



# SCBLA

Newsletter

September 2020

South Carolina Black Lawyers Association



**Breon Walker**  
**President**



**Jasmine Wyman**  
**Secretary**



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**Joy Middleton**  
**Treasurer**



**Tina Herbert**  
**Asst. Treasurer**

**Not pictured:**  
**Belicia Ayers, Mathias Chaplin**

## Note From The President

Dear SCBLA Family,

Fall is upon us! While 2020 seems like the longest year EVER, time is also flying. The Executive Board has been working diligently behind the scenes to make sure the SCBLA continues to have a meaningful impact in our community, despite the restrictions that social distance has placed on our usual programming. We are looking forward to our first ever, Virtual Annual Conference on October 23rd. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Registration will open soon and we hope that you will all attend!

It is my sincere hope that we will use this e-NEWSLETTER as a way to keep each other informed. We want to hear from you! Please let us know of our members' accomplishments, firm openings, job opportunities and upcoming events. We also want to know of life events such as births and the passing of any of our beloved members or their loved ones. Submissions should be sent to Secretary Jasmine Wyman at [jasmine.wyman@mgclaw.com](mailto:jasmine.wyman@mgclaw.com) by the last Sunday of each month.

I—along with my fellow officers—look forward to hearing from each of you and welcome your ideas on ways we can lend our support and continue to build on the legacy of our great organization.

Yours in Solidarity,  
Breon

# The 10% Challenge

We are certainly facing challenging times today– from police brutality (reflective of the 1950s and 1960s), COVID-19’s disproportionate impact on the Black community, and the near destruction of the Voting Rights Act, for example. However, challenging times have always provided for great opportunities. The SC Black Lawyers Association wants to provide a positive opportunity for its members to take a stand in this current climate by encouraging active participation on Election Day. In this breath, we bring you the 10% Challenge!

We are challenging at least 10% of our members to volunteer on November 3rd! We are asking that each member commits to working as either a POLL WATCHER or POLL MANAGER.

If you would like to volunteer to be a POLL WATCHER (i.e. ensure that every eligible person who wants to vote is able to; voter protection) you can sign up with the SC Democratic Party’s Voter Protection Unit by [clicking here!](#). More information regarding the POLL MANAGER position (i.e. help with election at the local precinct) can be found by [clicking here!](#)

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

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:spencer@deyaskalaw.com) or Janice Holmes at [janice.holmes@clydeco.us](mailto:janice.holmes@clydeco.us).

## Your Mental Health Matters

While 2020 looks a lot different than any other year, especially for the Black community, there many are ways to prioritize your mental and physical health. This may include practicing healthy habits (e.g. eating-well balanced meals, exercising regularly, getting plenty of sleep, and taking frequent work breaks); unplugging from social media; talking to someone you trust about what you are experiencing/feeling; and trying a relaxing activity (e.g. yoga or meditation).

# 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



@SCBlackLawyers



South Carolina Black Lawyers Association

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## Highlights

Congratulations are in order to our very own, Luther Battiste, III. Mr. Battiste was honored with the National Bar Association's Civil Trial Advocacy Trial Master Award on July 25th. Mr. Battiste is also the current National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA); the first African American to hold this position.

Additionally, several SCBLA judges were elected and re-elected to the bench as of February 5, 2020. They are Kimaka Nichols-Graham (Family Court, elected), Alison Renee Lee (Circuit Court, re-elected), and Tarita A. Dunbar (Family Court, re-elected).

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Battiste and the recently elected judges!!