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

The University of Memphis

Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter

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

JaKeva Dotson

Fundraising Chair

JaKeva Dotson is a second year law student at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and is the current Fundraising and Events Chair for the Black Law Student Association. She also serves as a Law Student Ambassador for the law school. JaKeva is a native Memphian and a graduate of the University of Memphis where she earned her B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice with a concentration in Liberal Arts and Legal Thought. After graduation, she worked as a Probation and Parole Officer for the State of Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole (now the Tennessee Department of Correction). She is currently a Law Clerk at The Law Office of Wanda W. Cross. After her 1L year, JaKeva had the opportunity to intern with the City Attorney’s Office where she worked closely with a task force aimed at cleaning up inner city neighborhoods.

JaKeva is the proud mother of two boys, Kamron and Kobe, and can be found on the football or track field along with her law books supporting them in her free (and not-so-free) time. Being a mother has sparked her passion for helping children and she is a strong advocate for children’s rights in education and the juvenile court system. JaKeva is a middle school Sunday school teacher at Soul Winners Baptist Church and also serves as a mentor for One-By-One, an organization dedicated to helping young and single mothers develop the technical, vocational, and personal skills they need to care for and support themselves, and their children without reliance on the welfare system.

JaKeva’s goal is not to save the world but to make a difference in it through every person that she meets. After graduation she hopes to become a Criminal Defense Attorney with a focus on Juvenile Defense and mentoring. JaKeva welcomes the entire community to become part of the exciting things going on at the Cecil C. Humphrey’s School of Law through BLSA and hopes to see every one of you at the next BLSA fundraiser or event!
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I want to send a personal thank you to each and every one of you who has supported the Black Law Students Association this semester. We have had an extraordinary semester and have come such a long way. The motto of our organization is “Building The Dream.” We believe in building the dream to build a better tomorrow for all ethnicities in the city of Memphis, one person at a time. Thank you to every individual that has attended and supported our events this year. Along with every individual who participated and volunteered in our fundraisers. Thank you for reading our newsletter and always providing feedback. Your kind and encouraging words meant more to us than you all know!

I want to send a special thank you to the executive board of the Black Law Students Association, Mr. De’Antwaine Moye, Ms. Faith Sanford, Mr. Rodrequez Watson, Mrs. Regina Thompson, Ms. Ariel Anthony, Ms. JaKeva Dotson, Mr. Brandon Boykin, and Mr. Michael Shepherd. Also, our advisors, Ms. Brigitte Boyd, Professor Demetria Frank, and Professor Daniel Kiel. It has been an absolute delight working along side of you all on a regular basis. You are easily the greatest executive board and advisors I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do. You all are the engine that keeps this BLSA train moving! You all are an elite group of individuals that are irreplaceable in my eyes, and I am very privileged to work with you!

Last, but certainly not least, I want to send a special thank you to the general body of the Black Law Students Association. Your hard-work, participation, and support that you provided this semester has certainly not gone unnoticed. I truly appreciate each and everything you all have done this semester to help take this organization to heights that it has never seen before. You all are certainly a special group of people that I hold close, and see as a family.

This will unfortunately be the last newsletter of the semester, but we will return with our new edition on January 12, 2015. The Black Law Students Association plans to come back next semester bigger and better than ever, with a whole new calendar of fresh and exciting events! Good luck on finals to every law student at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and Happy Holidays to everyone!

Best Regards,

Corbin I. Carpenter

Black Law Students Association, President
CURRENT EVENTS

Star Light Star Bright Program

This year, the Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter of the Black Law Students Association is holding a “Star Light, Star Bright” program devoted to honoring the wishes of 10 children, aged 1-17 years old, within the Department of Children’s Services’ custody. We are asking for your support in our efforts by making a kind donation, which can be monetary or in the form of purchased gifts, to the child of your choice. All proceeds collected will be used for the purchase of items on the children’s wish lists. Donations can be dropped off, or checks can be mailed to the Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter of BLSA, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at 1 N. Front Street Memphis, TN 38103. Checks would need to be made out to the Black Law Students Association. The donations can be made beginning November 10, and collection will end on December 5. We thank you for your help in making these children’s holiday one to remember.
EVENT RECAP

Legal Eagles

On November 14th, a group of BLSA members went to Downtown Elementary for its inaugural meeting of the Legal Eagles Program. Legal Eagles is a club where law students at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law will give young students an introduction to the exciting world of law! The club’s goals are to encourage early interest in the legal profession and develop critical thinking, analytical and reading comprehension skills in students’. The volunteering students led small group discussions with fourth and fifth graders followed by a brief introduction to basic legal concepts. This initiative was being led by our advisor, Professor Demetria Frank.

(Pictured here: Demetria Frank teaching to the Legal Eagles)
**Relax, Relate, Release Party**

On Friday November 21st BLSA partnered with the Student Bar Association to put on the Official End of the Semester Party. The law students came out to relax, relate and release!

(Pictured here: SBA & BLSA Members)
**5K Distracted Drivers Walk**

On Saturday, November 15th, The Collegiate Life Investment Foundation, (C.L.I.F.) held its inaugural 5K Distracted Drivers Walk at Rhodes College. C.L.I.F. is a 501c3 non-profit organization, based in Memphis, TN, dedicated to bringing awareness to the dangers of distracted driving on the roadways. This organization was founded in 2012, in memory of Clifton B. Gibbs, a 23-year-old college graduate from Memphis, TN, who was killed by a young lady texting and driving. The mission of C.L.I.F. is to serve as the premier vehicle to inform students across the globe about the dangers of distracted driving, and to provide overall support for those who have been seriously affected by its negligence.

(Pictured here: Traffic Victims honored during the 5k Walk)
15 Tips for Succeeding on the Day of the Exam:

Exam Tip #1
Wake up early so that you do not need to rush through having breakfast and getting ready.

Exam Tip #2
Check the venue and time of the exam to make sure that you have not confused the day/time/venue.

Exam Tip #3
Have a balanced breakfast and eat nothing risky (probably not the best day to have a deluxe breakfast feast). Bananas are always a good option.

Exam Tip #4
Before leaving home, check that you have everything that you will need – stationery, snacks, water etc.

Exam Tip #5
Head to the exam with plenty of time. A lot of unexpected events can happen on your way there and you do not want to be late!

Exam Tip #6
If there are people around who are panicking, avoid them. They are not doing you any favor!

Exam Tip #7
Go to the bathroom before the exam starts. Exams can be quite long and there is no time to waste.

Exam Tip #8
Remember to write your exam ID on the exam scantron or exam booklet. You would not believe how many people have forgotten to do it!
Exam Tip #9
Read all the questions carefully before starting and quickly plan how much time to allocate to each.

Exam Tip #10
Start answering the questions that you feel most confident about. There is no need to answer the questions in order.

Exam Tip #11
If your brain freezes, just start writing anything and you will soon start remembering more details.

Exam Tip #12
Don’t spend more time than you planned on a particular section/question or you might run out of time to answer other questions and gain those extra marks! Also, leave any questions that you are unsure about for the end.

Exam Tip #13
Don’t be afraid to ask the examiner if you are not clear on the directions.

Exam Tip #14
Use every minute of the exam and if you have time left, review your answers before submitting your exam.

Exam Tip #15
Stay calm, you have done your work and have nothing to fear! Be confident! You'll do great!
BLSA DONORS

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

Larry Williams, 2L, Owner of Classic Soulz Club

BIRTHDAYS

Demetria Frank, Assistant Professor of Law, December 15th

Brittany Neal, 2L, December 17th

Please share this newsletter with friends, colleagues and family. If anyone would like to be added to this mailing list, please email fnsnford@memphis.edu