THE BLSA APPEAL

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

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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

Ariel M. Anthony

Professional Liaison

Ariel M. Anthony is a third year law student at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and is the Current Professional Liaison of the Black Law Students Association, Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter for the 2014–2015 academic year. Ariel is a Memphis, Tennessee native. She graduated from Germantown High School in 2008. She attended Rhodes College on a full academics scholarship. She studied art history and Renaissance history for a semester abroad at Oxford University in England. Ariel graduated Rhodes College with a double major in Economics and Business in 2012.

After 1L year, Ariel interned at International Paper in the In-House Legal Department. And following her 2L year, she clerked at Baker Donelson in Memphis, TN and Husch Blackwell in Chattanooga, TN. Ariel has always dreamed of becoming a lawyer. She hopes to inspire everyone to achieve his or dreams no matter what life gives you. Ariel has been a mentor to countless students at the law school and understands the importance of developing a professional network as well.

Ariel is currently the Vice President of the Association for Women Attorneys, Senior Associate on the Mental Health Law and Policy Journal, a member of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Travel Team, and member of the Moot Court Board. After graduation, Ariel will be joining Husch Blackwell’s Chattanooga office in the Civil Litigation Group.
Event Recap

On Wednesday, October 28th, BLSA surprised the Diversity Coordinator, Mrs. Jacqueline M. O’Bryant, with a baby shower. Mrs. O’Bryant was showered with gifts and love from her BLSA family. We will miss you during your maternity leave and we pray for a safe delivery and for baby Ava!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Star Light Star Bright Program-November 10th

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 BLSA. 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.
General Body Meeting—November 11th

BLSA will hold its 4th general body meeting of this semester on Tuesday, November 11th in room 127 at 12:00 pm.

National Civil Rights Museum Event—November 13th

YOU BE THE JUDGE
When: Thursday, November 13, 2014, 6:00-8:00 pm Where: Museum Legacy Exhibits
Cost: Free for Members | $10 for Non-Members | Refreshments Provided James Earl Ray pled guilty to the murder of Dr. King and received a 99-year sentence. Although he recanted his plea days later, he never stood trial for the assassination. What would have happened had Ray gone to trial? Why are the case files sealed away until 2029? Come to the Museum and be a part of a mock trial as it would have happened in October 1968.
For more information, contact Jeanette O’Bryant, 901-521-9699 x2237 or jobystokes-casey@knsa.org

LUNCH & LEARN
Topic: Freedom’s Front Line: The Voting Rights Struggle in Fayette County, TN
Speaker: Daphene McFerren, Director, The Benjamin Hooks Institute at the University of Memphis
When: Wednesday, November 16, 2014, 12:00pm Where: NCRM Library
Education Center Cost: Free and open to the public | BYOL (bring your own lunch)
Discussing the challenges, obstacles and tactics of long Jim Crow tradition in Tennessee against rural African Americans preventing them from voting. Ms. McFerren highlights the struggle to access the ballot. Ms. McFerren’s father, John McFerren, was a leader in the Fayette County movement about which a documentary is made. She relives life during this period, and the courage and challenge of his stand.
For more information, contact Jody Stokes-Casey, 901-521-9699 x2289 or jstokes-casey@knsa.org
The Museum’s monthly Lunch & Learn Program is a free program held every third Wednesday. Guests take advantage of a mid-day break to learn about civil rights history or current issues from museum staff or guest speakers. The 2014 series is sponsored by The Stemo and Cindy Silvian Foundation.

http://civilrightsmuseum.org/ncrmevents/
Legal Eagles—November 14th

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 will lead small group discussions with fourth and fifth graders following a brief introduction to basic legal concepts. This initiative is being led by our advisor, Professor Demetria Frank. The host school for this initiative is Downtown Elementary. The first meeting will take place on November 14th at 1:00 pm.
Distracted Driving 5k Walk—November 15th

The Collegiate Life Investment Foundation, (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. C.L.I.F. 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. C.L.I.F. will hold its inaugural 5K Distracted Drivers Walk on November 15th at Rhodes College. Come out and support this great cause!
Relax, Relate, Release–November 21st

BLSA is partnering with the Student Bar Association to put on the Official End Of Semester Party! Pre-Sale tickets are currently being sold! Contact a BLSA or SBA member for your ticket!
BLSA DONORS

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

Brigitte Boyd, Administrative Assistant, Student Affairs
Larry Williams, Owner of Classic Soulz Club

BIRTHDAYS

Erica Perry, 2L, November 3rd
Mrs. Jacqueline O’Bryant, Diversity Coordinator, November 8th
Shanell Tyler, 1L, November 11th
Meagan Jones, 2L, November 19th
Elicia Ray, 1L, November 22nd

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