Diego native, Isaac received his BA from UC Berkeley in 2012 and his JD cum laude from UC Hastings College of the Law in 2016. Outside of the office, Isaac serves on the Board of Directors for UC Berkeley's Bowles Hall Foundation, mentors elementary school students in connection with the DA's Power League program, and coaches mock trial for the UC Hastings Trial Team. Isaac is also a proud member of the South East San Diego Rotary and the Revival Time C.O.G.I.C. An avid performer, Isaac has most recently been seen in two productions with San Diego Musical Theater at the Horton Grand Theater in Downtown San Diego.

2021 Foundation Board of Directors



Justin Shields
Treasurer

Justin Shields joined the Earl B. Gilliam Foundation Board of Directors in 2019. He is currently a Global Trade Advisor at Ernst & Young, LLP that designs and implements compliance and tariff mitigation strategies for international business. During his tenure at EY, Justin has participated in a number of trade compliance audits, drafted reasonable care memos for customs claims, and managed automated export compliance screening systems. He earned his law degree at the University of San Diego School of Law in 2018 and was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2019. Prior to entering the legal field, Justin spent a number of years in sales and export services in the biotechnology sector. In his free time, Justin enjoys listening to his jazz record collection and spending time with his wife, Vanessa, and his two young children.



Kevonna Ahmad
Secretary

Kevonna Ahmad is an associate in the San Diego office of Fisher Phillips. She represents and counsels employers in all aspects of labor and employment law. Ms. Ahmad takes a solution based, problem-solving, approach to help clients achieve their business goals. She is passionate about assisting clients in preventing potential claims and resolving existing issues before they escalate. During law school, she was a member of the Mediation Clinic where she mediated small claims and civil harassment cases in the Los Angeles County Superior Courts. Ms. Ahmad has also successfully mediated grievances between the EEOC and employees of the United States Postal Service. In addition to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, Ms. Ahmad is an active member of Lawyer's Club of San Diego and Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles. Ms. Ahmad received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University.



David Middleton
Parliamentarian

David M. Middleton is an associate attorney in Wilson Turner Kosmo's Product Liability and Warranty practice groups, defending clients in breach of warranty, Song Beverly, UCL, FAL, CLRA, and other claims. Prior to joining the firm in March, David served four years as a judicial law clerk in the United States District Court in the Southern District of California. David clerked for the Honorable M. James Lorenz, the Honorable Robert N. Block, the Honorable David H. Bartick (late), and the Honorable John A. Houston. David graduated from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL. David received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Outside of the office, David officiates football and lacrosse at the recreation, youth and high school levels around Southern California.

2021 Foundation Board of Directors



Samira Seidu
Director

Samira Seidu is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego District Attorney's Office where she serves as Trial Team Leader in the Juvenile Division. As a deputy district attorney, Samira has prosecuted domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and sexual assault crimes. She is also involved in recruitment efforts and mentors law students. Samira earned her Bachelor's degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. 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.



Jordan Turner
Director

The newest Director for the Foundation, Jordan Turner is an Associate Attorney at the law firm of Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP, where he focuses on all areas of labor and employment and business litigation. Previously, Jordan worked for Janice Brown at the boutique litigation firm Brown Law Group. Jordan graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in May of 2017 and passed the July 2017 bar exam. In law school, he served as Co-President of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and was a member of the Employment and Labor Law Society (ELLS). Jordan is a graduate of the University of the Pacific, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Philosophy, and was a four year member of the Men's Basketball team. Jordan enjoys reading books, playing basketball, and spending time with his fiancé, Ariel, and his two children, Julius and Amara.



Josi Swonetz
Director

Josi Swonetz is a Director of Legal for Best Buy Health, Inc. Her practice focuses all legal aspects of Best Buy Health's consumer business, including negotiating and drafting vendors contracts, managing consumer facing terms and conditions, managing outside counsel for litigation matters, and investigating consumer complaints. Prior to Best Buy Health, Josi worked as Senior Counsel at Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP with a focus on commercial litigation and employment defense. Josi enjoys an array of board work, including being on the in on the Board of Directors for the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, the Associate Corporate Counsel – San Diego Chapter, and the California Association of Black Lawyers.

2021 Foundation Board of Directors



Taylor Williams
Director

Taylor Williams is a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County where she has conducted criminal trials in East County, Chula Vista, and Central San Diego. As a Deputy District Attorney committed to fair and equal justice for all, Ms. Williams is a founding member of the District Attorney's new Committee on Race and Equity whose mission is to analyze and disrupt the inequities that exist in our justice system, organization, and community. Ms. Williams serves a mentor for K-12, graduate, and law school students interested in pursuing a legal career. Since graduating from California Western School of Law, Ms. Williams has served as a high school and law school mock trial team coach where she led a group of students to a win a championship where they were named the best in San Diego by the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. Ms. Williams has served as a board member for the Foundation for the last two years.

Thank You to Outgoing 2020 Foundation Board

Euketa Oliver, President

Yahairah Aristy, Immediate Past President

Samira Seidu, Vice President

Joscelyn Campbell, Treasurer

Taylor Williams, Secretary

Isaac Jackson, Parliamentarian

Kevonna Ahmad, Director

Robert Lincoln, Director

David Middleton, Director

Justin Shields, Director

Josi Swonetz, Director

2020 Association Incoming President's Message

Geneviève Jones-Wright



In 2020, the reality of two Americas has awoken many from their slumber. Along with other Americans who were unable to distract themselves from what was being broadcasted on social media and the news, many San Diegans discovered that we are still dealing with the pandemic of racism. Unlike the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”), there is nothing novel, or new, about racism in this country or the policies and practices derived from its evil roots. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified systemic inequities and has also exacerbated many of them.

This year, the list of Black Americans killed by police officers with impunity has continued to grow. So too has the list of activities Black people can't engage in without suffering violence or even death. We mourned the loss of two giants who fought for the soul of this country until their last breath: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the Honorable John Lewis. With their passing came questions we all must answer: *How will we honor their legacy? Who will keep their torches lit?*

Through our crises and tragedies, we have been presented with opportunities for triumphs on the civil rights front. It is in this light that I pick up the mantle.

I am humbled and honored to serve as the next President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. Honored because I stand on the shoulders of resilient and pioneering leaders in our Community, trailblazers like Earl B. Gilliam himself, and past Presidents like the Honorable Roderick Shelton, Douglas Oden, and Dennis Dawson who have poured so much into me. Humbled because I recognize the weight of our mission and the fight to secure racial equity and true justice. I thank the members of EBGBA for electing and entrusting me to lead us in our cause to *advance the political, economic, educational, social, legislative, and legal interests of the African American community in San Diego County.*

Our mission calls us to defend the legal and human rights of all people, promote the administration of justice, and eradicate the root causes of racism. I will add to this our obligation to correct past wrongs and address the lingering effects of racist policies. EBGBA has a rich legacy that is to be honored, and I am immensely proud that we have continued the fight over the years.

While I serve at the helm as President, EBGBA will remain steadfast in our convictions to make our criminal legal system just, help to elect candidates whose values align with ours as an Association, defend our sacred constitutional rights, support victims of police violence and their families, and lead the fight for accountability, transparency, and oversight in policing.

This year's theme is “Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality: Working Together For A Brighter Future”. As we imagine a more inclusive America today, we must do the work and build one for tomorrow. This work will take each and every single one of us.

If you are not yet a member, please join us in our work.

2021 Association Board of Directors



Geneviève Jones-Wright
President

Geneviève Jones-Wright was raised by her single mother in a low-income home in Southeast San Diego where devotion to family and self-respect was cultivated. In keeping with her goal of “carrying the bags” of Justice Thurgood Marshall, Geneviève earned a B.A. in mass media communications from the University of San Francisco, a J.D. from Howard Law, and an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy specializing in federal criminal defense from California Western School of Law. She proudly served San Diego County as a public defender from 2006-2019, and now serves as the founding Executive Director of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance (MoGo) — an impact litigation organization that works to hold Government accountable to all people, especially those who have been disenfranchised. Geneviève is the founder of Motivation.In.Action, a board member of the David’s Harp Foundation, and a volunteer attorney for the California Innocence Project.



Maresa Talbert
Vice President

Maresa Talbert owns and operates Talbert Law Office, a business and intellectual property law practice that provides representation and general counsel services to help businesses, nonprofits, and individuals with entity formation, governance and compliance issues, and intellectual property ownership to protect their brands and creative assets. Maresa holds a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Economics from Baylor University, a Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law. In addition to running her practice, Maresa currently serves in the Navy Reserves as the Executive Officer of Littoral Combat Squadron Mine Countermeasure San Diego, on the Board of Directors for the National Naval Officers Association and the California Western School of Law Alumni Association, San Diego County Bar Intellectual Property Section, and was the Secretary of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. In her spare time, Maresa enjoys spending time with her husband, Sharef Talbert.



Donté Wyatt
Treasurer

Donté T. Wyatt obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from San Diego State University Political Science and Africana Studies. Mr. 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 from California Western School of Law. Mr. Wyatt spent over ten (10) years as a Deputy District Attorney. Donte Wyatt currently is a sole proprietor at the Law Offices of Donté T. Wyatt, primarily focusing on criminal defense. Mr. Wyatt is the Polemarch/President of the San Diego Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. Mr. Wyatt is Life Member and active in both: the California Association of Black Lawyers and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, San Diego Branch. Mr. Wyatt was recently selected to serve on the African American Advisory Board for San Diego Police Department.

2021 Association Board of Directors



Taneashia Morrell
Secretary

Taneashia R. Morrell works at the Salk Institute in their tech transfer office, handling licensing and other intellectual property matters. Previously, she was a Staff Attorney at the Legal Services of South-Central Michigan. She was also a Judicial Law Clerk to the Hons. Rosemarie Aquilina and Hugh B. Clarke Jr. at the 30th Circuit Court and the 54-A District Court, respectively. Taneashia currently serves on several professional legal committees in California, Washington D.C., and Michigan. In 2015, Taneashia earned her J.D. *cum laude* from Western Michigan University, and in 2017, her LL.M. from Michigan State University. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., American Inns of Court, and the San Diego County Bar Association. Taneashia is a mother to a Navy Veteran and a grandmother to six adorable grandchildren. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, reading, and playing the guitar and drums.



Hali Anderson
Member at Large

Hali Anderson is in her 12th year of practicing employment law. Hali spent the first 9 years of her legal career representing employers at Sheppard Mullin and then spent her next year at Wilson Turner Kosmo, the largest certified women-owned law firm in San Diego. In 2018, Hali made the decision to switch sides and she now represents employees and defends workers' rights at GrahamHollis, APC. Hali currently serves as a Board Member on the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and she is an alumnus of the LEAD IMPACT Program, the Black Women In Leadership Development Fellowship, and the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Hali, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, went to American University for her undergraduate degree and to the University of San Diego School of Law for her law degree. Between college and law school, she worked in Philadelphia helping long-term recipients of welfare find employment. Hali lives in Bay Park with her husband, Brian, her three children, Zoey, Zaden, and Ziggy; and her dog, Pinky.



Stacie East
Member at Large

Stacie East practiced criminal law for 25 years in state and federal court. She also represented professionals facing license discipline. Stacie directed the Diversity Fellowship Program, taught at Cal Western for 6 years and was Associate Director there for 2 yrs. She is presently Membership and Diversity Manager for the Entomological Society of America. Staci served on the Boards of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Lawyers Club and San Diego County Bar Association. Stacie graduated from University of Chicago and Yale Law School.

2021 Association Board of Directors



Dante Pride
Member at Large

Dante T. Pride is the founding partner of The Pride Law Firm in San Diego, California. Mr. Pride attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., where he received a full academic scholarship. While at Morehouse, Mr. Pride was a member of the honors program and named to the dean's list. Mr. Pride graduated from Morehouse with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Having a passion for advocacy, Mr. Pride then attended the University of San Diego School of Law, where he excelled in Advanced Trial Advocacy and was the Vice President of the Student Bar Association. Upon graduating from law school, Mr. Pride accepted a position at a prestigious San Diego law firm where he practiced Employment and Labor litigation. Harkening his fellow Morehouse alumnus, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mr. Pride decided to blaze his own trail and start The Pride Law Firm based on the idea that "Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere."



Desirae Sanders
Member at Large

Desirae Sanders has served San Diego county as a Deputy Public Defender since 2011. Currently, she is the county's only Black attorney assigned to the Alternate Public Defender. A native Kentuckian, Desirae has a long history working for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and has provided leadership in this area. Desirae has developed initiatives in predominantly white schools for students of color to have safe spaces and report issues anonymously on campus. She is currently the co-chair and one of the founding members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee within her union, the Public Defenders Association. She is also one of the original members of the team who initiated RISE court, a specialized collaborative court that serves youth who have a history of or are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation. Desirae still serves our county's youth through RISE today. Desirae is the head girl's basketball coach at Sweetwater High School and is the proud mother of an astute Black son who is currently a junior at Howard University in Washington, DC.



Armilla Stalley-Ngomo
Member at Large

Armilla Stalley-Ngomo earned her Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 2008. While in law school, she participated in the Death Penalty Clinic, Law Students of African Descent, California Law Review, and the Berkeley Journal of African-American Law and Policy. She also clerked for the Honorable Consuelo B. Marshall, U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, from 2011-2012. Ms. Stalley-Ngomo is currently a Trial Attorney for the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. In that capacity, she represents indigent defendants charged with committing federal criminal and immigration-related offenses.

2021 Association Board of Directors



Andrea St. Julian
Member at Large

Andrea St. Julian's thirty-year practice focuses on federal and state 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. Andrea'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 the Marshall Islands v. United States*, 865 F.3d 1187 (2017), arising from the U.S.'s breach of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As co-chair of San Diegans for Justice, Andrea is the original author of Measure B, which seeks to create a community-led commission adjudicating complaint against San Diego police (SanDiegansForJustice.com). Andrea is also the co-founder of Community Advocates for Justice and Moral Governance (MoGo), an impact litigation nonprofit (MoralGovernance.org).

Thank You to Outgoing 2020 Association Board

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Geneviève Jones-Wright, Vice President

Armilla Staley-Ngomo, Treasurer

Maresa Martin Talbert, Secretary

Donté Wyatt, Parliamentarian

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Congratulate the 2020 Earl B. Gilliam Foundation
Scholarship Recipients and wish you success!

A photograph of three people, two women and one man, smiling and looking at a document together. The woman in the center is writing on the document with a purple pen. The background is slightly blurred, showing a sign that says "Terra".

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