



EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION

47th
Annual
SCHOLARSHIP
& AWARDS
Gala

UNLOCKING
OUR COLLECTIVE
POWER

NOV. 4TH, 2023
THE U.S. GRANT HOTEL
DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO



**Shaping a stronger,
more inclusive 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

47th 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.

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47th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala

Unlocking Our Collective Power

Special Performance

Heartbeat Music Academy
Thunder Squad Drumline & Monarch Majorettes

Welcome & Opening Remarks

David Middleton – 2023 Foundation President
Jordan Turner and Christopher Hines – 2023 Gala Co-Chairs

Mistress of Ceremonies

Keristen Holmes
News Anchor KFMB-TV

Invocation

Minister Reiss Williams
City of Hope International Church

Black National Anthem - “Lift Ev’ry Voice & Sing”

Dale Fleming
Soloist, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir San Diego

Special Remarks – Platinum Sponsors

Alana Norman - San Diego Gas & Electric
Jonathan Andrews - Signature Resolutions

2023 Association Highlights & Presentation of Association Awards

Desirae Sanders
2023 Association President

Thurgood Marshall Award

Taneashia Morrell

President’s Award

Geneviève Jones-Wright

Living Legend Award

Hon. John A. Houston

2023 Foundation Highlights & Presentation of Foundation Awards

David Middleton

2023 Foundation President

Dedicated Service Award

Taylor Morrison, Christopher Hines,
Jordan Proctor

Rising Star Award

Julianna Kat

President's Award

Alicia Williams

Friend of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Award

Greg Knoll

Presentation of Scholarships

Isaac Jackson, Christopher Chandler, Julianna Kat, Alicia Williams

2023 Scholarship Committee

Keynote Moderator

Oyango Snell

Strategist, Motivational Speaker,
And Former Bar Association Executive.

Keynote Address

Dr. William ("Sandy") Darity Jr.

Samuel DuBois Cook Distinguished Professor of Public Policy
Duke University

Installation Ceremony

Honorable Judge Terrie Roberts

Installation

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
Board of Directors, 2024

Installation

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Board of Directors, 2024

Closing Remarks

Alicia Williams

2024 Foundation President

Opening Performance

Heartbeat Music Academy

Founded upon and guided by the traditions, cultures, and principles of HBCUs, the Thunder Squad Drumline & Monarch Majorettes was first created in 2011 at the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA under the direction of Ms. Tyra Hawthorne. In 2014, Ms. Hawthorne went on to form Heartbeat Music & Performing Arts Academy, a nonprofit providing high-quality, accessible music and dance education for middle and high school students from low-income, marginalized communities- while centering our marching band at the heart of everything we do. HBMPAA's mission for TSD & MM is to teach students how to use their music and dance education to audition and obtain HBCU music and dance scholarships to support their higher education. Today, that mission has been realized many times over. HBMPAA alumni have been accepted to schools such as Alabama State University, Clark Atlanta University, Jackson State University, and Southern University Baton Rouge. TSD & MM has also been featured in several national commercials, television shows, and has traveled the country to perform in national parades, including the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Waikiki Pearl Harbor Day Parade, and the Tennessee State University Homecoming Parade.



Invocation Officiant

Minister Reiss Williams

Reiss Williams born in Manchester England, he has been residing in the United States for 15 years since the age of seventeen. After two periods in New York, Reiss resides in San Diego with his wife Ashley and daughter Zoey. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2015, and from the University of Manchester in 2019 with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. In June 2021 Reiss was ordained a minister of the gospel at the City of Hope International Church, where he presently serves. Reiss has been in the home improvement industry for the last eight years, and has held various senior management roles at both the Home Depot and Lowe's, where he presently works.

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

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

Performed by Dale Fleming

Soloist, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir San Diego*

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

*The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir San Diego (MLKCCSD) is a non-profit charitable organization. The Choir’s purpose is to raise funds through a series of concerts for educational grants that they distribute to aspiring college-bound high school majors in Visual and Performing Arts from the San Diego County area.



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 newspaper, 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 she gets her outdoors and enjoying the beautiful weather San Diego has to offer.

History of the Organizations

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 Forum, 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 \$170,000 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 University Of California College of the Law San Francisco (Formerly 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.

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SanDiegoDA.com

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



SUMMER STEPHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DWAIN D. WOODLEY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY



November 4, 2023

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Members,

Congratulations on celebrating 47 years of outstanding service to San Diego County. The legal profession and the community are better because of your dedication to representing the interests of African American lawyers, judges, and law students throughout southern California. The theme of “Unlocking our Collective Power” encourages all of us to work together toward a better future for our children.

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 employees at the San Diego District Attorney's Office, we stand with you on your admirable work defending the legal and human rights of all people and promoting the administration of justice. Your mission aligns with our mission of pursuing fair and equal justice for all. I'm so proud of all the Deputy District Attorneys from my team who have served in the past and are currently serving in leadership positions in your association and foundation.

Thank you for all you do and best wishes for a successful Awards and Scholarship Dinner.

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

Follow the District Attorney's Office on



SEAN
ELO-RIVERA
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCILMEMBER FOR DISTRICT 9

Dear friends and supporters of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation,

I am honored to support the vital mission of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, which has been a beacon of hope and progress for the African American legal community in San Diego for nearly five decades. The Foundation's 47th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala is a shining testament to the remarkable strides we've made in our shared pursuit of a more equitable community.

For nearly half a century, the Foundation has supported and advocated for the diversification of the legal community — an essential element to create a world where “Equal Justice Under the Law” is more than just an aspiration. This support takes the form of scholarships for law students and, equally important, assistance for African American legal professionals in various stages of their careers.

That's why the Foundation has stood as a pillar of support, tirelessly advancing the interests of African Americans within the greater San Diego area's legal community. It embodies resilience, determination, and the commitment to bring about change. Furthermore, its unwavering commitment to promoting justice and equity is commendable.

Your support, generosity, and dedication are the driving forces behind the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's success. I encourage you to continue standing with this remarkable organization, knowing that your contributions are vital to our pursuit of a more equitable San Diego.

One of the cornerstones of this gala is the awarding of scholarships to deserving law students. Over the past three years, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation has generously awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to these rising stars. These scholarships empower them, offering financial support and affirming their commitment to justice as one that is recognized and valued.

To the scholarship recipients, as a former law student, I am familiar with many of the challenges that must be overcome to succeed in law school. Receiving this scholarship is no small feat. It is a testament to your academic and professional potential. Your future peers see the promise you hold for yourself and the profession. They see your intelligence. They see your grit. They see your talent. Always remember that.

Congratulations to all the scholarship winners. You are the future of the legal profession, and we are eager to see what you accomplish. Continue fighting for justice and equity because this will be the driver and catalyst of positive change for years to come.

With admiration and support,



Sean Elo-Rivera

San Diego City Council President and Councilmember for District Nine



COUNCILMEMBER JOE LACAVAL

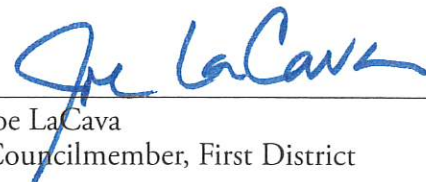
Special Commendation

Presented To

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Association

Congratulations on 47 years of representing the interests of the African American legal community in San Diego County and diversifying the legal community via scholarships and employment assistance. The work of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Association not only assists today's students and legal community, but also inspires future legal leaders in San Diego.

I commend you on your dedication to community and civic action that honors Judge Earl B. Gilliam and "unlocks our collective power."



Joe LaCava
Councilmember, First District

4 NOVEMBER 2023

Date

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(916) 319-2079
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FAX (619) 531-7924

EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION 47TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS GALA

November 4, 2023

Congratulations on hosting the 47th Annual EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS GALA. This year's theme "Unlocking our Collective Power" beautifully captures the essence of your organization's ongoing dedication to harnessing and highlighting the best emerging legal talent in San Diego. This joyous occasion calls for commemoration and celebration.

I congratulate the 2023 scholarship recipients and awardees. We celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to the evolution of their burgeoning legal careers. Your support of these legal scholars ensures that the rich tradition of strong Black legal service and leadership continues its legacy. I have no doubt that the organization's continued success brings great honor its pioneers, including my father, the late Honorable Daniel Weber.

The citizens of San Diego appreciate your steadfast commitment to representing, defending and amplifying the legal needs of the Black community.

Best wishes on another successful event and thank you to the Earl B Gilliam Bar Foundation for remaining steadfast in the fight for racial and social equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Akilah Weber", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Assemblymember Akilah Weber, MD
79th Assembly District





Office of Councilmember Jennifer Campbell

Proudly representing the Second Council District
City of San Diego



“2023 Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation & Association”

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation & Association,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Association’s (EBGBF) Board and Members for your unwavering commitment to advancing and diversifying the African-American legal community in San Diego County over the past 47 years.

Through the EBGBF, you have been instrumental in empowering African-American lawyers in San Diego, fostering their journey towards becoming partners within law firms, establishing their private practices, or becoming judges. The Foundation’s commendable efforts have resulted in the disbursement of more than \$100,000 in scholarships to African-American law students in just the last three years, significantly alleviating the financial burdens associated with pursuing higher education.

As a mark of respect, it’s clear that the late Honorable Judge Earl B. Gilliam would be immensely proud of the organization’s present-day efforts in preparing future lawyers to contribute to the diversification of the legal landscape in San Diego County. Here’s to the continued success and positive impact of the EBGBF in shaping the legal future of San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Campbell
Councilmember, Second District
San Diego City Council

Contact Information

Address: 202 C Street, 10th Floor | San Diego, CA 92101

Office: (619) 236-6622

Email: JenniferCampbell@sandiego.gov

Website: www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd2/



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MARNI VON WILPERT
COUNCILMEMBER • FIFTH DISTRICT

November 4, 2023

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Members,

As you prepare for your 47th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala, it is with great excitement that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.

Since its establishment in 1976, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation has been a driving force in advancing the interests of African Americans within the San Diego legal community.

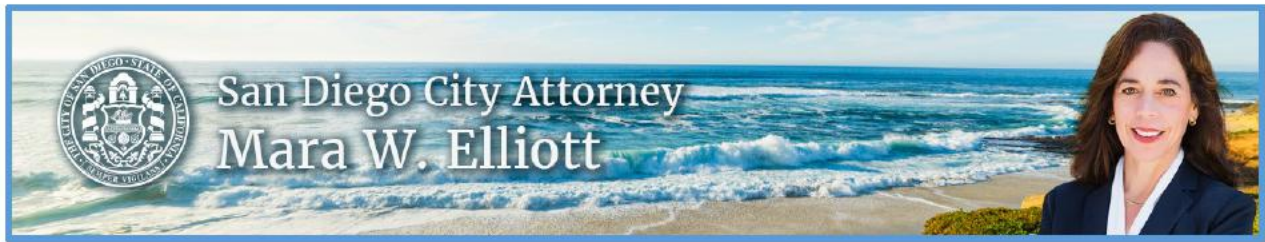
Your mission, which is centered around supporting and uplifting African American lawyers, judges, and law students, resonates deeply with my commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our community. I acknowledge the Foundation's longstanding contributions, particularly its pivotal role in providing over \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving law students over the past three years. This commitment to alleviating the financial burden for aspiring legal professionals mirrors my dedication to accessible educational opportunities for all. On behalf of District 5 residents and the City of San Diego, I congratulate and commend the Foundation for 47 years of unwavering dedication to fostering excellence and inclusivity in the legal field.

Wishing you a remarkable and successful 47th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala. May this celebration mark another year of achievements and further reinforce the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's significant and relevant impact in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marni von Wilpert".

Marni von Wilpert
San Diego City Councilmember
District 5



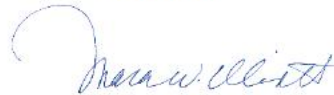
November 4, 2023

Dear Attendees:

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation plays an extremely valuable role in our legal community. It has successfully raised funds to provide law school scholarships to deserving students and has effectively advocated for the advancement of African American legal professionals. The Foundation's work has undoubtedly changed the lives of many San Diegans in a positive and progressive way. The Foundation's work has helped to produce some of our most respected leaders, including judges, law firm partners, community activists, and government officials. It is, and will continue to be, a strong and valued voice in our community.

Congratulations to those receiving scholarships and awards at this evening's Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's 47th Annual Dinner. I hope that these emerging community leaders consider a career in public service.

Sincerely,


Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

October 16, 2023

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

Members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation,

Thank you so much for the invitation to attend this year's Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala. Sadly, I am unable to attend as my wife is due to give birth to our first child, a baby boy, any day now.

As the City Councilmember for District 7, representing communities such as Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, San Carlos, Serra Mesa, and Tierrasanta, I want to thank the Foundation for all of its great work to diversify the legal community and uplift African-American attorneys, legal professionals and law students.

Before I was elected to the City Council in 2020, I practiced law at O'Melveny & Myers and served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Diego City Attorney's office. I know well that this profession can be difficult to break into and challenging to navigate once you've gotten your start. That is especially true for legal professionals of color, but organizations like yours can make all the difference. That extra bit of support – whether it's scholarship, kinship or mentorship – can often be the difference between someone being successful in the legal profession or not.

On the theme of "Unlocking Our Collective Power," we are all stronger when we work together to advance our common goals. On the City Council, I remind myself of that lesson often. Though I may not always see eye to eye with every member of the Council, we have worked together to get big things done like increase access to quality and affordable childcare and uplift working families by creating great union jobs. I look forward to working with those in attendance tonight on achieving our shared goals of advancing equity for all in San Diego and uplifting underserved communities.

Thank you to President David M. Middleton for all your work and thank you to all in attendance tonight for your contributions to the legal profession and to San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raul A. Campillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raul" being the most prominent.

Councilmember Raul A. Campillo
San Diego City Council, District 7



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNCILMEMBER KENT LEE

Council District 6

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Members,

Congratulations on your 47th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala! This foundation's dedication to diversity is evident through decades of service in supporting, representing, and advancing the interests of the African-American legal community throughout San Diego.

The African-American community's knowledge, lived-experiences, and cultural wealth enhances all public sectors, especially the legal sector. Your efforts to increase the political and civic voice of your community in San Diego is extremely important and is certainly appreciated and celebrated.

This year's theme "Unlocking our Collective Power" is a concept I personally resonate with. Sustained collective power is what drives equity, justice, achievement, and inclusive communities. I look forward to seeing our communities flourish alongside the dedicated lawyers, judges, law students, and other legal professionals born from this foundation.

On behalf of our office, I send my sincere congratulations and wish you a wonderful gala.

Best regards,

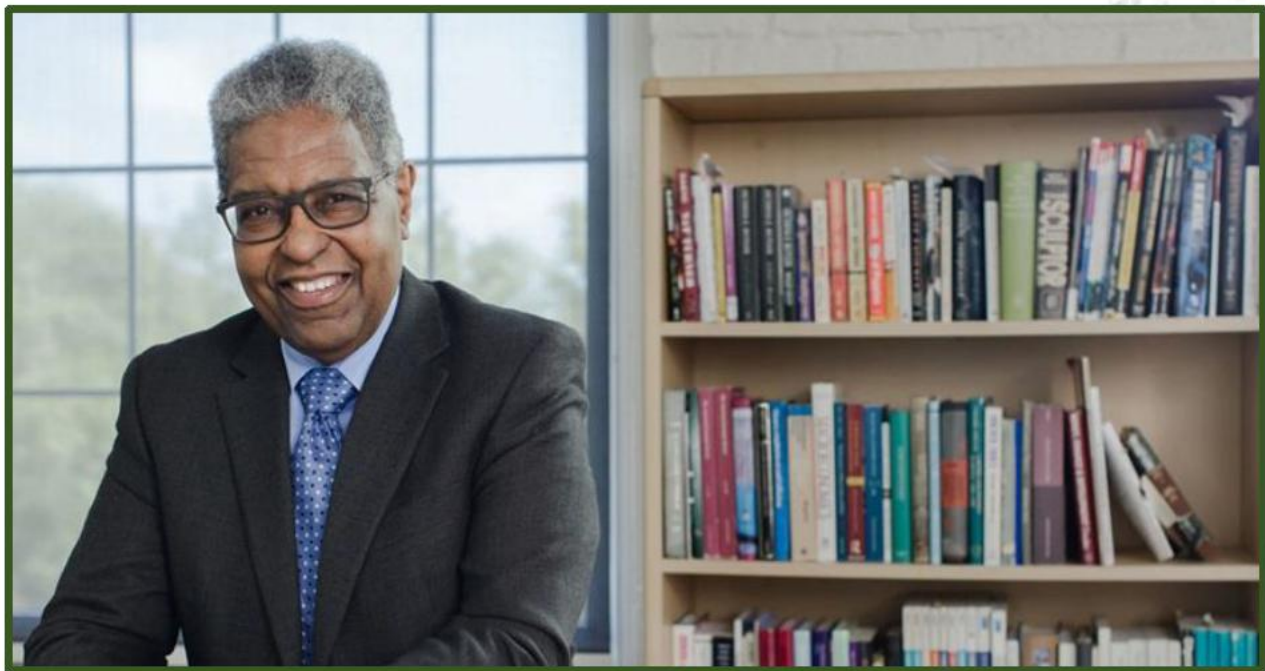
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kent Lee".

Kent Lee
Councilmember, 6th District
San Diego City Council

Keynote Speaker

Dr. William “Sandy” Darity Jr.

William A. (“Sandy”) Darity Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, Economics and Business, and the founding director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. He has served as chair of the Department of African and African American Studies and was the founding director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality at Duke. Dr. Darity’s research focuses on inequality by race, class and ethnicity, stratification economics, schooling and the racial achievement gap, North-South theories of trade and development, skin shade and labor market outcomes, the economics of reparations, the Atlantic slave trade and the Industrial Revolution, the history of economics, and the social psychological effects of exposure to unemployment. His most recent book, coauthored with A. Kirsten Mullen, is *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century* (2020).



Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation - Year in Review

January 21, 2023 – The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, in partnership with the Association, participated in the 41st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade. The parade allowed the Earl B. Gilliam Bar organizations to show their solidarity of mission for years to come.



February 2023 - The Foundation, in partnership with Black Tech Link, hosted a fantastic panel of diverse IP attorneys to discuss Where Business, Law, & Tech Intersect at Qualcomm’s headquarters. This event allowed law students, attorneys, and other tech and engineering professionals to engage and authentically discourse about how Black and diverse legal and other professionals best position themselves in an ever-changing economy fueled by technological advances.

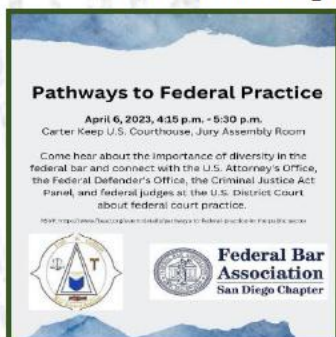


March 2023 – The Earl B. Gilliam Bar organizations hosted a mixer at Louisiana Purchase to connect our past board members with current board members and exchange the lessons we all are learning through our purpose-driven service.

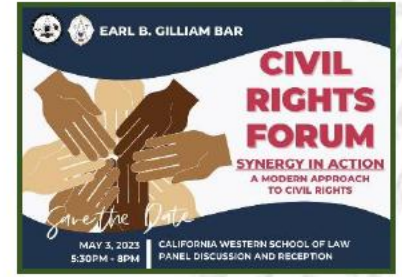


April 6, 2023 – The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation, in conjunction with the DEI Committee of the Federal Bar Association - San Diego Chapter, hosted the Pathways to Federal Practice panel and networking event. One the goals of the program was to expose

diverse law students and attorneys to the inroads to practicing in federal court. Thank you to U.S. District Judge Jinsook Ohta, U.S. Magistrate Judge Lupe Rodriguez, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney Andrew R. Haden, CJA Panel Attorney Jami L. Ferrara, for sharing their insights on how to build or maintain a successful career in the federal court. Thank you to Sanjay Bhandari, Mary Cile Glover-Rogers, Sandor Callahan, Alicia Williams, and Dylan Aste for your collaboration and organization! We look forward to partnering with FBA and our other diverse bar organizations on this program in coming years.



May 3, 2023 – The Foundation held its first in-person Civil Rights Forum since the pandemic. In partnership with the Association and California Western School of Law, the Foundation hosted a panel discussion about how our San Diego affinity bar organizations can collaborate and address civil rights issues affecting our overlapping communities and their interests. Thank you to Arcelia Magaña, Jodi Cleesattle, Warren Den, and Shannon Finley for your participation!



June 17, 2023 - The Earl B. Gilliam Bar organizations thank all who were able to join us for our second annual Juneteenth celebration! Special thank you to the Federal Bar Association of San Diego County for co-sponsoring this event for the second year in a row! The Foundation was also able to sell T-shirts to raise money for scholarships.



July 19, 2023 – In co-sponsorship with Signature Resolution and Beyond Law, the Foundation hosted a panel about the diverse perspectives and approaches to resolving cases in mediation. The panel was followed by a delicious happy hour at the University Club atop Symphony Towers. Thank you to our fabulous panelists—Kim Carter, Esq., Hon. Cynthia Freeland, and Hon. Kenneth So (Ret.)—and our wonderful moderator, Jonathan Andrews, Esq.



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 again spear headed the United Against Hate Poster and Video Contest co-sponsored by the US Attorney’s Office. The Foundation also shared their legal knowledge and expertise in coaching the Lincoln High School mock trial team. With the funds donated from SDG&E, the Foundation was able to provide financial assistance in covering competition costs and expenses. Additionally, the Foundation funded book donations to Fahari Jeffers Elementary School in Chula Vista, California and Baker Elementary School in San Diego, California.





Wilson Turner Kosmo proudly supports the **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation** as they work to advance the political, economic, educational, social, legislative, and legal interests of the Black community in San Diego County.

WILSON TURNER KOSMO
— LLP —

wilsonturnerkosmo.com



LEADING YOU INTO THE FUTURE...

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2023 Foundation Outgoing President's Message

David Middleton

It has been an inspiring journey as the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation President in 2023. The year drove home *The Piano Lesson* for me. Not the grand percussive instrument that you envision with the black and white keys but the Pulitzer prize winning play by acclaimed playwright August Wilson. I was fortunate enough to see it on Broadway in January and was astounded by how the universal themes of a 1987 play, set in 1936, were personified in our Earl B. Gilliam and San Diego legal communities.

In the play, a brother and sister engage in a protracted feud over the fate of the only family heirloom, an ornate wood-carved piano. Generations earlier, the siblings' family's slave-owner broke up a family by selling a mother and child to pay for the piano which he bought for his wife as an anniversary present. The slaver's wife was happy with the piano but missed the slaves, so the slave owner had that family's husband/father (who was a carpenter and too valuable to sell), carve their likenesses on the piano. He carved likenesses of his entire family's history on the piano. Subsequently, the sibling's father stole the piano from the slave owner, and he was killed in retaliation. Now, the slave owner is dead and the brother wants to sell the piano to buy the slave owner's land while the sister refuses to touch the piano in fear of waking the ancestral spirits. By the play's end, both sister and brother realize the peace found in conceding their individual aims and truly using what their ancestors left to them. Which made me think: Are we frantically working to further individual aims under the guise of service or working to find the peace of maximizing what our predecessors graciously left to us to benefit others?

What have your ancestors left to your stewardship? More importantly, what have you done or will you do with it?

Last year, I hoped the Foundation would create new programming, host events in partnership with business partners, other bar associations and student organization to connect our communities. Due to an awesome Foundation board and amazing community partners, the Foundation made great strides in developing innovative outlets that impact the lives of students and attorneys in our legal community and beyond. Thank you to the 2023 Foundation board!

As immediate past president, I look forward to amplifying the Foundation's financial literacy programming, maintaining a stronger network with our past presidents and alumni, and continuing to grow our scholarship fundraising base. We are so fortunate to award \$51,000 this year and I am confident we will be positioned to provide more in the future through the work of the 2024 board.

Congratulations to the award and scholarship recipients! Congratulations Alicia Williams, a most deserving and capable incoming Foundation president!



Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Past Presidents

Isaac J. Jackson 2022

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

Maresa Talbert, 2022
Genevieve Jones-Wright, 2021
Andrea St. Julian 2019, 2020
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
Hon. 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

2023 Association Outgoing President's Message

Desirae Sanders



It was an experience becoming the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association President. As a Kentucky transplant who was very active in the BLSAs and Black bar associations in Kentucky and Ohio, I found moving across country as a single mom to be more challenging than I anticipated. In 2009, I initially became a member of EBGBA after passing the bar; however, a hiring freeze in the County prevented me from onboarding with the San Diego Public Defender's Office. I moved to Modesto, and while waiting for the hiring freeze to be lifted, I did pro bono work with the California Rural Legal Assistance program and worked at Sears. Subsequently, the Public Defender's office in Kentucky had an opening so I began my career as a public servant there. Later that year, I was contacted by the San Diego Public Defender's Office to see if I was still interested in a position since the hiring freeze

was lifted. Who says no to San Diego – not this girl! So, after completing my interviews and closing argument via Zoom (back when that was not a normal thing), I packed my bags and moved back across the country to begin work with the San Diego Public Defender's Office in January 2011. Again, I found myself joining EBGBA; however, I did not have the time to be as involved as I wanted to as my focus shifted to commitments and boards surrounding my son's education and sports.

In 2020, I recommitted to Earl B. Gilliam Bar after sending my son to college at Howard University. I knew it was time to shift my focus to giving back to my new community. After only two years on the board, I was asked to serve as President. It was a daunting task, but one that I took with pride, and I accepted the call. During my tenure, I faced challenge after challenge and found not only did I face challenges as EBGBA President, but in my personal life, both medically and physically. However, I gained a newfound appreciation for EBGBA and its amazing board of directors. Thank you so much to my board for all you did to stand with me and behind me this year. I want to give a special thank you to Maresa Talbert for her unwavering dedication and support of EBGBA. We have called on you over the years to do above and beyond and you never fail to show up and get in the trenches. The work you put into the announcements alone is inconceivable. I also want to thank my Vice President, Taneashia Morrell, for standing in the gap when I physically could not stand and supporting the mission to continue to build relationships with the San Diego County Bar and other organizations. You are a formidable human being, and I am happy to pass the torch to you. You will continue to lead this organization to amazing new heights.

Under my leadership, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association has continued its work on the Commission on Police Practices and in August, the commissioners were appointed. We have strengthened and expanded our ties and work with community organizations and affinity bar groups, including being involved in the formation of a Unity Bar in San Diego. EBGBA successfully hosted its staple programs, and continues to curate more creative programs and MCLEs for our members and community. Lastly, as I transition into my role as the immediate past president, I look forward to continuing the work I have started in advancing the educational interests of our community and truly making sure no child is left behind. I hope to engage many of you in that endeavor as we go into the schools in the upcoming year.

Congratulations to all of tonight's award recipients and scholarship winners. A special thank you and congratulations to our Living Legend Award recipient Hon. John Houston. You are the epitome of a true EBGBA legend and we thank you for everything you give. Thank you to all the judges, attorneys and community partners who have helped make this year such a success. I implore all of you to not only become members, but to seek life membership and sustaining life membership, attend the meetings, join a committee, and really serve Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association in any capacity that you can. We really need you so let's unlock our collective power! Thank you again for the honor and privilege of serving you this past year.

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Earl B. Gilliam Association - Year in Review



January - We started the year strong, marching in unison with our sister organization in the 42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on January 15, 2023. We were proud to begin the year embracing the call and marching together as one. We also co-hosted a table to welcome new attorneys at the San Diego County Bar Association Reception.

February - Throughout the year, we were invited to sit and speak on various panels, including a panel at UCSD for prelaw students on February 23rd. We also held MCLEs every other month for our members prior to our general body meetings. Thank you to all our gracious MCLE speakers for your time and wisdom. We would also like to thank California Western School of Law for always allowing us to host our meetings and events at their school.

March - EBGBA hosted its annual speed mentoring event on March 30th. This was the first year we had more attorney and judges volunteer than students. Thank for your continued efforts to guide and mentor our up-and-coming law students. The men also held their annual retreat in March and man did our men show up! This event allowed for our men to gather and share experiences, knowledge, and fellowship together. Thank you to the Pride Law Firm for sponsoring and thank you to all our judges, attorneys and law students who participated.



April - On April 28, 2023, EBGBA hosted its first ever Life Membership Drive & Mixer at the Alexandria at Torrey Pines. Hon. James Simmons, Jr. was honored and celebrated for his appointment to the federal bench, and pillars of the organization such as Dennis Dawson and Judge Houston shared words of wisdom. We enjoyed celebrating one another and the organization's continued growth. Thank you to our immediate Past President Maresa Talbert for all her hard work in making sure our members were celebrated and increasing the number of life members and sustaining life members.

May - EBGBA continued its annual racial justice summit on May 25, 2023, the third anniversary of George Floyd's murder. This event was created and led by none other than our very own Geneviève Jones-Wright. The goal of the summit is for the leadership of our respective affinity bar associations and groups to come together to discuss priority campaigns for the upcoming year and share action items with each other. We had an amazing time supporting one another and listening to the ideas and upcoming events from each of the organization leaders.



June - In celebration of Juneteenth, we gathered with other community organizations and members at Memorial Park for the annual Cooper Family Foundation Juneteenth Healing the Community Festival. This was an amazing opportunity for community members to engage with EBGBA and have questions answered and information given about events such as our Neighborhood Law School. We also continued our collaboration with San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program for the 2nd Annual Juneteenth Black Business Empowerment Free Legal Clinic at the Malcolm X Library. We look

forward to seeing many more of you next year. In June we also took part in engaging with other San Diego diverse bar association leaders to begin discussing forming a Unity Bar here in San Diego. We are excited to be involved in the planning and looking forward to working with other leaders to finally have a Unity Bar in our community.

July – EBGBA co-hosted a fundraiser for our endorsed candidate, Monica Montgomery Steppe for Board of Supervisors. Please get out and vote and help us make history! We also began our First Friday Social Hours where attorneys and law students were able to mingle after work as we continued to foster our members relationships.



August & September - On August 12, 2023, we co-hosted the first unity picnic with diversity bar associations at Liberty Station. We were able to laugh, eat and enjoy a diverse and exciting group of people while continuing to build our relationships with other bar organizations. We also held our annual Neighborhood Law School with Legal Aid Society and for the very first time we were pleased to also cosponsor with San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association. NLS brings important legal information to the community for free. We were happy to resume in person this year and our Vice President Taneashia Morrell did an excellent job highlighting the program and its importance in the spotlight article by San Diego Union-Tribune. Lastly, for the second year in a row we were able to co-host the Southern District Reception with CABL. There was a great showing of judges and attorneys as we laughed and networked.



October – We concluded the year with our annual BLSA-Q at Hon. Roderick Shelton's home. It was exciting to have over 80 law students, attorneys and judges present to share their experiences and information. We laughed a lot, drank a little, and ate very well. We look forward to many more years as we continue what Judge Johnson started so long ago. Thank you, Judge Shelton, for opening your home to us once again.

B.E. W.E.L.L. – We were excited to relaunch our women's committee as BE WELL - Black Educated Women Exceling in Law and Life. Our focus this year has been mind, body, and soul. Judge Tilisha Martin dedicated a lot of time to ensure this committee remained present this year. Our inaugural event was a beautiful high tea held at the Guild and sponsored by Klinedinst and Janice Brown and Beyond Law. We continued with several other events throughout the year, including an event at a black-owned winery and our annual women's retreat, sponsored by GrahamHollis, APC and Rios Bollinger Law, and graciously held in the home of member Hali Henderson.



Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

Award for Dedicated Service

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.



Taylor Morrison
EBGBF Board Member
2019-2023



Christopher Hines
EBGBF Board Member
2022 - 2023



Jordan Proctor
EBGBF Board Member
2022 - 2023

Empowering Progress

We are proud to support the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
and its tireless commitment to advancing the interests
of the African American legal community
in San Diego County.

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



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Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

Rising Star Award

Julianna Kat

Julianna Kat is Senior Legal Counsel at Conservice. Her practice focuses on regulatory compliance, privacy, employment and intellectual property. As the only woman and person of color on her legal team, Julianna was an active member in the inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee within her company. Her ongoing dedication to this committee has made a lasting impact, fostering a more inclusive and equitable workplace environment. Additionally, Julianna oversees the internship program at Conservice, offering valuable insights on DEI efforts to shape the future of the legal profession.



Julianna's commitment extends beyond her workplace. She currently serves on the USD Law Alumni Board and over the years, she has played a pivotal role in mentoring numerous students, helping them navigate their legal careers. Her diverse experiences, including a federal judicial externship with the Honorable John A. Houston, and roles in both big and mid-size firms, provide mentees with a well-rounded perspective. Julianna's presence on USD student panels further highlights her dedication to nurturing future legal talent.

Julianna was also recently elected as a director to the board of the Association of Corporate Counsel. She will serve as the chair of the New to In-House Counsel Committee, where she aims to offer programs where aspiring attorneys can receive guidance and support as they navigate the transition from law school to private practice to in-house counsel, with the goal of building a diverse and inclusive talent pool for in-house positions.

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 at the University of San Diego from 2014-2016. In her free time, Julianna enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her husband Alex and her children Rya and Koa.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation President's Award for Distinguished Service

Alicia Williams



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 is Alicia Williams.

Born on the Caribbean Island of Antigua, Alicia immigrated with her family to Orlando, Florida at age three. A proud "Double Gator," 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.

Alicia is an Assistant United States Attorney. She joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California in July 2015, as a Special Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Reactive Crimes Unit. From 2016 to 2021 she served as an Assistant United States Attorney primarily assigned to handle border crimes. In 2021, Alicia joined the Violent Crimes and Human Trafficking section, where she prosecutes violent offenses, including human trafficking, firearms, and drug trafficking. Alicia also serves as the district's Hate Crimes Coordinator. She leads the office's effort to collaborate with law enforcement leaders and community groups to prevent hate, raise public awareness, and increase hate crime reporting. During her time at the United States Attorney's Office, Alicia has prosecuted a variety of cases from COVID-19 fraud to Civil Rights Offenses including cases involving excessive use of force by officers. She has also served as a training facilitator for incoming AUSAs and federal law enforcement officers.

She is an active member of the United States Attorney's Office's Diversity Management Committee, serving as a Special Emphasis Program Coordinator for the Black Affairs Program. She is the Co-Chair of the San Diego Regional Anti-Hate Crimes Coalition. Alicia has served on Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board since 2021 as the Board Secretary and Co-Chair of the Civil Rights Program. She is also a member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. Since 2017, she has served as a Project LEAD instructor at Valencia Park Elementary School and Porter Elementary School, teaching fifth-grade students how to make good choices that will keep them out of the criminal justice system and set them on the path to pursuing a college degree. AUSA Williams also enjoys connecting with and mentoring students interested in the practice of law.

When she is not working in the legal community, Alicia enjoys spending time with her family exploring California, or visiting family and friends in Florida and Antigua.

Friend of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Award

Greg Knoll

The Friend of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Award is a joint award presented by both Earl B. Gilliam Bar organizations to highlight an individual or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to advancing equality and equity for Black people in San Diego county and remedying their plight resulting in notable social progress for the Black community, consistent with the mission of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar.

Gregory Evans Knoll (1947-2023) was born in Normal, Illinois. A highly celebrated athlete, Greg received a basketball scholarship to the University of Missouri. At Rutgers Law School, he studied under Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and interned at Newark Legal Services. These experiences led Greg to dedicate his life's work to addressing the harsh realities of poverty, racism, systemic inequalities, and discrimination.

Greg moved his family to San Diego for his first job at Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASSD) as a Staff Attorney. A year later, he was appointed CEO/Executive Director/Chief Counsel, serving another 49 years and, thereafter, helping hundreds of thousands of people during his lifetime of service with this organization. He led an organization that delivers high-quality, free legal services to low-income people throughout the county. He grew LASSD from a small group of attorneys in 1974 with a budget of under 1 million dollars to an organization that today has a staff of over 200, including 90 full-time attorneys and engages an additional 200 volunteers annually, with a budget of 25 million dollars.

Knoll revolutionized the delivery of public health care to low-income people, and created a public interest law firm which became a model throughout the nation. In 2022, Greg became the first-ever active legal aid director appointed to the California State Bar Board of Trustees.

On September 23rd, the California Lawyers Association posthumously awarded Greg the Loren Miller Award. LASSD's staff and Board of Directors will carry on Greg's legacy.





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EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION
INCOMING PRESIDENT

Alicia Williams

&

EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION
OUTGOING PRESIDENT

David Middleton

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DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

JORDAN PROCTOR

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

CHRISTOPHER HINES

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

TAYLOR MORRISON

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR
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ALICIA WILLIAMS

RIISING STAR

JULIANNA KAT

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GREG KNOLL



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Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

Thurgood Marshall Award

Taneshia Morrell



Taneshia is a Senior Contracts and Licensing Associate in the Office of Technology Development at Salk Institute, in La Jolla, CA. She has worked at Salk since 1994, over three different stints: 1994 to 2006 in the Gene Expression Laboratory; 2008 to 2012 in the Gene Expression and Infectious Disease laboratories; and returned to Salk in 2017 in her current position in the Office of Technology Development. Taneshia's work involves handling licensing agreements and patents, managing Salk's trademark portfolios and providing guidance on intellectual property strategies. Prior to Taneshia's 2017 return to Salk, she was a Staff Attorney at the Legal Services of South Central Michigan, where her primary focuses were Family Law and Civil Litigation. She was also a Judicial Law Clerk to two judges: Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina and Hon. Hugh B. Clarke Jr. at the 30th Circuit Court and the 54-A District Court, respectively. Throughout her tenure as an attorney, Taneshia has been appointed to serve on several professional legal committees in California, District of Columbia, and Michigan:

- 2023:** Executive Board Vice President, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
- 2023:** Vice Chair, DEI Division (Programs & Events), San Diego County Bar Association
- 2023:** Executive Board Vice President, Davis-Dunnings Bar Association
- 2021 and 2022:** Chair, Intellectual Property Section, SDCBA
- 2022 – Present:** Member, Unauthorized Practice of the Law Committee, State Bar of Michigan
- 2021 and 2022:** Executive Board Secretary, EBGBA
- 2021:** Member, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, SDCBA
- 2020 – 2022:** Member, California Legislative Committee, SDCBA
- 2021 – 2022:** Member, Anti-Racism Subcommittee, SDCBA
- 2021 – 2023:** Member, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group, D.C. Bar
- 2018 – 2021:** Advisor, Access to Justice Policy Committee, State Bar of Michigan.
- 2017 – Present:** Executive Board Member, Intellectual Property Section, SDCBA
- 2017 – 2021:** Board Member/Member, Intellectual Property Community Steering Committee, D.C. Bar
- 2016 – 2017:** Advisor, Professional Ethics Committee, State Bar of Michigan
- 2016 – 2017:** Executive Board Secretary, DDBA

Taneshia earned her LLM in Intellectual Property from Michigan State University College of Law, and her JD (*cum laude*, *Law Review*, *Law Journal*) in Litigation from Western Michigan University Cooley Law. She is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia Bar, the State Bar of Michigan, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., American Inns of Court, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Davis-Dunnings Bar Association, and the San Diego County Bar Association. She is a mother to a Navy veteran and has 6 adorable grandchildren. During her spare time Taneshia enjoys playing the guitar and drums, as well as traveling.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association President's Award for Distinguished Service **Geneviève Jones-Wright**



An accomplished and compassionate attorney inspired by Justice Thurgood Marshall while in the fourth grade, Geneviève Jones-Wright works every day to make our world more just for everyone.

In keeping with her lifelong goal of “carrying the bags” of Justice 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.

In 2018, she ran for San Diego County District Attorney where she offered the cure for our failing criminal legal system: more care, compassion, and concern.

She quickly came to be regarded as a voice for “The People” and garnered the reputation of being a compassionate, inspirational, and humanity-centered leader. She proudly served San Diego County as a public defender from 2006-2019, and now serves as the Executive Director of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance (MoGo) — an impact litigation organization she co-founded. Daily she works to reconstruct systems — with a keen focus on our criminal legal system — to achieve a more just and equitable society for all.

Beyond the courtroom and policymaking, Geneviève is a board member for community-based non-profit organizations, a long-time volunteer attorney for the California Innocence Project, and an adjunct professor at Point Loma Nazarene University where she teaches a variety of criminal justice courses.

Geneviève is also the founder of Motivation.In.Action (MIA), a professional motivational speaking firm through which she empowers individuals to “write their own stories” and to live on purpose. As a result of corporations routinely seeking her out to facilitate and lead office-wide conversations about racial and social justice, Geneviève developed her unique DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) presentations, trainings, and work plans to help more organizations fulfill their goal of creating and maintaining truly inclusive work environments.

In honor of her tireless work, she was inducted into the San Diego County Women’s Hall of Fame on March 21, 2021.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

Living Legend Award

Hon. John A. Houston

Since April 1998, Judge Houston has served as a federal judicial officer in the Southern District of California in the capacities of United States Magistrate Judge and United States District Judge. In April 1998, he was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge by the U S District Court. In October 2003, the United States Senate confirmed, by a vote of 98-0, President George W. Bush's nomination of Judge Houston to the U S District Court for the Southern District of California. He has been appointed to sit by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the District of Guam (including a jury trial) and the District of the Northern Mariana Islands (including a jury trial). Judge Houston transitioned to Senior Status in February 2017.



Judge Houston has handled criminal and civil matters having significant national and local impact, such as: Garrett v. City of Escondido; 06cv243 JAH-NLS; 465 F.Supp.2d 1043 (S.D.Cal. 2006) (enjoined the city from enforcing a city ordinance designed to remove undocumented residents); Harper v. City of Poway; 04cv1103 JAH-POR; 345 F.Supp.2d 1096 (S.D.Cal. 2004)(denied Plaintiff's injunctive relief action based upon free speech and free exercise of religion claims relating to wearing of tee-shirt expressing a biblical viewpoint on homosexual behavior at Poway High School); Prometheus Lab Inc. v. Mayo Collaborative; 04cv1200 JAH-RBB; 2005 WL 7985065 (S.D.Cal. 2005); 2008 WL 878910 (S.D.Cal., 2008); 581 F.3d 1336 (Fed.Cir. 2009); 561 U.S. 1040 (2010); 628 F.3d 1347 (Fed.Cir. 2010); 564 U.S. 1018 (2011); 566 U.S. 66 (2012)(his decision in patent case reversed twice by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the second time after remand back to the circuit court by the Supreme Court, and thereafter his decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court by a vote of 9-0; USA v Villarreal et al. 08cr1332-JAH (Border Patrol agents convicted of conspiracy to smuggle aliens, conspiracy to launder money and bribery of public official); USA v. Mohammed; 03cr3433 JAH; 410 F.Supp.2d 913 (S.D.Cal.2005); 203 Fed.Appx. 879 (9th Cir. 2006) (Somalian religious leader convicted of fraud against the United States in terrorism-related prosecution)); and a number of complex civil litigation cases, including In Re Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC Telephone Consumer Protection Act Litigation, 11md2295, a Multi-District Litigation (MDL) case consisting of over 135 separate class actions originating in 32 federal judicial districts in 20 different states. He has also handled intellectual property, narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, public corruption, excessive force, white collar and gang-related cases, among others.

Since mid-2020s, Judge Houston has provided training and consultation by invitation to South Africa, Justices of the Constitutional Court (Supreme Court) and the Supreme Court of Appeal in Cape Town, South Africa, and Justices of the Supreme People's Court of the Republic of Vietnam. He has also provided training to judicial officers in Johannesburg, South Africa, Thailand, Columbia, Morocco, and Mexico. He has met with, by invitation, the Attorney Generals of South Africa and Argentina for legal consultations with the United States Assistant Ambassador for South Africa, and for High Tea with the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. He moderated a panel of six judges from five South American countries on the subject of on the Foreign Enforcement of International Judgments (through international Treaties) during an International Money Laundering Law Enforcement Conference. He has also provided training and consultation by invitation to prosecutors in Cape Town, South Africa, and law professors at the Hanoi Law University in Hanoi, Vietnam.

He is married to Charlotte Clarke Houston, Ph.D., and they have one son, who is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Medical School, and two grandchildren.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION
INCOMING PRESIDENT

Taneashia Morrell

&

EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION
OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Desirae Sanders

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION
AWARD RECIPIENTS

THURGOOD MARSHALL AWARD
TANEASHIA MORRELL

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
GENEVIEVE JONES-WRIGHT

LIVING LEGEND AWARD
HON. JOHN HOUSTON



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

LeBrian Mays

LeBrian Mays is a second-year law student at California Western School of Law where he maintains a 3.59 GPA. He is interested in complex civil litigation and corporate law. LeBrian came to law school with over a decade of experience as an insurance professional, working for GEICO, a leader in its industry. While there, LeBrian managed personal injury claims, negotiated settlements, and partnered with in house counsel during trials and mediations. LeBrian is an Associate Writer for California Western's International Law Journal, a Judicial Extern for the Honorable John A. Houston in the US District Court for the Southern District of California, and California Western's BLSA President.



LeBrian is a first-generation law student who, before attending California Western School of Law, took a ten-year hiatus from school. One month before starting law school, LeBrian's daughter was born. For 18 months following his daughter's birth, LeBrian juggled law school, a full-time job, and raising a baby girl all while achieving academic excellence. In 2023, LeBrian was a Summer Associate for Jones Day. For his commitment to the community and scholastic achievements LeBrian has been awarded the Honorable Judge Earl B. Gilliam Scholarship.

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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2023 Scholarship Recipients



Merridith Delinois

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

Sponsored by EBGBF Scholarship Fund

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

MD is originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. MD is ranked in the top 10% of her class, and seeks to pursue a career in antitrust or consumer protection law, focused on government enforcement and regulation. MD received the CALI award for the highest grade in 7 law school courses, including Federal Evidence, Advanced Contracts, Trademark and Unfair Competition, and Comparative Antitrust. MD has also been a teaching assistant for Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. MD is a first-generation law student and the first American born in her immediate family. MD is currently a judicial extern for the Hon. John A. Houston, Senior Judge of the United States Southern District.



Zarina Sementelli

Lourine W. Twymann Scholarship ~ \$5,000

Sponsored by California Western School of Law

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 2L

Zarina, a Minnesota native, currently serves as the Social Chair of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at California Western School of Law. A proud graduate of Spelman College with a degree in Women's Studies, she is dedicated to promoting diversity within the legal community. Zarina aspires to excel in civil litigation but remains open to various legal fields. Outside her legal journey, she finds artistic expression in rapping and poetry writing.



Banna Esais

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

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 3L

Banna is an Oakland native who is in her third year of law school at USD. As one of BLSA's co-presidents, Banna has worked passionately to empower Black law students by supporting their academic and professional development. Her journey as a first-generation law student reflects determination, resilience, and a commitment to the African American community at large. Banna is currently clerking at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP in the Labor and Employment department.



Serena Pendleton

Signature Resolutions Scholarship ~ \$5,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 3L

Serena is San Diego native and a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law. She currently serves as co-president of the Black Law Students Association. Prior to law school she attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga where she received her degree in Psychology. She is currently a law clerk at Winet Patrick Gayer Creighton & Hanes, a civil litigation firm, where she is pursuing her interest in education law.



Anisa Abrams

Meyers Nave Scholarship ~ \$3,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

Anisa K. Abrams is a third- year law student from Newark, New Jersey. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Berklee College of Music, with a concentration in Music Business. After graduating, Anisa worked at Universal Music Group as a legal assistant to the Senior Vice Presidents of three major record labels. She attends Thomas Jefferson School of Law where she is an Entertainment Law fellow, member of the Law Review, secretary of the Black Law Student Association, Communications Director of the regional National Black Law Student Association, and the 3L representative for the Student Bar Association. After graduating and passing the bar, Anisa will start her own entertainment law firm.



**Soleil
Wallen-Balmir**

Mintz Scholarship ~ \$3,000

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 3L

Soleil A. Wallen-Balmir is from Detroit, MI, and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Arizona State University. Currently, she is a 3L at California Western School of Law. Soleil has dedicated her life to serving the community in a variety of ways by being a member of multiple community-based organizations such as Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, BAPACSD, San Diego Urban League Young Professionals, and is a board member for Thrive Lemon Grove; which she received recognition from the California State Assembly for her contributions to the San Diego community. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and in her free time enjoys hiking and loves spending time with her 8-year-old daughter, Selena. When she graduates law school, she is interested in becoming a Criminal Defense Attorney for the San Diego Public Defender's Office.



Jackson Whitby

Wilson Turner Kosmo Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

Jackson Whitby is currently a 3L at TJSL. He is a Criminal Law fellow and member of ADR, BLSA, and WLA. Some of his hobbies include spending quality time with his family and friends, reading a book on personal development or leadership skills, cooking soul food, relaxing on the beach, or traveling the world and creating new experiences. His interests include the creative arts, fashion, music, and business. After he graduates law school and passes the bar, he plans on opening his own firm specializing in entertainment, criminal, and business law.



Said Shaba

Pettit Kohn Scholarship ~ \$2,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 3L

My name is Said Shaba. I am a native of City Heights, San Diego, with a strong desire to support my community. I hold a degree in Political Economy from the University of California, Berkeley. I have taken my first steps in my career as an attorney by working in the nonprofit sector, civil practice, federal judiciary, and currently, as an intern at the San Diego Public Defender's Office. I am eager to continue building my understanding of the legal profession at the University of San Diego School of Law and learn from Black legal professionals as I pursue my juris doctorate, which I expect to complete in 2024.



Alexis Kerr

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,500

Law School: California Western School of Law

Year: 3L

My name is Alexis Kerr, the daughter of Jamaican native parents. I am originally from New York. The Bronx to be exact. I received my undergrad degree at Pace University. where I majored in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. I moved to California in August 2021 to attend Thomas Jefferson School of law. I would like to be a federal prosecutor. I hope to some day run for senator and retire as an appointed judge.



**Virginia
Flores-Richards**

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,500

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

My name is Virginia Flores-Richards and I am grateful for the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. All my life I have been told that I do not fit in because of my heritage. I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I am a proud Afro-Latina who loves my heritage and my people. I am thankful to find a community that uplifts and supports me in my dreams and goals. My dream is to help each family I encounter in bringing justice and peace to them.



Jasmyne Colemon

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,500

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

My name is Jasmyne Colemon. I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. It is an honor to receive this scholarship. Thank you, Earl B Gilliam Bar Foundation for helping me to achieve my goals and dreams. I promise to give back to the community now and in my future endeavors as an attorney in the city of San Diego.



Mya Ramos

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 2L

Maya Ramos is a 2L at the USD School of Law. After obtaining her B.S. in Criminal Justice from CSULB, she realized her strong passion for advocacy and decided to pursue her paralegal certification and now her Juris Doctorate in hope of becoming an employment law attorney. Her love for helping others shines through in her commitment to mentoring youth and giving back to her community. She would like to thank her family and BLSA for helping her through the rigor of law school and for exposing her to such amazing organizations like the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.



Andrew Jimenez

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,000

Law School: University of San Diego School of Law

Year: 2L

My name is Andrew Jimenez; you can all me Drew. I am a 2L and the current Vice President of the Black Law Student Association at USD Law. I am originally from Detroit, MI and earned my Undergraduate degree at Michigan State University. In my spare time, I enjoy photography, watching collegiate and professional sports, traveling, and outdoor activities. As a 1L, I won the USD intramural basketball championship and interned at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch with the General Litigation team.



Isaac Joseph

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

Currently the Thomas Jefferson School of Law BLSA President, Isaac was born and raised in New York. He attended John Jay College in Manhattan and graduated with a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. There he worked as a paralegal for several real estate firms in Long Island, New York, and as a paralegal with New York City Department of Law, New York City Department of Health, and Amazon. Isaac is interested in practicing Federal Criminal Defense/Prosecution, Real Estate, and Entertainment law.



Mya Murphy-Cook

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ \$1,000

Law School: Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Year: 3L

Mya Murphy-Cook is a 3L at California Western School of Law and the BLSA Vice President. She came to law school with the specific goal of working for in environmental enforcement to protect communities of color from air and water pollution. She hopes to eventually become a judge in San Diego.

Join me in celebrating the remarkable achievements of this year's honorees and scholarship recipients, who have made significant contributions to our community.

As a San Diego executive coach, I am dedicated to supporting the **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation** and its mission to advance the interests of the African-American legal community in San Diego County



Lakeya Cherry

Dr. Lakeya Cherry
lakeya@lakeyacherry.com
www.lakeyacherry.com



Installation Officiant

Hon. Terrie E. Roberts

Judge Terrie E. Roberts was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the San Diego Superior Court on October 25, 2019. Prior to her appointment, she served as a Superior Court Commissioner on behalf of the San Diego Superior Court since May of 2008, making history by becoming the first African American woman to be appointed as a Commissioner in San Diego County. Judge Roberts currently presides over a Family Law Long Cause calendar and previously presided over a Family Law Independent Calendar (I/C) calendar. Prior to this, she presided over various calendars involving civil restraining orders, family support, misdemeanor arraignments, traffic arraignments, small claims, and unlawful detainer matters.



Prior to her appointment as a Commissioner, Judge Roberts served as a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney from 2001 to 2008, handling various felony and misdemeanor cases, including serving in the Sex Crimes Unit, where she prosecuted cases involving sexually violent predators. Prior to joining the District Attorney's Office, she managed her own law firm where she handled criminal defense and personal injury matters. Prior to opening her law practice, she worked as a business litigation associate for the Law Offices of Beatrice Kemp, and also worked as a Deputy Public Defender for the San Diego County Public Defender's Office from 1992 to 1995.

Judge Roberts is very active in her community. She is currently Chair of the Judicial Council for the California Black Lawyers Association (CABL), Co-Chair of the 2024 National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference and a Board Member of the African American Association of California Judicial Officers (AAACJO). In 2014, she was awarded **President Barack Obama's Call to Service Award** for her continuous service to the San Diego community, and in 2008, she was the recipient of the San Diego County Bar Association's Outstanding Service by a Public Attorney Award. She was also the recipient of the Community Service Award from the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association in 1994.

Since 2009, Judge Roberts has taught locally and state-wide, teaching Bench Conduct and Demeanor for Temporary Judges on behalf of the San Diego County Superior Court since 2009, and since 2015, she has taught newly appointed judicial officers from across the state, during the New Judges Orientation program on behalf of the Judicial Council of California. She has also served as a Seminar Leader for the B.E. Witkin Judicial College and also serves as a faculty member for the mandatory Qualifying Ethics course required for judicial officers statewide. In June 2022, Former Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, appointed Judge Roberts to serve on the Family Law Curriculum Committee and the Judicial Branch Ethics & Fairness Curriculum Committee.

Judge Roberts is married and has two amazing daughters, ages 23 and 22. She is a huge Padres fan!

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

Incoming President's Message

Alicia Williams



Greetings, It is an honor to serve as the 2024 Earl B. Gilliam Foundation president. This is a full-circle moment for me. I didn't know anyone when I arrived in San Diego in 2014. I contacted the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association President via LinkedIn; the rest is history. The Earl B. Gilliam Bar members are probably the most significant reason my family and I now call the San Diego area home. I hope that in 2024, I can continue to advance the organization's mission of increasing diversity in the legal community here in San Diego.

It is not lost on me that we, the current members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar, stand on an incredible legacy. In many ways, we have come a long way in diversifying the legal profession. Sadly, in many ways, we have not. When it comes to African-American representation in the legal community, we still have a long way to go. The California State Bar's 2022 Diversity Report Card shows that while African-Americans comprise six percent of California's population, they comprise only three percent of its attorneys. Undoubtedly, we have a great deal of work to do. As we prepare to get to work in 2024, we face new challenges. Record high inflation coupled with the high cost of living in America's Finest City presents serious challenges for our law students. On top of rising costs associated with inflation, the California State Bar chose not to host a testing location in San Diego, presenting additional financial hurdles for our students. The need is great.

Thank you to our partners, old and new. We recognize the sacrifice it takes to continue financially supporting the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. We look forward to partnering with you in new ways that will allow us to continue to fulfill our mission. To the board, thank you for your service. We all work incredibly long hours while juggling the demands of our home lives. I know it is not easy and sometimes seems impossible, but your commitment to the mission is unmatched. Finally, I want to thank my family for their continued support. Serving on an active board, like the foundation, means that many of the responsibilities at home shift to other family members. To my family and the families of all our board members, thank you for supporting us as we engage in this critical work.

Civil Rights Legend Charles Hamilton Houston famously stated, "[a] lawyer is either a social engineer or he's a parasite on society." Houston strongly believed that lawyers should use their legal training to combat societal ills, specifically racial injustice. Since leaving law school fifteen years ago, I often ask myself how I am using my legal education to make a positive impact on society. I don't know about you, but I refuse to be a parasite. If you share my sentiments, I invite you to partner with the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation in 2024 as we continue to work to diversify the legal community by supporting our law students and our attorneys as they forge their paths in the San Diego legal community.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you next year.

2024 Foundation Board of Directors



Alicia Williams
President

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 the Co-Chair of the San Diego Anti-Hate Coalition, and the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.



David Middleton
Immediate Past
President

David M. Middleton is a Senior Associate at Meyers Nave. His practice focuses on litigation of contract and wage and hour issues in arbitration and California state court. David also handles law enforcement discipline appeal cases and advises clients on a wide range of employment law issues. David has significant experience as a workplace investigator for public and private sector employers. David has been recognized as a Rising Star in Employment & Labor by the *Super Lawyers Magazine in 2022 and 2023*. 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. When he is not working, David officiates Division 1 college football and is a board member of the San Diego County Football Officials Association. David also serves as a board member of the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee (MAAC), a San Diego nonprofit focusing on maximizing self-sufficiency with families and individuals through high-quality programs and advocacy in its communities.



Ashanti Smith
Vice President

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.



Warsame Hassan
Treasurer

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.



Julianna Kat
Secretary

Julianna Kat is Senior Legal Counsel at Conserve. Her practice focuses on regulatory compliance, privacy, employment and intellectual property. 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 her children Rya and Koa.



Jordan Turner
Parliamentarian

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.



Jonathan Andrews
Director

Jonathan D. Andrews is a mediator with Signature Resolution. After 24 years of practice, he became a neutral because he is passionate about the benefits of pre-adjudication conflict resolution and the importance of customized, empathetic, and people-focused mediation strategies. He has been a proud member of the San Diego County Big Brother/Big Sister program for over 15 years and is a current member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego (BBBS) County Board of Directors.



Sacha Brackins
Director

Sacha Brackins is an Intellectual Property and Asset Protection Attorney with a passion for helping her community build and preserve wealth and a strong legacy through legal tools, business strategies & family office services. She started her career in music, as a booking agent for top music artists and demonstrated a history of success in the entertainment and special event industry.



Christopher Chandler
Director

Christopher Chandler is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office where he has been a prosecutor for 14 years. He has held assignments in the Insurance Fraud and Workplace Justice Division, Economic Crimes Division, Juvenile Division, North County Branch, and South County Branch. Chris is presently assigned to the East County Branch where he is a Team Leader and Readiness Conference deputy. Outside the courtroom, Chris is heavily involved in office hiring, recruitment, training, community outreach, and mentorship programs. He was also a member of the District Attorney's Committee on Race and Equity where he worked to help eliminate inequalities in the criminal justice system. Chris earned his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law. He also holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California, Davis. In his free time Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and two young daughters.



Adrian Douglas
Director

Adrian Douglas is an associate attorney at Gates, Gonter, Guy, Proudfoot & Muench. He operates out of the firm's San Diego office but litigates cases throughout Southern California. He has successfully negotiated and settled numerous claims on behalf of his clients in cases involving claims of motor vehicle negligence, premises liability, and landlord/tenant claims. He also has experience in criminal law. Adrian obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Miami School of Law. He was a member of H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Through Pro Bono Efforts) and volunteered his time at AMIKids in Miami, an alternative school program that empowers and encourages youth who have been involved with the criminal justice system at an early age. Adrian is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a sports fan, traveler, personal trainer, and he enjoys spending time with his fiancé doing DIY home projects.



Michael Flemming
Director

Michael Flemming is the founder of the newly minted Flemming Law: San Diego Criminal Defense Firm, A.P.C. established in October 2023. Prior to forming Flemming Law, Michael was a Deputy Public Defender assigned to a felony trial team at 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.



Isaac Jackson
Director

Isaac Jackson is a 7th year 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 College of the Law San Francisco (Hastings) in 2016. Outside of the office, Isaac serves on the Board of Directors for UC Berkeley's Bowles Hall Foundation, coaches mock trial Oceanside High School, and advises the Model U.N. program for Morse High School. Isaac is currently President of Southeast San Diego Rotary Club and on the editorial board for San Diego Lawyer Magazine. In his free time, Isaac enjoys performing. Isaac is a former President of the Foundation and this will be his 5th year on the Board. Most importantly, Isaac treasures spending time with his new wife.



Alexandria Jones
Director

Alexandria is an Associate at the Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider, APC, handling family law litigation matters concerning dissolution, child custody, support, and related issues. Alexandria has significant experience in appellate law and complex legal research, resulting in published opinions for novel legal arguments that push jurisprudence forward. Alexandria is from San Jose, California. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations and Conflict Resolution from the California State University of Sacramento. She has traveled all over the world in pursuit of her education and pleasure. When Alexandria is not working, she enjoys baking, practicing boxing, and various outdoor activities. Alexandria previously worked as an appellate paralegal for the San Diego District Attorney's office and a judicial law extern in the United States District Court in the Southern District of California. As a previous Earl B. Gilliam scholarship recipient, Alexandria hopes to pay forward the encouragement and guidance she has received from the foundation.



Elika Morris
Director

Elika Morris is an attorney at Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin in San Diego, California. She focuses her practice on retail defense matters including product liability, premises liability, and personal injury. Prior to joining Pettit Kohn, Elika served as in-house counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance. There, she advised on personal injury, subrogation, and other insurance defense matters. Elika earned her law degree from California Western School of Law, where she worked as an intern for the California Innocence Project (CIP) advocating against wrongful convictions from trial, appellate, and legislative viewpoints. This service inspired her to become a Deputy Public Defender, where she successfully argued motions in favor of post-conviction relief. Today, Elika continues to work with law students and law graduates on their success to become attorneys through her project, Heart Esquire LLC. Here, students gain access to Elika's direct mentoring and other resources. Visit www.heartesquire.com to learn more.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

Incoming President's Message

Taneashia Morrell



I am honored to be installed as the next President of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and I want to acknowledge the leadership provided by Desirae Sanders and last year's board. I am excited to welcome the new class of Board Members, new and returning, who I am certain will successfully fulfill their predecessors' shoes! Please join me in welcoming Vice President Michael Bordeaux, Immediate-Past President and Treasurer Desirae Sanders, Secretary Evangeline Dech, and our Members-at-Large Geneviève Jones-Wright and Ashanti Smith. I am equally excited to welcome new and returning general body members. I look forward to serving Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association as President, but I'm humbled too, especially considering the many outstanding, inspiring, and tireless leaders who have kept this well-oiled machine running year after year since 1976, first as the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County and then in 1989 as Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. I want to extend a special THANK YOU to my three immediate predecessors, Desirae Sanders, Maresa Talbert, and Geneviève Jones-Wright for their leadership and mentoring. I also want to thank those that have paved the way for us to be here this evening because our achievement would not have been possible without their mentorship, support, and dedication to excellence.

I know and have built relationships with many of you ever since I returned home to San Diego in 2017, but for those I have not met, let me share with you my path towards becoming involved with this great organization. I started my legal career at the tender age of 39, traveling from San Diego, CA to Lansing, MI. During my first two years in law school, I was a judicial law clerk intern for a phenomenal judge, the Honorable Rosemarie E. Aquilina, in the 30th Circuit Court. I went on to clerk for the Michigan Army National Guard JAG. I then took the helm as a judicial law clerk/court officer for the Honorable Hugh B. Clarke, Jr. at 54-A District Court. Prior to my current position, I was a Staff Attorney for Legal Services for South Central Michigan, where my primary focuses were Family Law and Civil Litigation. Since then, I have worked as a Senior Contracts and Licensing Associate for the Salk Institute for Biological Studies here in La Jolla, CA, focusing on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer.

When I joined Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association in 2020, I found it provided not only great networking and legal education opportunities, but also great new friends throughout the Association. Volunteering with Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association on the committee and Board levels provided me with a greater appreciation for what Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association offers.

In 2024, the Board's and my priorities will be to (1) engage our local law school BLSA members to become even more involved with Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association; (2) help our members to grow professionally, whether that's by improving their skill sets through bi-monthly MCLE's or by advancing their legal careers through mentorship and other opportunities; (3) continue to provide the San Diego community with legal education through our annual Neighborhood Law School series; and (4) collaborate even more with other San Diego affinity bars.

If you have an idea, suggestion, comment, improvement, or criticism, please contact me or any of our Board members, and convey your thoughts. If you want to make a difference and become involved with one of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association's committees, reach out to me or any of our Board members and let us know you want to get more involved.

Lastly, I want to thank my family, my Sorors and Linesisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and my close friends for their continued love and support. I'm looking forward to a fantastic 2024, and I am grateful for your partnership and dedication to Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association to make it all possible!

Congratulations to all of tonight's Honorees and scholarship recipients.

2024 Association Board of Directors



Taneashia Morrell
President

Taneashia Morrell is a Senior Contracts and Licensing Associate at Salk Institute. Her job comprises of contract drafting, licensing negotiation, and intellectual property matters, such as managing Salk's trademarks. Previously, Taneashia was a Staff Attorney at Legal Services of South Central Michigan, focusing on Family Law and Civil Litigation. 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 LL.M. in Intellectual Property from Michigan State University and her J.D. (*cum laude*) from Western Michigan University. She's admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, District of Columbia Bar, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. She's a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Davis-Dunnings Bar Association, and San Diego County Bar Association. Taneashia is a mother to a Navy Veteran and a grandmother to six adorable grandchildren.



Michael Bordeaux
Vice President

Michael Jacques Bordeaux has proudly served as a San Diego County Deputy Public Defender since 2013. He earned his Juris Doctor from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a minor in Africana Studies from San Diego State University. While in Law School, Michael clerked for the Honorable Joseph A. Greenaway Jr., United States circuit judge, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and also clerked for the Honorable Patti Jo McKay, Appellate Division for the Los Angeles Superior Court. He is a Life member and currently serves as Vice President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association as well as a member of the California Public Defender's Association. Michael is married to Family Law Attorney Deanne Arthur Bordeaux of the Law Office of Deanne Arthur, and is an extremely proud father of three; daughter Dia; bonus son, Titus; and son, Michael Jr.



Desirae Sanders
Immediate Past
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 (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 since 2020, is a member of San Diego County Bar Association's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Division, and a member of several community professional organizations. When not working, Desirae spends her free time mentoring and coaching young women as the head women's basketball coach at Sweetwater High School. Desirae is the proud mother of an astute son who is a recent Howard University graduate.



Evangeline Dech
Secretary

Evangeline (Eva) Dech, Colorado native, graduated Magna cum Laude from Xavier University of Louisiana with a Bachelors in both Political Science and Spanish Literature. She moved to San Diego in 2015 for the beach and to attend law school at California Western School of Law. At California Western, she was editor of notes and comments for the Law Review and graduated Summa cum Laude in 2018. Following her graduation, Eva practiced consumer protection law at Kazerouni Law Group until she clerked for Magistrate Judge Butcher from 2020-2022. She currently is in the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office. She serves on the board of Just in Time for Foster Youth as the chair of the nominating committee. This organization is near and dear to her heart, helping aged out foster youth not just survive, but thrive. She is so excited to continue serving her legal community.



Geneviève
Jones-Wright
Member-at-Large

As a fourth grader, Geneviève Jones-Wright decided she would use the Law to make our world more just. An experienced and compassionate attorney inspired by Justice Thurgood Marshall, Geneviève spent the bulk of her legal career as a public defender where she got real life lessons in the importance of equity in our society. This profound understanding has further deepened through her work as a founder and the Executive Director of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance (MoGo), an impact litigation non-profit organization. In 2018, Geneviève ran for San Diego County District Attorney. She quickly came to be regarded as a voice for "The People" and garnered the reputation of being an inspirational and human-centered leader. Beyond the courtroom and policymaking, Geneviève is a long-time board member of the David's Harp Foundation and Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. In honor of her tireless work, she was inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall in 2021.



Ashanti Smith
Member-at-Large

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.

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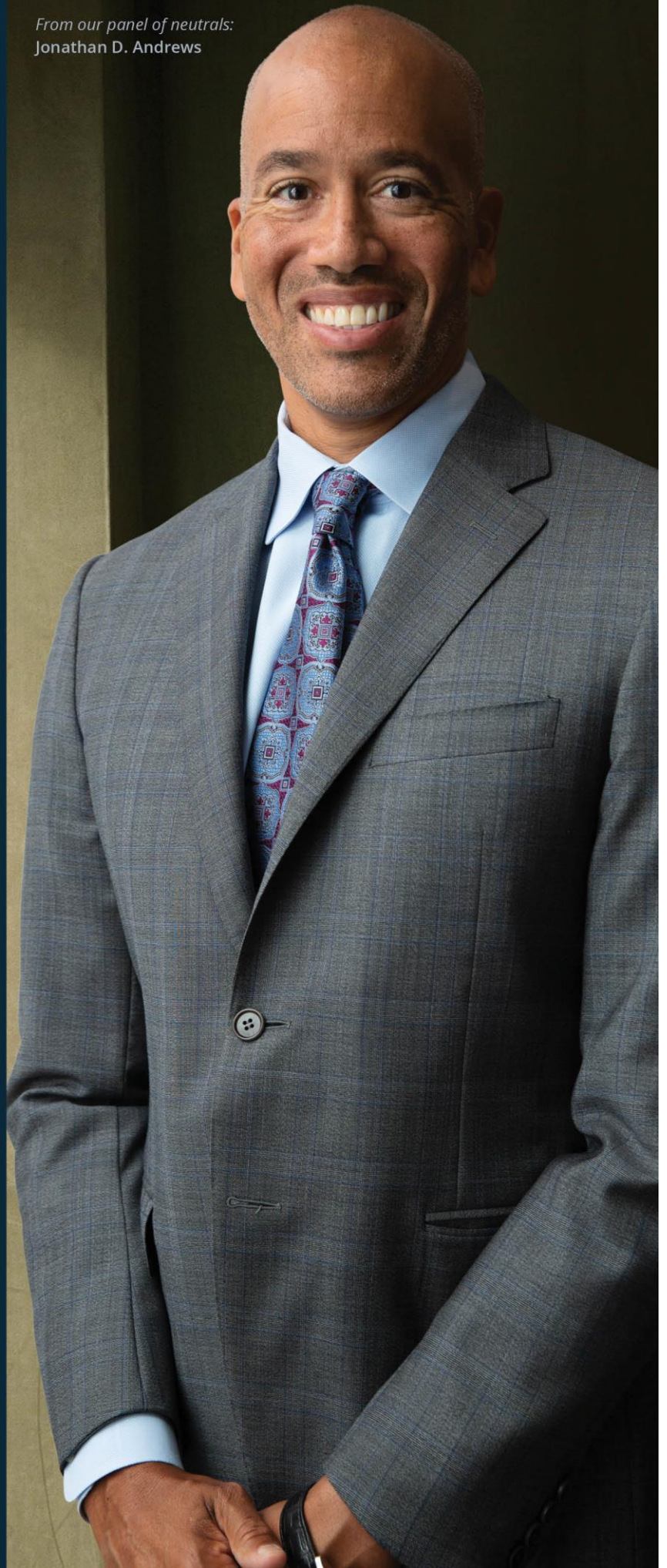
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We congratulate our own Jonathan D. Andrews on being elected to the Board of Directors of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.



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