



SCBLA

South Carolina Black Lawyers Association

Newsletter

October 2020

Dear SCBLA Family,

Fall continues to truck along as we embark on the final quarter of 2020. We are excited about our first ever **Virtual Annual Conference coming up on October 23rd**, which has been approved for 6 CLE hours, including 1 SA/MH hour. I would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our Conference Co-Chairs, Lakesha Jeffries and Montrio Belton, who have worked long and hard to plan an exciting and informative conference. Please note that we will have a special presentation on Voting Rights in preparation for—arguably—the most important election in U.S. history. The full conference agenda and registration information are included in this Newsletter. PLEASE REGISTER!

Speaking of the election, please sign up for “The 10% Challenge” which we introduced in our inaugural Newsletter last month. We are encouraging all of our members to volunteer on November 3rd as either: poll watchers, boiler room attorneys or hotline workers. Additional information regarding the Challenge and ways you can sign-up are included in this Newsletter. Most notably, the SC Supreme Court has approved 6 CLE hours for lawyers who volunteer as poll workers. As always, I—along with my fellow officers—look forward to hearing from you and welcome your ideas on ways we can lend our support and continue to build on the legacy of our great organization. Please remember that submissions for the Newsletter should be sent to Secretary Jasmine Wyman at jasmine.wyman@mgclaw.com by the last Sunday of each month.

Yours in Solidarity,
Breon



Breon Walker
President



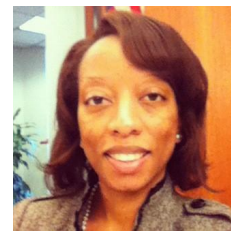
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Register for the Annual Conference Now!



**18th Annual
SOUTH CAROLINA
BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
Annual Conference**

Friday, October 23, 2020

Register At: scbla2020conference.eventbrite.com

Registration fees:
\$150 Members | **\$175** Non-Members | **\$75.00** Law Students

PRESENTERS:

- Alternative Dispute and Mediation: **Ariel Townsend**
- Voting Rights: **Tina Herbert** and **Mark McLawhorn**
- Ethics: **Meghan Walker**
- Dealing with Workplace Violence: **Donald Gist**, **Aaron Wallace**, **Imani Newborn**
- U.S. Supreme Court Update: **Teresa Cosby**
- Managing Stress & Mental Health: **Tanya Bolton**
- Court Administration Update: **Chief Justice Donald Beatty**

Agenda

- 8:30 - 8:45 Welcome
- 8:45 - 9:45 ADR/ Mediation: Ariel Townsend, Esq. Townsend Law Firm Orangeburg, South Carolina. This section will provide a summary of the ADR rules, updates, and strategies for effective and productive mediation, and alternative dispute measures. Ms. Townsend will discuss proposed areas of reform and recent developments.
- 9:45 - 10:00 – B R E A K
- 10:00 - 11:00 - Workplace Violence: Past President Donald Gist, Esq., Imani Newborn, Esq., and Aaron Wallace, Esq., Gist Law Firm Columbia, South Carolina. This section will discuss best practices and policies for attorneys as employers and attorneys representing clients on matters pertaining to workplace violence and harassment.
- 11:00 - 12:00 - Voting Rights: Tina Herbert, Esq. of Mickle and Bass, Columbia, South Carolina and Mark McLawhorn, Esq. of McLawhorn Legal. This section will provide an overview of election laws and challenges.
- 12:00 – 1:00 - Luncheon Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Chief Justice Donald Beatty.
- 1:00- 2:00 - U.S. Supreme Court Update: Teresa Nesbitt Cosby, Associate Professor, Furman University. This section will provide an overview of recent decisions and opinions issued by the U.S Supreme Court.
- 2:00-3:00 - Ethics: Meghan Walker, Esq. Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission. Meghan Walker will lead this section with practical guidance on understanding the SC Rules of Professional Conduct. This section will cover conflicts of interest, maintaining civility and professionalism, ethics for government lawyers, and time management.
- 3:00 - 3:15 - B R E A K
- 3:15 - 4:15 -Stress Management/Mental Health: Tanya E. Bolton, M.A., LPC. Bolton Counseling and Consulting LLC. Ms. Bolton is a licensed professional counselor in South Carolina. This powerful and practical presentation focuses on helping lawyers understand how to manage stress and expectations.
- 4:15- 4:30 - BREAK
- 4:30 – 5:30 -SCBLA Annual Meeting

Register now using the below link!

<https://scbla2020conference.eventbrite.com/>

The 10% Challenge

We introduced this challenge last month!

The SC Supreme Court has approved 6 CLE hours for lawyers who volunteer as poll workers! Find the required form and more info [here](#)!!

Will you join the challenge? If so, please help us keep track of member participation by filling out this [form](#)!

We are challenging at least 10% of our members to volunteer on November 3rd! We are asking that each member commits to working, volunteering, on Election Day!

There are three roles for election day: **poll watchers, boiler room attorneys, and hotline workers.**

1. Poll watchers are needed statewide and will be assigned to polling precincts. Poll watchers will be stationed inside the precincts whenever social distancing guidelines can be met, otherwise, watchers can go outside. Poll watchers will receive training through SCDP VoPro, credentialing letters, badges, and face masks.

Sign up for poll watcher trainings below:

- [Thursdays](#)
- [Saturdays](#)
- [Tuesday](#)

2. Boiler Room attorneys are needed statewide and will largely operate remotely, with the exception of some regional boiler rooms. This is a good opportunity for **law students** as well. Boiler room attorneys/law students may serve as rovers to go to polling locations where issues may be identified.

Attorneys/Law Students will be trained on election law and VoPro procedures. Sign up for boiler room trainings below:

- [Mondays](#)

3. Hotline workers will assist with taking calls from voters from now until 11/3 if there are any issues or concerns that need to be flagged for the Voter Protection Unit.

Sign up for hotline worker trainings below:

- [Wednesday](#)

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Volunteers are needed to help recruit poll watchers statewide. Please sign up below:

- [SCDP VoPro Volunteer Recruitment Project](#)

*** Spanish speaking individuals needed.

Law Bound Program

The South Carolina Bar Diversity Committee's Pipeline sub-committee invites you to join them for a virtual training on the Law-bound Program they are working to implement next Spring. The goal of the program is to diversify the pipeline to the legal profession. The target audience is 10th grade high school students. If you are interested in learning more about the program or if you are willing to join them next Spring for the inaugural launch please email Deyaska Spencer at spencer@deyaskalaw.com or Janice Holmes at janice.holmes@clydeco.us.

Virtual Fireside Chat: Going "Beyond the Robe"

The South Carolina Bar Diversity Committee will host the first of its Virtual Fireside Chats featuring members of the judiciary **via Facebook Live** on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

Go "Beyond the Robe" and join Diversity Committee member Sutania A. Fuller for an impactful and insightful conversation with South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald Beatty, South Carolina Court of Appeals Judge John D. Geathers, and South Carolina Circuit Court Judge Clifton B. Newman. Registration is not required and viewing the conversation is open to anyone who wants to attend. Viewers will have the opportunity to ask questions during the Facebook Live via chat, or you may send questions prior to the event to sfuller@lex-co.com. Find more info [here](#)!

Celebrating a Life Well Lived

Retired Probate Court Judge, Retired Attorney, and Funeral Director, **Bernard Rodolph Fielding, Sr.**, 88 of Charleston, entered into eternal rest on Friday, October 9, 2020. Services will be announced at a later date. His obituary can be found [here](#).



Highlights

Circuit Representative, Allyce Bailey, serves as the Chief of Communications for the National Bar Association. In this role, Allyce assists the national organization that represents the interests of approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students of color by conducting interviews, drafting/creating and distributing newsletters, writing time sensitive press releases on social justice issues, coordinating social media campaigns, managing the marketing of events, and a host of other public relations tasks. Accordingly, if your circuit has held a noteworthy event or sponsored a recent notable project or you have a recent professional achievement you would like highlighted to the legal community, Allyce can assist with the potential inclusion of this information in the NBA newsletter and other appropriate mediums in an effort to publicize the great work of our SC Black Lawyers! Of note, the NBA has an ongoing Voter Suppression initiative that is seeking volunteers all across the country for critical work to be done in connection with the upcoming election. All volunteer opportunities are virtual in nature and more information can be obtained by visiting <https://www.nbaelectionprotection.com/>.

Curtis J. Dayson and Ramie Shalabi started the Dayson & Shalabi Law Firm, LLC in June of this year. They have locations in Columbia and Summerville and represent injured parties. Their website is www.dsinjurylaw.com. They are currently accepting and encouraging referrals from the legal community!

Congratulations are also in order to our very own, E. Belicia Ayers. She was recently re-elected by the SC General Assembly to the SC Department of Employment and Workforce Appellate Panel!

Remember to send us your updates and any announcements you would like included in the monthly Newsletter!

Save The Date

- October 23, 2020—SCBLA Annual Conference**
- TBD—SCBLA Annual Christmas Party**
- TBD—SCBLA Town Hall Meeting**

** denotes virtual event

Submissions for the e-Newsletter are to be made by midnight on the last Sunday of each month!

Contact Us



P.O. Box 1092 Columbia, SC 29202