



EARL B. GILLIAM

BAR FOUNDATION

46TH
ANNUAL

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS GALA

A PURPOSE DRIVEN PRACTICE

EMBRACING THE CALL

NOV. 5TH, 2022 | THE U.S. GRANT HOTEL
DOWNTOWN, SAN DIEGO



Supporting diversity in San Diego's legal community, now and in the future

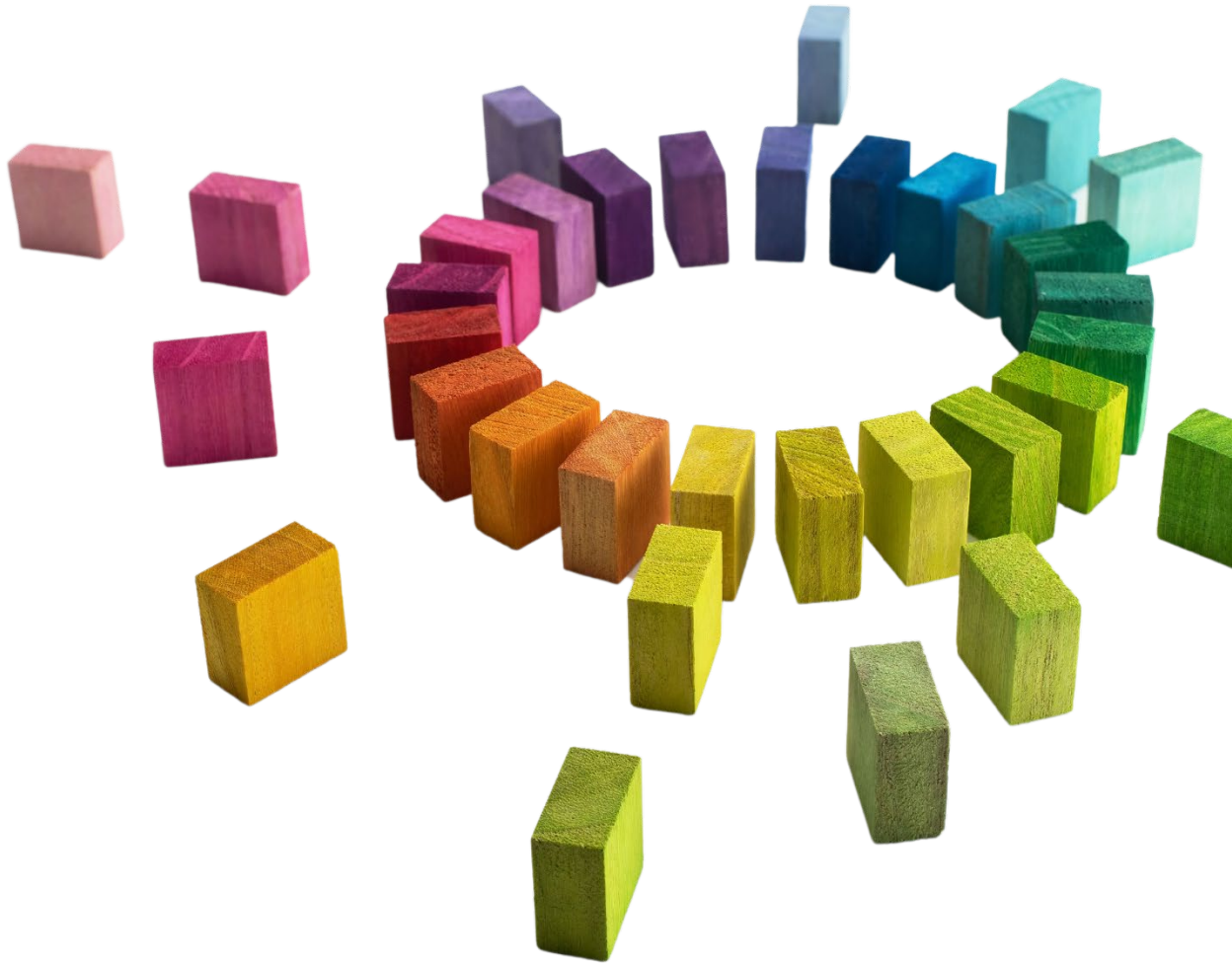
SDG&E® is proud to support the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation in its efforts to diversify the legal community through scholarships for law students and by inspiring the next generation of Black lawyers through community outreach events where students of all ages can learn about resources available to them.



Meyers Nave is a proud sponsor of the

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

46th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala



We support the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and share in the organization's mission to represent the interests of the African-American legal community in San Diego County.

- 46th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala -
A Purpose Driven Practice

Embracing the Call

Special Performance

TranscenDANCE Youth Arts Project

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Isaac Jackson

2022 Foundation President

David Middleton & Michael Flemming

2022 Gala Co-Chairs

Mistress of Ceremonies

Keristen Holmes

Invocation

Bishop Lonnie B. Lynch

Pastor, Revival Time C.O.G.I.C

"Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing"

Kingsley Jackson

Special Recognitions

Taylor Morrison

2023 Foundation Vice President

Special Remarks

San Diego Gas & Electric - 2022 Platinum Sponsor

**2022 Association Highlights &
Presentation of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Awards**

Maresa Talbert

2022 Association President

**Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
Thurgood Marshall Award**

Honoree

Judge Tilisha Martin

**Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
President's Award**

Honoree

Desirae Sanders

**2022 Foundation Highlights &
Presentation of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Awards**

Isaac Jackson
2022 Foundation President

San Diego United Against Hate Week Poster and Essay Contest Winners
Sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office – Southern District of CA and EBGBF

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Dedicated Service Award
Honoree
Joscelyn B. Campbell

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Rising Star Award
Honoree
Taylor Morrison

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Legal Trailblazer Award
Honoree
Janice P. Brown

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
President's Award
Honoree
David Middleton

Presentation of Scholarships

Joscelyn B. Campbell, Jordan Turner, and Christopher Chandler
2022 Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

Presentation of Keynote Speaker

Michael Flemming, Taylor Morrison, and David Middleton
2022 Gala Committee

Keynote Address

- Jerry W. Blackwell -

CEO & Chairman of Blackwell Burke P.A.
Special Prosecutor for the Trial of the murder of George Floyd
Judicial Nominee, U.S. District Court – District of Minnesota

~ Installation Ceremony ~

Honorable Judge James Simmons Jr.

Installation

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
Board of Directors, 2023

Installation

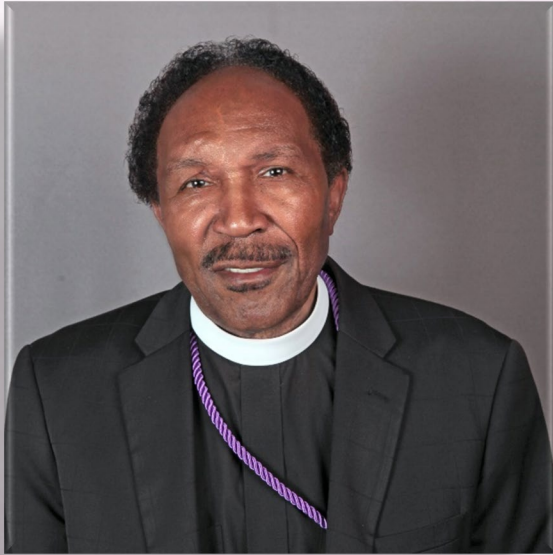
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Board of Directors, 2023

2023 Foundation President's Message and Closing Remarks

David Middleton
2023 Foundation President

Invocation Official

- Bishop Lonnie B. Lynch –



Bishop Lonnie Lynch is an anointed servant of the Lord who has been preaching the gospel for over 40 years. He committed his life to the Lord in Las Vegas, Nevada under Pastor Theodore Trent and was later licensed as a minister under the late Bishop C. Cox. In 1967, Bishop Lynch relocated to Los Angeles, California where he united with Bibleway Church of God in Christ under the pastorage of Elder Curtis Spears. During his tenure there, he served over the Evangelist Outreach Program where he organized street and park services. He also hosted a weekly radio program for several years. Bishop Lynch was known as the “renaissance man,” bridging the gap with other denominations. He was ordained as an Elder

under the late Bishop Samuel Crouch. In the First Jurisdiction of Southern California, he served as a District Evangelist President under President D. L. Austin.

In 1982, Bishop Lynch and his family relocated to San Diego, California, where he founded and organized the Revival Time Community Church of God in Christ. He joined the Second Jurisdiction of Southern California, upon its inception, under the leadership of the late Bishop George D. McKinney. Shortly after uniting with the Second Jurisdiction, Bishop Lynch served as the Jurisdictional Evangelist President with Dr. Battles, National Evangelist President. He currently serves as a District Superintendent, San Diego Area Superintendent and Administrative Assistant to Bishop Charles Nauden and Auxiliary Bishop for the Second Jurisdiction. Bishop Lynch and his wife, Supervisor Gloria Lynch, have hosted a weekly telecast for over 20 years. He holds a BA in Business Administration from California State Dominguez Hills, a BA in Theology from Laverne University, and a Doctorate in Theology from Next Dimension University. In 2020, Bishop Lynch was consecrated as a Bishop in the International Church of God in Christ.

Bishop and Supervisor Lynch are the proud parents of four children and five grandchildren.

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

**Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson, Music by J. Rosamond Johnson
Performed by Kingsley Jackson**

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.

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

- 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.*

In 2014, the Board and the members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association voted to split the organization into two separate entities to better serve the community. The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association was designated as a 501(c)(6) organization to increase the organization’s political and civic voice in the San Diego community and a sister organization was created to focus on charitable efforts benefiting the community. The new organization was named the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and its mission is to represent the interests of the African-American legal community in San Diego County. The Foundation exists primarily to provide support for diversifying the Legal community, which currently includes scholarships for law students and programs for African American Legal professionals in growing as attorneys, obtaining and maintaining employment, developing private practice as sole practitioners or partners within law firms, advancing in public sector employment, and related efforts. The Foundation hosts annual events, like the Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Luncheon, Summer Soiree, and Scholarship and Awards Gala, designed to foster community and show both aspiring and seasoned attorneys that they are not alone. Since 2016, the Foundation has awarded over \$130,000 in scholarships to law students and recently efforts have extended to new programs for K-12 and college students.

*The above information is paraphrased from a speech given by Daniel Weber’s widow, California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber, on November 9, 2013 at the 37th Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner

- 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

President

Napoleon A. Jones
231-5281

Vice President

Deiroy Richardson
232-4252 ext. 1786

Secretary

Beatrice W. Kemp
231-7755

Treasurer

Clarence Irving
263-2196

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Keith Burt
Daniel Weber
231-1326

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Otis Jones
235-9351

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Dennis Dawson
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Joseph Littlejohn
297-8330

Courts

Jacqueline Walker
263-2269

Legal Education

Joseph K. Davis
263-2489

Legal Aid

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

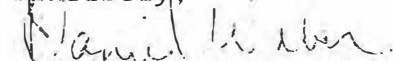
Dear Sir:

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

Mistress of Ceremonies

- Keristen Holmes -



Keristen Holmes is a general assignment reporter and anchor for KFMB-TV in San Diego, California.

Keristen Holmes grew up in North Little Rock, Arkansas and her love for news and reporting can be traced back to her 6th-grade year of elementary school. That's when she was hand picked by teachers to anchor on TV for the first time (hello mid-90's) their school news and announcement show. Her best friend's dad worked for the local news paper, and she grew up spending weekend mornings at their home – probably eaves dropping – but definitely enjoying the political debates and current events conversations. Keristen is a proud

graduate of the University of Central Arkansas where she received a degree in Mass Communications with an emphasis in television broadcasting.

When Kristen isn't chasing stories, you can find her volunteering throughout the communities she serves. Her motto is "You can't be what you can't see." After growing up in a community where opportunities for advancement seemed extremely limited, she vowed to make sure that she was a tangible role model to other little girls who (like her younger self) might be looking for someone to look up to for encouragement. She loves inspiring the next generation to dream big and reach their full potential. She's also a big foodie who loves cooking, hiking, playing tennis, and most anything that gets her outdoors and enjoying the beautiful weather San Diego has to offer.

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

DWAIN D. WOODLEY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUMMER STEPHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 5, 2022



Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Members:

Congratulations on 46 years of outstanding service to San Diego County. The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation is the beacon organization for African American lawyers, judges and law students throughout Southern California and it is my privilege to welcome those gathering in San Diego for the Foundation's 46th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala, where the theme is "A Purpose Driven Practice, Embracing the Call."

The foundation has played an important role for more than four decades to law students through your financial assistance. In addition, your pursuit of integrity, honor and courtesy are noble causes.

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, some of whom serve on your board of directors and in other leadership positions.

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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Summer Stephan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SUMMER STEPHAN
San Diego County District Attorney

Keynote Speaker

- Jerry Blackwell -



Jerry W. Blackwell is the founding partner, CEO and chairman of Blackwell Burke P.A. Mr. Blackwell serves as national and trial counsel for several major corporations, having represented them in federal and state courts in 47 states and internationally. He is an experienced trial lawyer with nationwide experience defending class actions, toxic tort, commercial disputes, products liability, and other high stakes complex cases. Mr. Blackwell has numerous winning jury verdicts and favorable settlements to his credit. He is a frequent presenter on winning trial strategies and how to communicate complicated legal, scientific, and business issues to jurors. Admitted to practice in state and federal courts around the country, Mr. Blackwell has presented to the Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, National Bar Association,

International Association of Defense Counsel, National College of Advocacy, and various Fortune 500 clients and trade organizations.

Mr. Blackwell is an active member of his community, recently serving as lead Special Assistant Attorney General in the successful prosecution of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. In 2020, in tandem with the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, Mr. Blackwell and his firm secured the first posthumous pardon in Minnesota history for Max Mason, a young Black man who was wrongfully convicted of raping a White woman in 1920. Mr. Blackwell is also a founder of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL), a bar association that promotes the professional development of Black lawyers, judges and law students in Minnesota, and advances education, excellence and racial equity in the pursuit of justice. In 2011, Governor Mark Dayton appointed Mr. Blackwell to serve as an at-large member of the Minnesota Commission on Judicial Appointments. He served two terms until 2019.

Mr. Blackwell received his Bachelor of Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a Morehead-Cain scholar and he received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including Minnesota Attorney of the Year, Benchmark Litigation Minnesota Litigation Star, BTI Client Service Super All Star, the National Bar Association Commercial Section Cora T. Walker Award, Minnesota Minority Business Owner of the Year, and Minnesota Super Lawyer. Blackwell Burke P.A. has also received numerous awards and has been named the Minnesota Firm of the Year by Benchmark Litigation for the last five consecutive years.

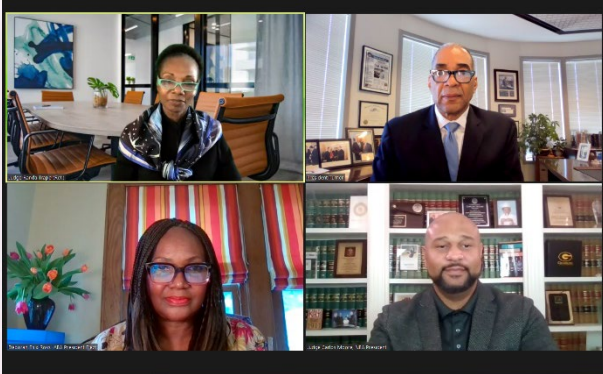
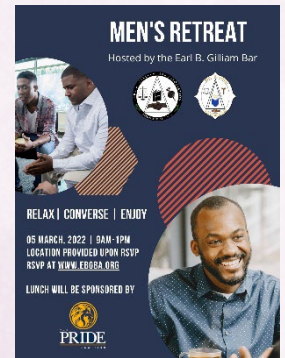
When he is not zealously defending clients, Mr. Blackwell enjoys beekeeping, meditation, and is an avid hobby farmer.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

Year in Review

MEN'S RETREAT

On March 5th, 2022, The Foundation and Association hosted a Black Men's retreat. The event was sponsored by The Pride Law Firm and provided an opportunity for Black male law students, attorneys, and judges to meet, share experiences, and fellowship.



VIRTUAL CIVIL RIGHTS FORUM

On April 21, 2022, The Foundation held its third Virtual Civil Rights Forum, entitled: **Pipeline to Power: Black Leadership in the Legal Profession**. This year's forum was co-chaired by Christopher Hines and Alicia Williams and was attended by over 100 judges, attorneys, law students and community members. The Honorable Randa Trapp moderated a riveting and thought-provoking panel discussion between American Bar Association President

Reginald M. Turner, National Bar Association President Honorable Carlos Moore, and American Bar Association President-Elect Deborah Enix-Ross.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

On June 18, 2022, the Foundation, led by Board Member Michael Flemming, organized a gathering of community members to celebrate Juneteenth being recognized as a National Holiday. The celebration was held at the Black-owned Chula Vista Brewery in Eastlake. The event was co-sponsored by the Federal Bar Association and Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association





SUMMER SOIRÉE

On July 27, 2022, Co-Chairs Julianna Kat and Jordan Proctor organized a reception at the Above Ash rooftop to celebrate law students who had just finished taking the Bar. The event was attended by over 50 students, attorneys, and judges. Scholarships were awarded to two students and gift bags were given to the Bar takers. This event was made possible by the SDG&E Inspiring Future Leader's Grant.



FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR STUDENTS

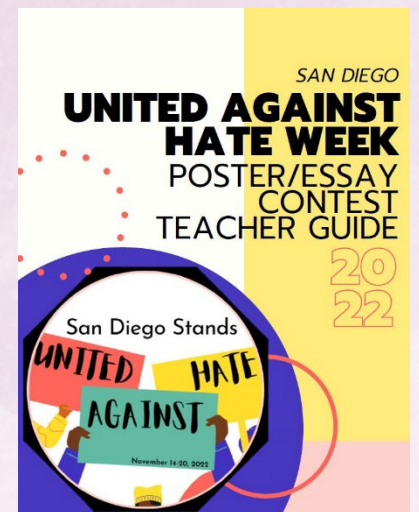
On September 29, 2022, the Foundation, led by Board Member Chris Chandler, held its first Financial Planning for Students program. Law students and students from San Diego State University's Black Pre-Law society gathered at the San Diego County Bar Center for Dinner and a presentation on 12 tips to help secure their financial future. This program was made possible by Union Bank and the SDG&E Inspiring Future Leader's Grant.

SDG&E AND EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION'S INSPIRING FUTURE LEADER SERIES

This year, the Foundation continued its partnership with SDG&E for the Inspiring Future Leader Series. With funds for the Inspiring Future Leader's grant, Board Member Alicia Williams spear headed the United Against Hate Poster and Essay Contest co-sponsored by the US Attorney's Office. Members of the Foundation also shared their legal knowledge and expertise in coaching a number of high school mock trial teams. With the funds donated from SDG&E, the Foundation was able to provide financial assistance in covering competition costs and expenses.

SCHOLARSHIPS

An integral part of the Foundations mission is to diversify the legal community by awarding scholarships to law students. Due to the generous donations of our sponsors, this year the Foundation awarded over \$45,000 in scholarships.



2022 Foundation Outgoing President's Message

- Isaac J. Jackson -



Although I grew up here in San Diego, I never knew about the Earl B. Gilliam Bar organizations. I never knew there were groups of people who looked like me, who shared my background, and who were achieving things I couldn't even fathom were possible. Not only were the members of these organizations successful in their careers, but they made it their personal missions to help others follow in their footsteps. Growing up I didn't know such organizations existed, and I certainly never dreamed that I could be at the helm of one of them. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as the 2022 Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation President and it is my hope that through my service, I have begun to repay some of that

which this Foundation has given to me.

At last year's Gala our theme was "True Heroism" and I challenged everyone to continue the heroic acts that they do every day. I asked you all to keep showing up, keep reaching out, and keep donating because all these acts make a difference. I'm happy to say everyone stepped up to the plate. At every Foundation program this year, our Sponsors, law firms, public agencies, community partners, and area law schools have shown their commitment to our cause and for that, I thank you! This year the Foundation has added more events, found new ways to reach out to our community, and continued to give more scholarship funds to our law students. I've been inspired everyday by the people I've gotten to meet and interact with and the lessons I've learned this year are ones I will carry with me throughout.

I want to thank the members of the Foundation Board of Directors. Each and every one of them went above and beyond in organizing impactful, professional, and memorable events. I know the tireless hours that went into hosting each of those events and I thank you for your commitment to the mission of this Foundation and Black legal community here in San Diego.

I feel fortunate that I was able to serve this Foundation, and this community, at a relatively early stage in my career. Although my tenure as President has concluded, my service has just begun. I look forward to continuing to work with the Foundation in the future and I again implore you all to keep showing up for this community. We have all been called to serve, the question is are you willing to answer?

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to 2023!

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Past Presidents

Joscelyn B. Campbell 2021

Honorable Euketa Oliver 2020

Yahairah Aristy 2019

Abrina Wheatfall 2018

Aaron Dumas, Jr. 2017

Joy Utomi 2016

Honorable Tilisha T. Martin* 2015

Honorable 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
Janice Brown
Dave Carothers
Dennis Dawson
Hon. Robert Dahlquist
Hon. Raymond Edwards (ret)
Hon. Joe Littlejohn (ret)
Hon. Elizabeth Riggs
Tina Fryar
Hon. John Houston

Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis
Hon. Dwayne Moring
Rebecca Prater
Patricia Robinson
Kelly Rand
Hon. Roderick Shelton
Hon. Randa Trapp (ret)
Vickie Turner
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 info@ebgbf.org

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

Past Presidents

Genevieve Jones-Wright 2021	Harold G. Murray 1996
Andrea St. Julian 2019, 2020	Vickie E. Turner 1995
L. Marcel Stewart 2017, 2018	Janice P. Brown 1994
Dennis Dawson 2016, 2015	Daniel E. Eaton 1993
Omar Passons 2014	Douglas A. Oden 1992
Udoka Nwanna 2013	Randy K. Jones 1991
Christian Scott 2012	Hon. Randa M. Trapp 1990
Valoree Wortham 2011	Thomas Gayton 1989
Antoinette Middleton 2010	Barbara Davis 1988
Doc Anthony Anderson, III 2009	Hon. H Wesley Pratt 1987
Tina M. Fryar 2008	Mary A. Franklin 1986
Lei-Chala I. Wilson 2007, 2006	Patricia Robinson 1985
Petrina M. Branch 2005	Robert Bennett 1984
S. Maria Hannah 2004	Hon. Daniel Weber 1983
Hon. Roderick Shelton 2003	Keith Burt 1982
Marvin Mizell 2002	Dennis W. Dawson 1981, 1980
Hon. Sherry Thompson-Taylor 2001	Hon. Joseph K. Davis 1979
H.J. Sims 2000	Delroy Richardson 1978
Doc Anthony Anderson, III 1999	Hon. Napoleon Jones, Jr. 1977
Ben E. Johnson 1997	Hon. Elizabeth Riggs 1976
Lei -Chala I. Wilson 1998	

2022 Association Outgoing President's Message

- Maresa Talbert -



I think I'm still in awe that I will be added to the list of past presidents of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. What an incredible honor it has been to serve as the face and leader of this organization during this past year. When I accepted the nomination as EBGBA President, one of my top priorities was to reconnect our members and law students in the "post-COVID" era.

Our first event of the year was our virtual Black Culture Game Night & Happy Hour! "Boy, we had a time...!!" It was such a great way to kick off the year. And we kept that momentum going. Early on, we held our Men's Retreat, coordinated by Vice President, Donte Wyatt. With the help of members, Josi Swonetz and Lei-Chala Wilson, we co-hosted a much-needed and well-attended Social Mixer with the California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) during the California Lawyers Association Conference weekend. I am so proud of the networking and social events that we were able to host this year.

While we PLAY hard, we WORK even harder. We flexed our political muscle by hosting a judicial candidates forum and a sheriff candidates forum to educate voters and encourage voter participation. We held steadfast in our legislative efforts by advocating for a robust ordinance for the Commission on Police Practices to its passage by San Diego City Council, and we continue to lead the fight for transparency and accountability in measures like PrOTECT (Preventing Over-policing Through Equitable Community Treatment).

Let's not forget our signature program, "Neighborhood Law School", coordinated and facilitated by our Directors Taneashia Morrell and Desirae Sanders. Over a period of six weeks, an EBGBA member provided a free seminar to the public on various areas of the law affecting their daily lives. Furthermore, in collaboration with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP), EBGBA co-hosted a Juneteenth legal clinic held at the Malcolm X Library, which served 19 entrepreneurs with free business and intellectual property consultations and pro bono legal services. This collaboration led to SDVLP selecting EBGBA as its recipient for the Justice For All Community Service Award.

Under my leadership, our law students were able to take advantage of free EBGBA membership; our members financially supported a San Diego college student, Hazel Marie Jenkins, who lost everything when her family residence burned down just before her last semester of college, and last, but not least, we were able to show some long-overdue love to our EBGBA Life Members, by presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation and custom-made lapel pin.

To the membership of EBGBA, thank you for trusting me to serve as your leader. To my Board of Directors, your commitment is unmatched, and you all have supported me in every way. As my presidency concludes, I am so fulfilled.

I pass the torch to my successor, Desirae Sanders, and I look forward to supporting the mission and continued excellence of EBGBA. Don't think this hasn't been fabulous! Thank you so much!

Earl B. Gilliam Association

Year in Review

January 20, 2022: Black Culture Game Night & Happy Hour

EBGBA began the year with a virtual happy hour and game night, where we played Culture Tags and Black Card Revoked!! It was a night full of laughter, fun, and secrets that we'll take to the grave! We awarded 5 winners with gift cards to local Black-owned businesses!

March 5, 2022: EBGB Men's Retreat

EBGB (Assoc & Found.) co-hosted a long-overdue Men's Retreat. A time for the men of EBGB to take a step back from their day-to-day life demands and activities, and build camaraderie.



March 10, 2022: EBGBA Speed Mentoring

EBGBA hosted their annual Speed Mentoring Event held virtually.

April 20: Judicial Candidate Forum

EBGBA hosted a community conversation with judicial candidates running for San Diego Superior Court.

May 19: Court-Clergy Conference

EBGBA participated in this conference presented by the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego designed to strengthen community by highlighting services offered to underrepresented communities, increasing access to justice, and confronting challenges within the legal system.



June 17: Black Business Empowerment Clinic

EBGBA partnered with SDVLP to host a Black Business Empowerment Clinic for current and aspiring Black business owners in honor of Juneteenth.



August 17-Sept 21: EBGBA NLS

On various dates, in conjunction with the Legal Aid Society, EBGBA hosted Neighborhood Law School, our signature event where lawyers present helpful information to non-lawyer community members on a variety of topics that span several legal practice areas.



Sept 16: CABL & EBGBA Mixer

EBGBA & CABL co-hosted a one-of-a-kind networking event during the CLA Conference weekend for a record showing of EBGBA Past Presidents, members, and law students!



September 29, 2022: SDVLP Justice For All Event

EBGBA was named by SDVLP as the recipient of the Justice For All Award and accepted the reward at its event.

October 16: EBGB BLSA Fall Social

EBGB (Assoc. & Found.) co-hosted the BLSA Fall Social. Black lawyers, judges, and law students from all our local law schools gathered to fellowship over food and candid conversation.

October 17: Sheriff Candidate's Forum

EBGBA hosted a community conversation with candidates running for San Diego County Sheriff.

We hosted various MCLEs throughout the year starting with the Nuts & Bolts of the Racial Justice Act presented by our Past President Genevieve Jones Wright to a discussion about the Prosecution's Discovery Obligations through *People v. Houser (2022)* with Counsel for the Respondent, Coleen Cusack.



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Littler proudly supports

the **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation** in embracing the call to advance the interest of the Black community in San Diego. True change requires real action, and Littler is committed to standing with and supporting the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation in its mission to defend the legal and human rights of all people, promote the administration of justice, and eradicate the root causes of racism.



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**Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Award for Dedicated Service**

Presented to



Joscelyn B. Campbell
Immediate Past President 2022

Thank you all 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.

Joscelyn (Jay B) Campbell is a Deputy Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender for San Diego County, and current Immediate Past President 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. Jay B was a two-time Treasurer of the Foundation before becoming the President in 2021 and serving as the Immediate Past President in 2022. Jay B has faithfully served the Foundation and his presence on the Board will be missed.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

Rising Star Award

Presented to
- Taylor Morrison -

The Rising Star Award recognizes outstanding service by a new attorney who has demonstrated a significant commitment to serving the legal profession via excellence in practice, legal education, mentoring, or community service. It is awarded to a legal professional who has been practicing law for less than nine years.



Taylor Morrison is a Deputy District Attorney at the San Diego District Attorney's Office, where her practice is focused on conducting serious and violent felony trials. At the District Attorney's office Taylor is involved with recruitment, office wide training, community outreach, and she serves as a mentor to interns. In 2020, Taylor helped create an advisory committee, CORE, the committee on Race and Equity, which is committed to disrupting any inequities that exist in the community, the District Attorney's office, and criminal justice system. Taylor serves as an executive board member on the California Western School of Law Alumni Board, San Diego County Bar's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the SDCBA's

Leadership Outreach Committee. In 2022, Taylor was appointed to the National Black Prosecutor's Association to serve as a Regional Director for California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Arizona. In her spare time, Taylor coaches high school mock trial at the Patrick Henry High School. Taylor received her Bachelor's Degree from New Mexico State University and Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law. Taylor has been involved with the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board since she was a law student and became a board member in 2018. Taylor is the incoming Vice President for the Foundation for 2023.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Legal Trailblazer Award

Presented to
- Janice P. Brown -

The Legal Trailblazer Award recognizes outstanding service by an established attorney who has demonstrated a significant commitment to serving the legal profession via excellence in practice, legal education, mentoring or community service. It is awarded to a legal professional who has been practicing law for 10 or more years.



Janice Brown is a Principal in Meyers Nave's Labor and Employment Practice, and Workplace Investigations Practice. She has more than 35 years of trial, arbitration, and appellate experience in state and federal courts. Janice's distinguished career began in the U.S. Justice Department where she quickly demonstrated outstanding legal expertise that earned her membership in the Honors Program and the "Outstanding Trial Lawyer of the Year" Awards in under three years.

Janice is recognized as a pioneer in the legal profession as the founder and Chief Strategy Officer of Brown Law Group, a woman – and minority – owned employment and business litigation firm in San Diego that served local corporations and Fortune 500 companies headquartered throughout

the U.S. for over 20 years. She is a trusted advisor to clients, an inspiration mentor to colleagues and an influential leader in advancing diversity throughout the legal profession.

Janice is well known for her legal expertise as well as her commitment to local community service. She has been featured on the local San Diego affiliates of CBS, Fox, ABC and NBC for her insights on topics such as sexual harassment and wrongful termination. Janice also is a frequent speaker on economic development and personal and business success.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

President's Award for Distinguished Service

Presented to

- David M. Middleton -



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 has faithfully served the Foundation for three years and is currently the Foundation Vice President and one of the 2022 Annual Gala Co-Chairs. David has been a lightning rod for fundraising this year. Because of his efforts, the Foundation was able to award more scholarship funds to students this year than previous years. His commitment to this community is unwavering, and for that, we honor David with this year's President's award for distinguished service.

David M. Middleton is a Senior Associate in Meyers Nave's Labor and Employment Practice Group. His practice primarily focuses litigation of contract and wage and hour issues in arbitration and state court. David also litigates and mediates law enforcement discipline appeal cases and advises clients on a wide range of employment law issues. David has significant experience as a workplace investigator and has both conducted and managed workplace investigations for public and private sector employers.

David has been recognized as a Rising Star in Employment & Labor by the *Super Lawyers Magazine*. He has written on the topic of arbitration related to litigation raised under the Private Attorney's General Act and has previously provided commentary to local television affiliates regarding federal and state vaccine, mask, and return to work mandates.

When he is not working, David enjoys officiating high school and college football and is an active board member of the San Diego County Football Officials Association. David also serves as a board member of the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee, a San Diego nonprofit focusing on maximizing self-sufficiency with families and individuals through high-quality programs and advocacy in its communities.

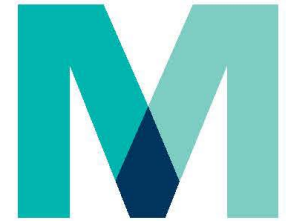
David is a native of Detroit, Michigan. David obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of the varsity football team. David received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law (formerly The John Marshall Law School). Prior to joining Meyers Nave, David served as an Associate for a local law firm. His prior experience also includes serving as a judicial law clerk for four years in the United States District Court in the Southern District of California.

Driving Diversity



We are proud to support the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
and its work to advance the interests of Black legal
professionals in San Diego County.

We join you in saluting this year's honorees and
scholarship recipients for their achievements and
contributions to the community.



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

Presented to

- Honorable Judge Tilisha Martin -

In Honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall

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



The Honorable Tilisha Martin was appointed to the Superior Court of San Diego County in by Governor Jerry Brown in 2015. She holds an M.S.W. from San Diego State University and a Masters in Justice Management from the University of Nevada, Reno. She earned her J.D. from California Western School of Law. Her legal career includes service in the Downtown Community Court, the Office of the Public Defender of San Diego County, and the Minor's Counsel Office of the Dependency Legal Group of San Diego. She is a devoted mentor to high school and college students with an interest in a legal career.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
President's Award

Presented to
- Desirae Sanders -

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



Desirae Sanders has served San Diego County as a Deputy Public Defender since 2011. She has practiced in adult criminal, juvenile justice, mental health and the Alternate Public Defender's Office. Desirae earned her Juris Doctor from Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University and her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration - Management from the University of Kentucky. She currently serves as a board member at-large with Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and is a member of Lawyer's Club of San Diego, San Diego County Bar Association, California Public Defender's Association, California Women Lawyers, and Kentucky Bar Association.

Desirae is the head women's basketball coach at Sweetwater High School and is the proud mother of an astute Black son who is currently a senior at Howard University in Washington, DC.



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Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

The Honorable Judge Earl B. Gilliam \$10,000 Scholarship

Presented to
- Jason Gant -



“Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy.”

The Honorable Judge Earl B. Gilliam Scholarship was first awarded shortly after the passing of the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam in early 2001. Judge Gilliam was a champion for the community and a dedicated public servant. Students selected to receive this award reflect Judge Gilliam’s commitment to community and public service. This year’s honoree is an exceptional law student whose academic achievement and community service reflect the aspiration for excellence embodied by Judge Gilliam.

Jason Grant is a second-year law student at California Western School of Law. He comes to San Diego by way of the University of Nebraska, where he attained his Master of Arts in Higher Education, and the University of Maryland where he attained his Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a Minor in Kinesiology. At California Western, Jason has a 4.06 GPA, and currently serves as the Vice President for the schools Black Law Student Association (BLSA).

Jason is currently an intern at the San Diego Public Defender’s Office. Prior to his internship at the Public Defender’s Office, Jason founded Recreation Readiness LLC, an organization whose mission is to prepare, support, and foster the growth of military, youth, community, and collegiate recreation programs, its stakeholders and participants through education and development. He is also currently a Division I college football referee for the NCAA Pac-12 Conference.

Throughout his law school career, Jason has achieved several accolades. He has received Academic Excellence Awards, received the Distinguished Advocate Award for the William C. Lynch Appellate Competition, and was the recipient of the Elaine Galinson and Herbert J. Solomon Scholarship for Commitment to Racial Justice and Equality.

2022 Scholarship Recipients



Janine Parchment

Honorable Elizabeth A. Riggs Scholarship ~ \$7,500

Sponsored by EBGBF Scholarship Fund

Law School: University of San Diego

Year: 3L

“When I leave USD Law, I plan to leave a legacy for our Black students. Therefore, I am piloting efforts to create a USD BLSA scholarship fund that I hope will outlast my time at the school. So many of our Black students are having trouble paying for an education. Approximately half of our Black students at USD Law lost their merit scholarships last year. I do not want another one of our students to worry about law school finances.” At USD Law, Janine is a member of the Student Bar Association where she currently serves as the Career Services Chair, and a member of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. She is also President, Community Service, Social Media Chair, and the 1L Student Representative for the schools Black Law Students Association (BLSA). Janine is currently an intern at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP.



Erica Spence

San Diego Gas & Electric Scholarship ~ \$5,000

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 3L

“I feel honored to have this unique education and I desire to serve my community by combining my pharmacy and legal educations to help others.” Erica is in the top 9% of her class, as well as an Associate Writer for the California Western Law Review. Additionally, Erica is a member of the Women’s Law Caucus, the Student Intellectual Property Law Association, the Black Law Student’s Association, and the Cannabis Law Student Association. Erica has interned at Procopio, Corey, Hargreaves & Savitch. She was also a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Anthony Battaglia of the U.S. District Court. In addition to her law school pursuits, Erica is also a pharmacist at CVS.

2022 Scholarship Recipients



Andre Tucker

Meyers Nave Scholarship ~ \$3,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

“To be selected as an award winner would place me within a family of high achievers and leaders. Many award winners have moved on to do great things in the legal community. I want to be a part of that honorary group.” Andre is a member of his school’s Moot Court Honor Society, the winner of the school’s Intra School Moot Court Competition, as well as the President of the Student Bar Association. He also received the Highest-Grade Award in 2022 for Legal Writing and Trial Practice, in addition to being named “President of the Year” for 2021-2022. Andre has interned at the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office and served as a Summer Law Clerk in the Southern District of California for the Honorable Judge John Houston.



Sydney Williams

Wilson Turner Kosmo Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 3L

“Since I was twelve, I have always known that I wanted to be a lawyer.” Sydney is a Law Faculty Achievement Scholar, as well as a member of the USD Black Law Students Association (BLSA), where she serves as a 1L mentor. Sydney has interned at the San Diego District Attorney’s office, as well as the San Diego Public Defender’s Office. She was also an extern for the District Courts in the Southern District of California, under the Honorable Judge John Houston.



Dorothy Grafilo

Mintz Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 3L

“African Americans are perpetually underserved with a lack of legal services as cost and opportunity limit their interactions with lawyers. With my legal education, I would welcome every opportunity to give low cost or free legal services to African Americans that come into my office.” Dorothy is a member of the Spring 2022 Deans List, as well as a recipient for a 2022 PALSD Scholarship. She is a Student Representative for Women of Color in Law, as well as a General Member of Lawyers Club. She is also a PALSD General Member, as well as Filipino Lawyer’s Club General Member. Dorothy currently interns at the Community Law Project at California Western. She also serves as a Senior Board Member at the International Law Journal at her law school.

2022 Scholarship Recipient



Aishat "Liz" Sulaiman

Jackson Lewis Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 3L

"Throughout my law school career, I actively try to engage Black law students and offer support in any way I can."

Liz is a student member of the J. Clifford Wallace Chapter of the America Inns of Court, the Executive Editor of USD's International Law Journal, a member and mentor of the First-Generation Legal Professionals, the Black Law Student Association and the Criminal Law Society. Liz has interned at the Attorney General's Office as well as the San Diego Public Defender's Office. She also served as a Judicial Extern in the United States District Court in the Southern District, under the Honorable Judge John Houston.



Serena Pendleton

Genesis Family Law Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 2L

"I want to give back to my community and the schools I grew up in to ensure future generations of children receive a meaningful and equitable education. A strong education can change a child's trajectory and diminish that school-to-prison pipeline." Serena is a Law Faculty Achievement and Law Alumni Achievement Scholarship recipient. She is the Secretary and Social Media Chair for her schools Black Law Students Association (BLSA). She is also a member of various organizations including Advocates for Children, the Criminal Law Society and the Women's Law Caucus. Serena currently interns at the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. She has previously interned at Jackson Lewis PC and Medical Billing Associates.



Lebrian Mays

Littler Law Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 1L

"Our differences provide each of us a unique perspective, and through those lenses, we can better understand our clients' circumstances and provide the best representation." Lebrian is the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award at his school, as well as the Treasurer for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). Lebrian serves his community through GEICO cares. There, he serves the San Diego community through food drives, collecting and donating school supplies to children, and volunteering with local organizations that benefit the homeless, as well as victims of domestic violence.

2021 Scholarship Recipients



Alexandria Loveless

Union Bank Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 3L

“I had one goal in mind moving to San Diego: go to law school so I can become a lawyer and make a difference.” Alexandria is the Vice President of the Women’s Law Caucus, an Ambassador for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), the recipient of the Appellate Argument Distinguished Advocate Award, and an ABA Negotiation Competition Regional Champion. Alexandria is currently a Law Clerk for the Stewart Law Group, and previously volunteered for the Community Law Project. She additionally interned for the Family Law Facilitator’s Office.



Jasmine Bond

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 2L

“I believe this scholarship would impact me professionally because being a recipient would be living proof of black excellence.” Jasmine is the Treasurer of the Student Wellness Organization, as well as an Honor Roll Award recipient. Jasmine is a former Temp Legal Assistant at Guttridge and Cambareri LLC in White Plains, New York. She additionally served as a Financial Specialist at Nordstrom Inc. in Santa Ana, California.



Monika Tashibanda

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

“I was brought up to believe that I could do all things...” Monika is a member of the schools National Trial Team, and in a competition hosted by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, she was voted Best Advocate. Monika is also a two-time Honor Roll recipient in addition to serving as the Social Media Coordinator for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) in 2021. Monika has interned at the San Diego District Attorney’s Office, the San Diego Public Defender’s Office, as well as the Marshall Chamber of Commerce in Marshall, Missouri.

2022 Scholarship Recipients



Larryn Zeigler

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 3L

“My story is one of ambition, perseverance, and dedication.” Larryn is the current President of his schools Black Law Students Association (BLSA). He is also a recipient of the CALI Excellence for the Future Award. Larryn also serves as an Honor Instructor and Teaching Assistant. Larry has served as a Judicial Extern in the U.S. District Court for the Honorable Judge John Houston. He has also been a legal intern at the New Media Rights Clinic and was formerly a marketing assistant with Adidas: Global Entertainment and Influencer Marketing.



Scherelle Simpson

Bar Success Scholarship ~ \$750

Sponsored by Sullivan, Hill, Rez & Engel

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

“I am that child who fought against my situations instead of falling victim to those circumstances... In return, I want to help others fight and unite against their disparities.” Scherelle is a member of the schools Criminal Law Fellowship Program, Black Law Students Association (BLSA), the San Diego County Bar Association and the California Association of Black Lawyers. She also made the schools Honor Roll in the Summer of 2022. Scherelle is currently interning at the San Diego Public Defender’s Office, and she has previously interned at the Alternate Public Defenders Office. Prior to her internships, Scherelle was a Social Caseworker in Westminster Colorado.



Latasha Bonaparte

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$750

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

“The same resiliency that has helped me to attain my past goals will certainly, assist me in my determination to practice law.” Prior to law school Latasha worked with Child Protective Services in Dallas, Texas where she was a Master Investigator. In her work as a Master Investigator, she helped to protect children who were victims of neglect and abuse. Latasha has previously interned at the San Diego Public Defenders Office as well as Free to Thrive.

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*THLA proudly supports
the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar
Foundation
and congratulates this year's
scholarship and award
recipients!*

Installation Officiant

- The Honorable Judge James Simmons Jr. -



The Hon. James Simmons Jr. was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. He was the youngest of four children, raised by a single mother. After graduating high school, James attended UC Berkeley. In 2001, James graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Political Science and African American Studies.

Then, James attended Golden Gate University School of Law. James joined the Competition Mock Trial Team in his second year, competed and won in both regional and national tournaments. James graduated from Golden Gate and was admitted into the practice of law in 2004.

After law school, James moved to San Diego where he eventually joined the San Diego City Attorney's Office in January of 2005. He spent a year at the City Attorney's Office, trying over 20 misdemeanor jury trials.

In January of 2006, he joined the San Diego District Attorney's Office. James was at the DA's office for over eleven years. During that time, he was assigned to the North County branch, Juvenile branch, Superior Court and was in the Gang Prosecution Unit for over 8 years. While at the District Attorney's Office, James tried over 55 jury trials, including several homicides.

On November 3, 2017, at the age of 37, James was appointed to the San Diego Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown. Since his appointment to the Superior Court, James has been assigned to the North County branch presiding over criminal cases. In April of 2022, James became the Supervising Judge of the North County branch, the first African American Supervising Judge in North County. On July 14, 2022, James was nominated by President Biden to serve as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

2022 Foundation Incoming President's Message

- David M. Middleton -



Do you ever take time to reflect on what you have lived through since the beginning of 2020? Of course, what probably comes to mind first is your continued survival through a global pandemic and various social and political movements. But really; take a moment to think about how far you have come in the last almost 36 months. Even if it simply thinking about how amazing you look tonight in comparison to the daily cycle of sweats and pajamas of early-stage pandemic. I reflect on the progression over that period often for a number of reasons; one principally being that was the year I joined the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation board. A positive byproduct of living through a global pandemic was experiencing the personal and corporate reflection of *why* we do *what* we do. Many of us, myself included, began busying ourselves during and through the pandemic for various reasons. However, another

byproduct of the last three years is the heightened awareness of how

short life can truly be, so I encourage you to reflect on your motivations for doing what you do every day. Admittedly, I realized trust was my main driver and the need to feel trusted by others was my why.

Initially, I believed my desire to engender the trust of others was in part what led me to join the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. As an only child, raised in by a phenomenal single mother, I learned that connecting to an established and trustworthy source speeds up the trust timeline with others significantly when entering new spaces—schools, cities, jobs, etc. Yet, the trust I desired and what many associate with the Foundation is comprised of four components: integrity, intention, capabilities, and results. Reflection on the intention component—our motivations—was partly the genesis of this Gala's theme. While the Earl B. Gilliam Association (now Foundation and Association) has built trust in the San Diego legal community over years through its stellar service, quality programming, and notable leadership, I began to realize that something deeper was at work internally through my Foundation board service. Through service, I unearthed a personal revelation of how fleeting, transactional, and unsustainable the concept of borrowed trust was for me and discovered what my purpose is for being called to serve on the Foundation board now.

While representing the interests of the African American legal community in San Diego County is the Foundation's mission, I believe its current and enduring purpose is to connect, amplify, and impact the lives the individuals within our community. So, how do we answer that call as a board? Within the next year, the Foundation will create new programming and host events in partnership with business partners, other bar associations and student organization to connect our communities. The Foundation will also amplify its financial literacy programming, its celebration of minority bar takers at its Summer Soirée event, and continue to expand its scholarship fundraising base. Most importantly, the Foundation will continue its great tradition of developing innovative outlets to impact the lives of the students and attorneys in our legal community.

Thank you to the current EBGBF board for trusting me to steward this wonderful organization for the next year. I am so excited for the Foundation's future and the opportunity to serve alongside you all. Our team is dynamic, forward-looking, purpose-driven, and loaded with talent and potential to make broader and deeper impact within the African American legal community and the broader San Diego legal community. I look forward to answering the call together.

2022 Foundation Board of Directors



David Middleton
President

David Middleton is a Senior Associate in Meyers Nave's Labor and Employment Practice Group advising clients on a wide range of employment law matters in state and federal court. David's clients range from professional sports clubs, retailers, to nonprofit and for-profit entities. David's experience includes performing workplace investigations and representing public agency clients in arbitration. He also has advised clients on appeals related to the request for proposal competitive bidding process, internship employment issues, and enforcement of restrictive covenants in the employment and commercial settings. David has extensive experience drafting internal research, memoranda, and arguing motions. Prior to joining Meyers Nave, David served as an Associate for a San Diego-based law firm where he represented clients in the auto manufacturing, retail, and healthcare industries in matters involving the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, premises liability, products liability and negligence. His prior experience also includes serving as a judicial law clerk for four years in the United States District Court in the Southern District of California.



Isaac Jackson
Immediate Past President

Isaac Jackson is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office assigned to the Family Protection Unit 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 teams for UC Hastings and Oceanside High School. Isaac is also a member of the Southeast San Diego Rotary Club and the Revival Time C.O.G.I.C. An avid performer, Isaac has most recently been seen in three productions with San Diego Musical Theater at the Horton Grand Theater in Downtown San Diego.



Taylor Morrison
Vice President

Taylor Morrison is a Deputy District Attorney at the San Diego District Attorney's Office. At the DA's office, Taylor is involved with recruitment, office wide training, community outreach, and she serves as a mentor to interns. In 2020, Taylor helped create an advisory committee, CORE, the committee on Race and Equity, which is committed to disrupting any inequities that exist in the community, the District Attorney's office, and criminal justice system. Taylor serves as an executive board member on the California Western School of Law Alumni Board, San Diego County Bar's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the SDCBA's Leadership Outreach Committee. In 2022, Taylor was appointed to the National Black Prosecutor's Association to serve as a Regional Director for California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Arizona. In her spare time, Taylor coaches high school mock trial at Patrick Henry High School. Taylor received her Bachelor's Degree from New Mexico State University and Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law.

2022 Foundation Board of Directors



Jordan Turner
Treasurer

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 wife, Ariel, and his two children, Julius and Amara.



Alicia Williams
Secretary

Alicia Williams joined the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of California in July 2015. Currently assigned to the Violent Crimes and Human Trafficking Section, Ms. Williams serves as the district's Hate Crimes Coordinator, taking the lead on the district's federal hate crime cases. She also leads the office's effort to collaborate with law enforcement leaders and community groups to prevent hate, raise public awareness, and increase reporting. AUSA Williams served in the Border Enforcement Section as AUSA and Special AUSA from July 2015-April 2021. She received her J.D. from Levin College of Law at the University of Florida, where she also obtained a BA/BS in Business Administration. AUSA Williams is an active member of the USAO's Diversity Management Committee, serving as Special Emphasis Program Coordinator for the Black Affairs Program. She is a member of the San Diego Regional Anti-Hate Crimes Coalition, Women of Color in the Law, and the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.



Christopher Chandler
Director

Chris Chandler is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office where he has been a prosecutor for 12 years. He has held assignments in the Economic Crimes Division, Juvenile Division, North County Division, and South County Division. Chris is presently assigned to the Insurance Fraud Division where he prosecutes auto fraud, auto insurance fraud, and complex economic auto theft cases in the Central and South County Courts. Chris is also involved in office recruitment, training, community outreach, mentorship programs, and is a member of the District Attorney's Office Committee on Race and Equity where he works to eliminate inequalities in the criminal justice system. Chris earned his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law. He received a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology from the University of California, Davis. In his free time Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and two young daughters.

2022 Foundation Board of Directors



Michael Flemming
Director

Michael Flemming is a Deputy Public Defender assigned to the San Diego County Primary Public Defender's Office in Vista. Prior to becoming a Deputy Public Defender, Michael was a Special Assistant at Western Area Counsel Office aboard Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. While at Western Area Counsel, Michael advised the Commandant of Marine Corps, military commanders, and civilian leaders on an array of civilian personnel, legislative, and ethics issues. In law school Michael was a Legal Fellow, on Capitol Hill, for the Office of the Senate Majority Leader where he focused on Defense and Intelligence issues. Michael obtained his Bachelor's of Arts in International Studies, with a minor in Chinese, from the Croft Institute of International Studies at the University of Mississippi. And, received his Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Michael is an avid sports fan who resides in Vista with his wife Vanessa and son Dryden.



Christopher Hines
Director

Christopher E. Hines is a native of San Diego, but credits his upbringing to his time spent in Philadelphia. A graduate of Howard University, he received his B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Art History. He received his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. He is currently an associate with Lorber, Greenfield & Polito, LLP, a civil litigation firm specializing in constructing defect and insurance defense. Christopher's professional experience include positions with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla Playhouse, and National Conflict Resolution Center. He is an avid cyclist and enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children.



Julianna Kat
Director

Julianna Kat is Associate General Counsel at Conservice. Her practice focuses on regulatory compliance and privacy and data security. Julianna received her law degree from the University of San Diego in 2016 and her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Fresno State University in 2013. During her time in law school, Julianna served as Co-President of the Black Law Students Association from 2014-2016. In her free time, Julianna enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her husband Alex and daughter Rya.

2022 Foundation Board of Directors



Jordan Proctor
Director

Jordan Proctor is a Deputy Public Defender in the San Diego County Office of the Public Defender. Jordan attended UCSD for his undergraduate study before moving to New York to attend New York University School of Law. During his time in law school, Jordan served on the board of the Black Allied Law Students Association, externed for the Hillary for America campaign, and still found time for intramural softball. He returned to San Diego after graduation and has been practicing since 2017. As a PD, Jordan represents indigent defendants charged with felony and misdemeanor cases. He has tried cases in both the Central and Northern Divisions.



Warsame Hassan
Director

Warsame Hassan is a native San Diegan and an employment attorney at Littler Mendelson, P.C. He represents clients in various areas of labor and employment law. His practice focuses on assisting employers in a variety of employment disputes, including discrimination, wrongful termination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour litigation. He also serves on Littler's recruitment committee and provides Pro-Bono services through the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program. Prior to Littler, Warsame served as a Judicial Clerk to the Hon. John A. Houston. Warsame obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside. He received his Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law. While in law school, Warsame served as the treasurer of the Black Law Students Association. He currently provides mentorship and guidance to students attending the San Diego local law schools. Warsame enjoys volunteering in the community, traveling internationally and playing basketball.



Ashanti Smith
Director

Ashanti Smith is originally from Compton, California. Prior to living in San Diego, she has lived in Italy, Hawaii, and Washington, DC. where she attended Howard University. The California Bar admitted Ashanti in 2021. She started her dream career as an attorney at the Office of the Primary Public Defender in 2021. Prior to working as a Public Defender, she worked at Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) in government contracts. At BAH, she became the President of the African American Network serving over 30,000 employees in order to bring awareness to diverse issues that were actively occurring during the pandemic. When she is not working, she is the mother of two amazing children. Ashanti prides herself in her empathy, advocacy, and determination in collaborative justice. Her hobbies include spoken word poetry, chess, and safe activities in nature. Her overall goal is to circumvent the school-to-prison pipeline within the criminal justice system.

2022 Association Incoming President's Message

- Desirae Sanders -



What an honor it is to be installed as the next President of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and join such a distinguished group of men and women. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me and sincerely thank the members of EBGBA for allowing me this privilege. I want to congratulate Maresa Talbert and her Board of Directors for a very successful year. I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors as we embark on this journey of service together.

This year's theme is "A Purpose Driven Practice: Embracing the Call". As I reflect over the past forty-one years, embracing the call is something I have always tried to do. Almost twenty-three years ago, I embraced the call of a teenaged single mother. As a seventeen-year-old senior in high school, this was not a call I wanted. However, with the help of my family,

friends, and determination and a drive to succeed, I am proud to say my son is now a Howard University graduate who will be headed to medical school next year.

When I began law school, I knew my next calling was to be a prosecutor and then a judge. I could not have been more wrong. As my passion for service to the underrepresented and underprivileged grew, I realized I was being called to serve my community as a Deputy Public Defender. In 2010, I embraced that call and began work as a public defender in Kentucky. In 2011, I moved across the country to continue that calling here with the San Diego Public Defender's Office. I want to thank Randy Mize and my fellow public defenders for being here and embracing their call to serve.

Finally, as I embrace my calling here tonight as the next President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, I am excited and ready to serve. I look forward to continuing to expand the amazing programs we have, such as Neighborhood Law School, our speed mentoring program, and our various networking events. I embrace the opportunity to create new experiences and programs that meet the needs of our members and encourage them to continue to embrace their calling in their practice and commitment to the community.

As the incomparable Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel." I embrace these words in my practice every day. I am hopeful as I lead this distinguished organization into another year, continuing the work of our mission, people will not forget how EBGBA made them feel. Thank you to all of you who continue to support and partner with Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. Congratulations to all of tonight's Honorees and scholarship recipients.

Thank you again for this prestigious honor and I look forward to serving.

2022 Association Board of Directors



Desirae Sanders
President

Desirae Sanders has served San Diego County as a Deputy Public Defender since 2011. She has practiced in several different divisions within the office, including adult criminal defense, juvenile justice division (formerly known as juvenile delinquency), and the mental health unit. A native Kentuckian, Desirae earned her Juris Doctorate from Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, and her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration – Management from the University of Kentucky. Desirae has served on the Board of Directors of EBGBA the past two years, is a member of San Diego County Bar Association’s Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, and a member of several community professional organizations. When not working, Desirae spends her free time mentoring and coaching young women. She is the head women’s basketball coach at Sweetwater High School and made history this past season at the school as the first women’s basketball team to make it the CIF San Diego Section championship game in CIF playoffs. Desirae is the proud mother of an astute son who is a recent Howard University graduate.



Taneashia Morrell
Vice President

Taneashia R. Morrell is an IP Attorney, currently working at the Salk Institute. She is primarily responsible for generating and evaluating all licensing agreements, managing the Institute’s trademark portfolios, and providing guidance on IP strategies. Previously, Taneashia was a Staff Attorney at the Legal Services of South-Central Michigan. Prior to becoming a Staff Attorney, she was 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 earned her JD cum laude from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, and her LLM from Michigan State University College of Law. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., American Inns of Court, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, and San Diego County Bar Association. She has also been appointed to serve on several professional legal committees in California, District of Columbia, and Michigan.



Andrew Feaster
Treasurer

Andrew was born and raised in San Diego. After attending Eastlake High School and Southwestern Community College, he attended and graduated from San Diego State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Andrew then attended California Western School of Law before passing the California Bar Exam. While attending California Western School of Law, Andrew served as the President of the Black Law Student Association as well as the Chief of Staff for the Western Region Black Law Student Association. He currently practices as a Deputy Public Defender for the County of San Diego and served as one of the Board of Directors for the San Diego Public Defender Association. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Wave Academy, a non-profit organization helping military veterans suffering from PTSD.

2022 Association Board of Directors



Christopher Hines
Member at Large

Christopher E. Hines is a native of San Diego, but credits his upbringing to his time spent in Philadelphia. A graduate of Howard University, he received his B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Art History. He received his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. He is currently a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, providing procurement life-cycle management support to the Department of Navy, advising the government on acquisition strategies per Federal guidance. Christopher's professional experience include positions with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla Playhouse, and National Conflict Resolution Center providing small claims mediation within the San Diego County Superior Court. Additionally, Christopher founded a consulting firm, while awaiting bar results, aimed at providing fundraising and grant writing services to local nonprofits. He is an avid cyclist and enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children.



Jenerra Crenshaw
Member at Large

Jenerra Crenshaw is an attorney in the San Diego County Public Defender's Office. Since 2012, she has been advocating for the rights of indigent juveniles and the accused. Jenerra has tried more than 60 trials to verdict with charges ranging from low level petty theft through more serious offenses, including murder. Currently, Jenerra serves as the Communications Coordinator for the San Diego County Public Defender's Office Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Panel, and as a Board member for the Public Defender Association (PDA). Jenerra graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from California State University Long Beach. In May 2011, she earned her Juris Doctorate from Southwestern Law School, where she was a member of Southwestern Law Review and served as the Historian for the National Black Law Students Association. When not fighting for justice, Jenerra enjoys spending time with her family, discovering new music, and indulging in self-care.



Maresa Talbert
Immediate Past President

Maresa Talbert is the Founding Attorney and CEO of Talbert Law Office, APC, 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 Doctorate from California Western School of Law, and an Intellectual Property Professional Certification from the University of California, San Diego Extension. Maresa fulfills other various capacities within the San Diego community, and stays highly engaged in public policy advocacy, to include economic development, veterans' affairs, and social justice issues. In her spare time, Maresa likes to enjoy the company of her husband who currently serves as an active-duty naval officer in the United States Navy.

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