THE BLSA APPEAL

National Black Law Students Association
The University of Memphis
Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter

BLSA Officers

President – Corbin I. Carpenter
Vice President – De’Antwaine D. Moye
Treasurer – Rodrequez C. Watson
Professional Liaison – Ariel M. Anthony
Parliamentarian – Brandon L. Boykin
Executive Secretary – Faith N. Sanford
Community Service Chair – Regina M. Thompson
Fundraising & Activities Chair – JaKeva R. Dotson
1L Representative – Michael C. Shepherd
The National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), is the largest student-run organization in the nation. NBLSA has chapters in more than 200 law schools representing 48 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and six foreign countries.

The organization encourages the development of talented, socially conscious law students. Additionally, NBLSA engages in legal activism to effectuate change in the legal community.

While, the organization may have “black law students” in the name, BLSA and NBLSA are organizations geared towards helping students of all colors and ethnicities; these organizations are not limited to African American students only.

One of the goals of our local chapter is to assist you in successfully completing your legal education. To accomplish this goal, we have implemented a number of academic, professional, and social programs,

To learn more about the national organization please visit http://www.nblsa.org
BLSA Spotlight

Regina M. Thompson

BLSA Community Service Chair

Regina M. Thompson is a second year law student at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and is the Current Community Service Chair of the Black Law Students Association, Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter for the 2014–2015 academic year. Regina moved from New Orleans, Louisiana to Memphis, Tennessee at a very young age, where she grew up in Frayser. She graduated from Central High School in 2008. She was a first generation high school and college graduate. Regina graduated cum laude from Middle Tennessee State University in 2012, where she majored in Political Science. Regina was attracted to the study of law at a young age, because she felt it would be best suitable to her interests to help others and make changes within her community. To this day, Regina has carried out this desire.

Regina has a deeply rooted passion for serving her community. She began immersing herself in volunteer opportunities dating back to high school. She has worked with the Memphis Union Mission, Service International Disaster Relief, The Boys and Girls Club, and a number of other organizations in efforts to maintain a generous connection with her community. Following her 1L year, Regina spent her summer volunteering pro bono at Memphis Area Legal Services, where she was afforded the opportunity to conduct elder abuse awareness presentations at senior centers throughout Shelby County.
Regina is currently a member of the Association for Women Attorneys, a Law Student Ambassador at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, is a Lexis Nexis Representative, and a devoted member of New Song Baptist Church. Outside of being a full-time law student, Regina devotes her time to being a full-time mother, to her son Kason and wife to her husband Ratavius. Upon completion of law school, Regina hopes to acquire the necessary legal experience to positively impact change in the city of Memphis, while continuing to be an active servant-leader.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As election time approaches, it is pivotal for the citizens of Memphis to participate in these historic decisions. On the next page are the four amendments that are currently up for vote. These amendments are pivotal to the future of our city and state. Go vote yes or no, on the following amendments, and let your voice be heard! Early voting is taking place now!
There are 4 proposed amendments to the Tennessee Constitution up for vote this election season along side the vote for Governor. This October 15th-30th (early voting period) and November 4 (election day), registered Tennessee voters will be able to accept or reject these amendment proposals written by state legislators.

A vote for YES means the language and powers/protections of the constitution will be changed. A vote for NO means the current language and powers/protections of the constitution will not be changed.

**Amendment (1) ballot text will read:**

Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion. The people retain the right through their elected state representatives and state senators to enact, amend, or repeal statutes regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or when necessary to save the life of the mother.

☐ Yes
☐ No

A Yes vote on Amendment 1 will add language to the state constitution asserting that nothing in the constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or funding of abortion

A No vote on Amendment 1 will keep the state constitution as it is now with no specific language denying or asserting rights to abortion or any other medical procedures.

**Amendment (2) ballot text will read:**

Judges of the Supreme Court or any intermediate appellate court shall be appointed for a full term or to fill a vacancy by and at the discretion of the governor; shall be confirmed by the Legislature; and thereafter, shall be elected in a retention election by the qualified voters of the state. Confirmation by default occurs if the Legislature fails to reject an appointee within sixty calendar days of either the date of appointment, if made during the annual legislative session, or the convening date of the next annual legislative session, if made out of session. The Legislature is authorized to prescribe such provisions as may be necessary to carry out Sections two and three of this article.

☐ Yes
☐ No

A Yes vote on Amendment 2 would delete current language and constitutionally enable the Governor of Tennessee to appoint judges to the state supreme court and state appellate courts.

A No vote on Amendment 2 will keep the language of the state constitution and allow voters to continue to elect Supreme Court Justices

**Amendment (3) ballot text will read:**

Notwithstanding the authority to tax privileges or any other authority set forth in this Constitution, the Legislature shall not levy, authorize or otherwise permit any state or local tax upon payroll or earned personal income or any state or local tax measured by payroll or earned personal income; however, nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting any tax in effect on January 1, 2011, or adjustment of the rate of such tax.

☐ Yes
☐ No

A Yes vote on Amendment 3 would prevent legislators from authorizing or altering state or local taxes on payroll and income in the future.

A No vote on Amendment 3 would allow legislators to retain the ability to introduce changes to payroll and income taxes in the future.

**Amendment (4) ballot text will read:**

Shall Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by deleting the following language:

All other forms of lottery not authorized herein are expressly prohibited unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of all members elected to each house of the general assembly for an annual event operated for the benefit of a 501(c)(3) organization located in this state, as defined by the 2000 United States Tax Code or as may be amended from time to time.

and by substituting instead the following language:

All other forms of lottery not authorized herein are expressly prohibited unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of all members elected to each house of the general assembly for an annual event operated for the benefit of a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(19) organization, as defined by the 2000 United States Tax Code, located in this state.

☐ Yes
☐ No

501(c)(19) organizations are veteran’s organizations. A vote for Yes on Amendment 4 allows veteran’s organizations to participate in lotteries (for instance for fundraising) in the same way that 501(c)(3) organizations (charitable, religious or educational organizations) currently can.

A vote for No on Amendment 4 keeps the language of the constitution exactly as it is now.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Real Talk Wednesday—October 29th

Each month BLSA conducts a candid session with their members about topics related to their experience as students. Topics have ranged from legal writing to stress management. This month we are inviting some legal professionals to weigh in on the conversation. The name of this session will be “Real Talk about the Past, Present, and Future”. The panel will be moderated by DeAntwaine Moye, and will feature Attorneys Demetria Frank, David McKinney, Melisa Moore, and William Terrell as the panelists. The program will take place at the law school on October 29th at 12:00 pm.
Star Light Star Bright Program-November 10th

BLSA will partner with the Department of Children’s Services to begin the Star Light Star Bright Program. This program will fulfill the Christmas wish lists of a total of ten children aged 6–16 years old. We are asking the students and faculty of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and the attorneys of the Memphis Bar to assist us with sponsoring the children by purchasing all or some of the gifts from their wish lists.

The names and wish lists of the children will be made available as soon as November 10th, and the collection of gifts will begin November 17th. At 12:00 p.m. each day from November 17-21, BLSA will be located in the student lounge of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at 1 North Front Street collecting gifts. Upon making a donation, donors will decorate and fill out a “Star Form” to be displayed throughout the week in the school. Donations may be made through December 5th, but donors will need to contact Regina Thompson at rmjones8@memphis.edu to schedule a time to drop off the donation(s) after November 21st. We encourage everyone to be a star for these children by fulfilling some or all gifts on their wish lists and adding joy to their Christmas!
Relax, Relate, Release–November 21st

BLSA will partner with the Student Bar Association to put on the Official End Of Semester Party! Pre-Sale tickets will be sold beginning on Monday, November 3rd! Contact a BLSA or SBA member for your ticket!
EVENT RECAP

Breast Cancer Awareness Bake Sale

On Wednesday, October 22nd, BLSA held its Breast Cancer Awareness Bake Sale. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. BLSA will donate fifty percent of the proceeds collected to the Memphis Midsouth Susan G. Komen Foundation. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this great cause!

(Pictured here: Corbin and Carpenter and Brittany Neal)

National Bar Association Barrister’s Ball

On Saturday, October 25th, the National Bar Association, Ben F. Jones Chapter, held its annual Barrister’s Ball at the Clark Tower. BLSA members came out to fellowship and network with the esteemed attorneys of the Memphis Bar. Elicia Ray, 1L, Corbin Carpenter, 2L, and DeAntwaine Moye, 3L, were honored as the 2014 National Bar Association scholarship recipients.

(Pictured here: Faith Sanford, Rodrequez Watson, Ashley White-Neal, & DeAntwaine Moye)
BLSA ALL-STARS

Elicia Ray, 1L–Recipient of the Ben F. Jones 2014 Scholarship

Corbin Carpenter, 2L–Recipient of the Ben F. Jones 2014 Scholarship

DeAntwaine Moye, 3L–Recipient of the Ben F. Jones 2014 Scholarship

BLSA DONORS

The Black Law Students Association would like to send a special thank you to:

Brigitte Boyd, Administrative Assistant, Student Affairs
Stephanie Hope, Administrative Secretary, Career Services
Daniel Kiel, Associate Professor of Law
Jacqueline M. O’Bryant, Coordinator of Law School Diversity
BIRTHDAYS

Darius Walker Jr., 2L, October 31st
Erica Perry, 2L, November 3rd
Shanell Tyler, 1L, November 11th
Elicia Ray, 1L, November 22nd

ANNIVERSARIES!

Congratulations to Denania Galloway, 1L, who celebrated her wedding anniversary on October 15th!!