### BLSA Officers

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Corbin I. Carpenter</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>De'Antwaine D. Moye</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rodrequez C. Watson</td>
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<td>Professional Liaison</td>
<td>Ariel M. Anthony</td>
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<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Brandon L. Boykin</td>
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<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>Faith N. Sanford</td>
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<td>Community Service Chair</td>
<td>Regina M. Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Activities Chair</td>
<td>JaKeva R. Dotson</td>
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<td>1L Representative</td>
<td>Michael C. Shepherd</td>
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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
I want to send a personal thank you to each and every one of you who have supported the Black Law Students Association this academic year. We have had an extraordinary school year 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, Professor Daniel Kiel, and Mrs. Jacquelinyeare O’Bryant. 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!

Additionally, 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 school year has certainly not gone unnoticed. I truly appreciate each and everything you all have done this school year! You all are certainly a special group of people that I hold close, and see as a family.

Lastly, I want to send a special congratulations to the newly elected executive board! You have the blueprint and resources in play to take this organization to the next level. I expect nothing but big things from this organization next year. I wish you all the best as you begin your new journey! I am confident you will continue to make the student body, legal community, and myself proud!

This will unfortunately be the last newsletter of the school year, but we will return with our new edition of the BLSA Appeal in the Fall. The Black Law Students Association plans to come back next year 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 have a great and safe summer!

Best Regards,

Corbin I. Carpenter
Mr. Walter Preston Battle

Preston Battle is a second year law student at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and a member of the Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). Preston is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he majored in French Literature and minored in Italian. Preston is a fifth-generation Memphian, and he is very happy to be back in Memphis for law school. Preston's grandfather, The Hon. W. Preston Battle, Jr., was the judge of the Martin Luther King assassination case and sentenced James Earl Ray to serve 99 years in prison before his untimely death in 1969. Preston joined BLSA in his second year of law school because he hopes to bring the discussion about race to the forefront of student life at the law school. As the President-Elect of Memphis Law's Student Bar Association, Preston hopes he can use his position to start a school-wide dialogue.

In addition to being a part of BLSA and the SBA, Preston is passionate about Legal Advocacy. He is a member of the 2015-2015 Moot Court Board and won both the 2014 Freshman Moot Court Competition and the 2015 Mock Trial Competition. He is the law clerk for the Honorable Felicia Corbin Johnson in Division I at Shelby County Circuit Court, and he is please to be returning to clerk for Judge Corbin Johnson for his third year.

Preston holds dear the belief that "to whom much is given, much is required." He is the head coach for Memphis University School's mock trial team and is passionate about high school mock trial. He is the co-founder of the Memphis charity "Team Max," which is a "vigilante philanthropy" organization that he created in honor of his late best friend, Max Rose, the son of Gayle and Mike Rose. Team Max serves over 10,000 people in Shelby County annually. Preston is honored to be a part of BLSA and the SBA President going into next year!
Mrs. Crystal Johnson-Cathey

Crystal Johnson is a second year law student enrolled in the dual JD/MBA program at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. She is a member of the Moot Court Board and newly elected Associate Chief Justice of the Mock Trial Competition. She is also a member of the Mental Health Law & Policy Journal. She is a member of the Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA), Public Actions Law Society (PALS), Association for Women Attorneys (AWA) and is a Student Ambassador. She participates as a member of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Travel Team, which placed second in Regionals this year. She is also a member of the 2015 class of the Diversity Leadership Institute (DLI), sponsored by the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

Johnson’s dream has always been to become an attorney and to help combat the social injustices she witnessed growing up. She grew up in Memphis, Tennessee with her seven siblings. Both parents died when she was very young, but they instilled in her a passion for education and a dedication to serving others. She graduated salutatorian of her high school class while still dedicating hours toward community service and activism. She became even more involved when she enrolled at the University of Memphis for undergrad, where she triple majored in Political Science, African American History, and International Relations. She became the Vice President of one of the largest collegiate chapters of the NAACP; the College of Arts and Sciences Senator for the University of Memphis Student Government; and a Freshman Mentor. In addition, she got involved in politics, becoming the youngest campaign staff member for Congressman Steve Cohen of the 9th District.

During her time in law school, Crystal has interned with the City of Memphis Attorney’s Office, in hopes of giving back to the Memphis community. The highlight of her time here at the law school has been participating in various pro bono programs such as the Public Law Actions Society (PALS) 2014 Alternative Spring Break program and various other
pro bono opportunities. These opportunities allowed her to gain valuable legal experience, while being able to give back to those in need of legal services. During the Alternative Spring Break program, she assisted young adults in applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program created on June 15, 2012 that allows certain individuals who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines, to obtain work authorization. These applicants may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. The Commercial Appeal, a local newspaper, featured the law students participating in the PALS program in an article. Johnson plans to practice law in Tennessee so that she can continue to help those in her community who are in need of legal advocacy.
Ms. Brittany Neal

Brittany is a second year law school student at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. She is also a current member of BLSA and Outlaw. She was recently named as the Associate Chief Justice of the Freshman Moot Court Competition for the upcoming school year. Brittany was born and raised in this great city of Memphis and owes much of her success in life to her parents.

Her parents have been the best supporters and role models for her sister and herself her from day one. “They have lead by example. They are the hardest working individuals I have ever known. They taught my sister and I that when you dedicate 110% of your time and effort into something, success will follow, no matter the obstacles that life has thrown at you.” So she knew that to be anywhere as near as successful as her parents that she had to put in the hard work.

After graduating from Harding Academy of Memphis, she decided to attend the University of Memphis for her undergraduate career. She knew attending law school was her big dream and part of her end goal of becoming an attorney, so she became committed to being a successful student. She excelled in school. She was an active member of organizations such as Tigers4Lebonheur, which organized various activities, for the children at Lebonheur Hospital. Brittany was a member of Memphis Institute for Leadership Education (MILE), which was a program that provided leadership education for business students and prepared them to become future leaders in the City of Memphis. She also was an international Conversation Partner, where she aided an international student with the student’s conversational English. She graduated magna cum lade in May of 2013 with a degree in International Business and a Minor in Spanish.

Her first year of law school was the most challenging year for her, particularly her first semester. But when she thought back to her encouraging words from her parents, family members and law school friends, who had all overcome various difficulties in life, she knew she could as well. She was a quarterfinalist in the Freshman Moot Court Competition her first year. “That competition made me realize that I wanted to make oral advocacy a part of my
career. After competing in the Freshman Moot Court competition, she wanted to make advocacy a part of her career. It provided me with confidence that if I could write a motion, create an argument and theme that all kept my client’s interest in mind, I would be prevail at being a successfully advocating for my client.” She is excited and honored to run the competition that helped her find her passion in law school.
EVENT RECAP

Black Lives Matter

Enough is enough! It seems every few weeks another black man falls while the media scrambles to justify a police officers actions. It started with a broken brake light but ended with a black man being fatally shot by a South Carolina police officer. Video evidence showed Walter Scott fleeing from the police officer, before he was shot eight times in the back. Soon after the event the media tried to make Walter Scott the enemy and the police officer the victim. Information quickly surfaced about Walter Scott’s arrest record, while the police officer was praised for his service at the police department. The media tried to blind us, tried to hide us from the true issue at hand but the blindfold is off and it is time to understand that enough is enough. We applaud the police department for taking immediate action in firing and charging the police officer with murder, but sadly this does not bring back Walter Scott. Black lives are ending sooner than expected and it is time for us to stand in unity and declare “Black Lives Matter”. On Monday, April 13, 2015, BLSA did a silent protest to bring awareness to the injustice committed against the life of Walter Scott. BLSA members and other students wore a green shirt to signify the color Walter Scott was wearing when he was shot and killed. Additionally, the students wore name-tags that read "My Name is Walter Scott." BLSA’s stance is that not only do black lives matter but also that this legal profession, which we are preparing to enter into, must at all times remain fair in its demand for accountability and justice in all matters. It is time for our voices to be heard, and together we must show that black lives matter.

-Faith N. Sanford

Pictured Here: (BLSA Members)
Diversity and Pre-Law Day

On April 18, 2015, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law held its 3rd annual Diversity and Pre-Law Day as part of the University of Memphis’ ongoing commitment to diversity in the legal profession. This initiative was started by our Diversity Coordinator, Mrs. Jacqueline O’Bryant. This event prepared and previewed for individuals who are enrolled or have graduated from an undergraduate institute and are interested in attending law school. This year participants received various tips on, preparing for law school, submitting a competitive application and applying for financial aid and scholarships. Previous keynote speakers have been Mr. Hill Harper, Mrs. Judy Smith, and this year was Attorney Melanie Murry who is University Counsel for the University of Memphis.

(Pictured Here: Attorney Melanie Murry lecturing to the prospective students)
UPCOMING EVENTS

Kenneth Maurice Cox Ceremony

The Kenneth Cox Ceremony was created in honor of Mr. Kenneth Maurice Cox, one of Memphis Law's first African-American graduates. To commemorate his successes and achievements, the Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter of BLSA honors each graduating 3L BLSA member. The Kenneth Maurice Cox Donning of the Kente ceremony will recognize the graduates for their contributions to the law school’s academic, cultural and professional environments. BLSA will honor ten esteemed graduates:

Ariel Anthony         Tamika Pannell
De'Antwaine Moye        Justin Rudd
Jana Mitchell          Jarrett Spence
Jerrick Murrell        LaTanyia Walker
Aurelia Patterson        Brittany Williams

This year's Cox Ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Wade Auditorium.**

It will be followed by light refreshments.

(Pictured here 2014 Graduates of the Kenneth Maurice Cox Ceremony)
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 ALL-STARS**

**Special Congratulations To:**

Walter Preston Battle—Newly Elected SBA President  
Brandon Boykin—Newly Elected SBA Vice-President  
Ashley Finch—Newly Elected SBA Secretary  
Darius Walker, Jr.—Newly Elected 3L Bar Governor
Congratulations to the 2015-2016 BLSA Executive Board

President: Mrs. Regina Thompson

Vice President: Ms. Faith Sanford

Executive Secretary: Ms. Elicia Ray

Treasurer: Mrs. Dawn Campbell

Community Service: Ms. Ashley Finch

Fundraising & Activities: Mrs. Kioni Logan

Professional Liaison: Ms. Kristen Downey

Parliamentarian: Mr. Brian Dockery
Ariel Mechelle Anthony is a native of Memphis, TN. She has dreamed of being a lawyer since elementary school. Ariel graduated from Germantown High School with honors in 2008 and received a full academic scholarship to Rhodes College. In 2010 she studied abroad at Oxford University at Lincoln College. Ariel graduated from Rhodes in 2012 with a double major in Economics and Business. Her dreams started to become reality when she was accepted to Memphis Law. While at Memphis Law, Ariel was a student ambassador and participated on the Frederick Douglass Travel Moot Court team for 2 years and helped the team place fourth in the Southern Region in 2015. She is a member of the Mental Health Law & Policy Journal, Vice-President of the Association of Women Attorneys, and the Professional Liaison for the Black Law Student Association. She was a judicial extern for the Honorable Judge John T. Fowlkes. Ariel has clerked at International Paper, Baker Donelson, and Husch Blackwell. Ariel will be joining Husch Blackwell in the Chattanooga, TN office as an associate in the Commercial Litigation Group following the bar exam.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." -Jeremiah 29:11
Jana started law school in the Summer 2012 Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law (T.I.P.) class. Her first three semesters of law school she took on a part-time schedule where she also worked for Delta Airlines. As a result, she's probably one of the most traveled law students you'll probably ever meet. During her tenure at Cecil C. she has participated in the Black Law Student Association where she served as Treasurer, and was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial team that won second place in the Southern Region competition. For the past couple of years she's had the pleasure of serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Law School Office of Diversity.

Jana's law school journey does not end until Aug 2015. In the mean time she will be taking her last credits as a visiting student at South Texas College of Law in Houston, TX where she hopes to relocate after graduation. She is forever grateful for all the love and support during this journey from many family, friends, and mentors. Thank You!

"For I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future!"
De’Antwaine Moye

De'Antwaine Moye is thankful to God for the opportunity to graduate from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. During his tenure he served as Vice President and Professional Liaison for the Benjamin L. Hooks Chapter of the Black Law Students Association and President of the Christian Legal Society for the academic year of 2014-2015. De'Antwaine is a native of Nashville, Tennessee where he graduated third in his class at Antioch Comprehensive High School and summa cum laude from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration. De'Antwaine chose to pursue a career in law because of his passion for the intersection of business and law, the diversity of career choices offered with a law degree, and the potential impact on the community that he could make as an attorney. De'Antwaine plans to work part time in ministry as Executive Pastor of Innovation and Infrastructure at First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, Tennessee and in corporate compliance.
Jerrick Murrell

Jerrick Murrell was born in Memphis, Tennessee. After graduating Valedictorian from Fayette Ware High School in Somerville, Tennessee, Jerrick attended the University of Memphis where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology, summa cum laude. Following the completion of his undergraduate curriculum, Jerrick decided to further his education at the University of Memphis by receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Following the completion of his Master’s Degree, Jerrick decided to complete his life-long dream of becoming an attorney by enrolling in the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis.
Aurelia Patterson

Aurelia Patterson is a native of Memphis, TN and graduate of Central High School. Aurelia obtained her undergraduate degree in Sociology from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. After completing her undergraduate degree, Aurelia was thrilled to return to Memphis. While at Memphis Law, Aurelia has served as a student ambassador, an orientation leader, a Student Honor Council Student Justice, a member of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Travel Team, and Associate Justice for the In-School Mock Trial Competition as a member of the Moot Court Board Executive Board. Aurelia was also a Humphreys Fellow, where she served as a research assistant to Professor Daniel Kiel for two years. Aurelia was also the recipient of several scholarships including Memphis Law's Access to Diversity Scholarship, the Collegiate Life Investment Fund Scholarship, as well as the Association for Women Attorney's Judge Rita Stotts Scholarship. She has spent her time outside of the classroom working in the legal community with the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, Judge Camille McMullen, Memphis Law's Child and Family Litigation Clinic, and the Tennessee Board of Regents. I would like to thank Dean McClellan for getting me to Memphis Law and my family and friends, especially Fab Five, for keeping me here. Congratulations to the class of 2015!
Justin Rudd was born in Covington, Tennessee. After graduating from Covington High School, Justin attended the University of Memphis where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology graduating *summa cum laude*. Following his completion of undergrad, Justin joined the Memphis Police Department and a year later was accepted into the Tennessee Institute for Pre-law (TIP program) here at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphrey’s School of Law where he excelled and was admitted into the full-time program. Justin has continued to work full time as a police officer while successfully completing the full time law program. While at Memphis Law, Justin has worked as a graduate assistant in the TIP program. He has served on the Student Diversity Panel, and is currently a member of the Mental Health Law and Policy Journal. Justin hopes to continue to serve the Memphis community after graduation and passing the bar.

“Never let success get to your head and never let failure get to your heart.” - Wale
Jarrett Spence was born and reared in Memphis, Tennessee. After completing high school at Bishop Byrne, he attended college at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where he graduated with a degree in Business Finance. After attaining his undergraduate degree, he accepted a job as a fraud analyst for a small loan company in Chattanooga until he decided to return home to accept a job as the Business and Operations Manager at Memphis College Prep, a small charter school located in North Memphis. Although he enjoyed working at the school, one year after returning home, he chose to follow in his father’s footsteps and enrolled in The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law where he will graduate in May 2015. After graduation, he will work as a judicial law clerk for The Honorable Judge Bernice Donald, who sits on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.
LaTanyia Walker

LaTanyia S. Walker is the daughter of Patricia and the Late Luther Walker and a native of Collierville, Tennessee. LaTanyia graduated from Collierville High School in 2005. She later received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (2009) and Master of Science in Leadership and Policy Studies (2011) from the University of Memphis. During her law school career, LaTanyia has had the opportunity to work with several employers in the Memphis legal community: ALSAC/St. Jude, Shelby County Circuit and Chancery Courts, as well as Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP. LaTanyia serves as the Notes Editor for Volume 45 of the University of Memphis Law Review. She has held leadership positions on both the local and regional levels of the Black Law Students Association. LaTanyia has received several awards for her academic excellence and community involvement: Dean’s Pro Bono Award, Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Scholarship, Ben F. Jones Scholarship, and Memphis Access & Diversity Scholarship. Upon graduating and passing the bar, LaTanyia intends to practice in the Memphis area.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31
Brittany Williams is a native of Memphis, TN and graduated from Cordova High School in 2008. In 2012, Brittany graduated from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. While at the University of Tennessee Brittany was a Resident Assistant for two years and an active member of the Student Government Association. Brittany decided to attend law school during her senior year of college when she realized social workers could create change for families and individuals but lawyers could create change for entire systems and groups of people. At Memphis Law Brittany has learned how to create that change. While at Memphis Law Brittany was a member of the Black Law Student Association, the Director of Student Affairs for the Student Bar Association, a member of the Moot Court Board, a senior associate for the Mental Health Law and Policy Journal, and a member of the Student Diversity Committee. Brittany was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial team for two years. As a member Brittany helped the team place second in the region in 2015 and advance to the National Competition. During her time in law school Brittany interned for Advance Memphis and the Honorable Judge Christopher Craft. She externed for the Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender and for the City of Memphis Anti-Blight Litigation Unit. She participated in Alternative Spring Break during her first two years and worked as a law clerk for The Wharton Law Firm. Currently Brittany works as a law clerk for Brewer & Barlow PLC.

“Justice is what love sounds like when it speaks in public.” –Michael Eric Dyson
BLSA DONORS

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

Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal, Interim Dean of the University of Memphis
Professor Demetria Frank, Assistant Professor of Law
Ms. LaKesha Herring, Interim Coordinator for the Graduate School
Dr. Karen D. Weddle-West, Provost of the University of Memphis
Attorney Andre Mathis, Glankler Brown PLLC
The National Bar Association, Ben F. Jones Chapter

BIRTHDAYS

LaTanyia Walker 3L, May 15th
Dawn Campbell, 1L, May 31st
Michael Powell, 1L, June 8th
Ashley Finch, 1L, June 10th
Lani Lester, 2L, June 11th
Rodrequez Watson, 3L, July 21st
Marcus Maples, 1L, July 26th
Anisha Sheth, 1L, July 24th
Faith Sanford, 2L, August 9th
Brittany Williams, 3L, August 12th

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