EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND LEGAL EXCELLENCE

Inspired by the Spirit of the Harlem Renaissance

49th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS Gala

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 1 • 2025

SIGNATURE
RESOLUTION

The power of exceptional.

We congratulate our own Jonathan D. Andrews on being re-elected as President of the Board of Directors of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.



SIGNATURERESOLUTION.COM

49TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS GALA

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND LEGAL EXCELLENCE

↗ COCKTAIL RECEPTION

↗ WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Jonathan Andrews - 2025 Foundation President
Sacha Brackins - 2025 Gala Chair

↗ MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Cathleen Trigg-Jones - Social entrepreneur & Executive

↗ INVOCATION

Randy Jones - EBGBA Life member & Legacy Award Recipient

↗ BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM - “LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING”

Performed by Isaac Jackson - Former President of EBGBF

↗ SPECIAL REMARKS - DIAMOND SPONSOR

Angela J. Reddock-Wright - Signature Resolution

↗ 2025 PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Presented by: Christopher Chandler - Scholarship & Award Chair &
Emani Lawrence - Director at Large

↗ LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENT

Professor Roy L. Brooks - University of San Diego School of Law
Accepted on his behalf by Vickie Turner

↗ 2025 ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS & PRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Presented by: Löan T. Shillinger - 2025 Association President

- *Community Diversity Award*
- *Rising Star Award*
- *Presidential Excellence Awards*

↗ 2025 ASSOCIATION DEDICATED SERVICE AWARDS

Presented by: Löan T. Shillinger
Adrian Douglas

↗ 2025 FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS & PRESENTATION OF FOUNDATION AWARDS

Presented by: Jonathan Andrews - 2025 Foundation President

- *Thurgood Marshall Legal Professional of the Year Award*
- *Frederick Douglass Community Service Award*
- *Legal Trailblazer Award*
- *Foundation President's Award for Distinguished Service Award*

↗ 2025 FOUNDATION DEDICATED SERVICE AWARDS

Presented by: Alicia Phillip Williams
Jordan Turner Warsame Hassan Sacha Brackins

↗ KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Benjamin Crump - Trial Lawyer for Justice

↗ INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Honorable Roderick Ward Shelton

Installation	Installation
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association	Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
Board of Directors, 2026	Board of Directors, 2026

↗ INCOMING FOUNDATION & ASSOCIATION

Incoming Foundation & Association Presidents' messages

↗ CLOSING REMARKS

Jonathan Andrews

↗ VIP AFTER PARTY SPONSORED BY UNCLE NEAREST

US Grant Lobby - Rendezvous Lounge

↗ SUNDAY - 11.02.25

VIP Brunch - Louisiana Purchase

THE DESTINY LAB

MARKETING FOR **BRANDS** WITH **PURPOSE**

Proud 2025 marketing agency for the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation



www.thedestinylab.co

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES
CATHLEEN TRIGG-JONES



Cathleen Trigg-Jones is a social entrepreneur and executive with a background in journalism, multi-media production, public relations, marketing, public speaking and executive coaching. She has created and leads three independent media companies: iWomanTV, the first mass-market over-the-top streaming news and entertainment network created by women and about women; Catscape Productions, an award-winning multimedia production company; and Trigg Global Media, a strategic marketing, crisis communications, and business consulting practice for global CEOs and Fortune 500 companies.

Cathleen began her career working as a news reporter for WBOC-TV before being tapped by then United State's Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. to be the Press Assistant in his Delaware Senate Office. After returning to television, she worked her way up through the ranks of several news markets, eventually landing her dream job in New York City where she was quickly recognized for her quality journalism, winning an EMMY Award while reporting and anchoring the WWOR and WNYW news broadcasts. Cathleen won an Emmy for a news story she wrote and produced featuring Sean "Diddy" Combs, entitled "Hip Hop Math." Since that time, Cathleen has produced hundreds of projects and co-starred in more than two dozen TV shows and films, including *Power, Madam Secretary, House of Cards, Homeland*, and the Tupac Shakur biopic, *All Eyes On Me*. She is the Executive Producer and Host of the *iWoman Report* on iWoman TV, and the talk show Chic Chat which aired on iOne Digital. She is also the creator and co-star of the hit docu-series *We Are The Joneses*, which aired on Discovery Life and BET Centric.

From the start, Cathleen has been grounded by her core values of integrity, clarity, compassion, and drive. In addition to her Emmy Award, she has been honored with the Black Women In Media Award, A Child's Hero Award by CASA of Essex, NJ, and the BMW Women of Excellence Award and has been nominated for the Women's Image Network Award.

In 2006, Cathleen created Trigg House, a nonprofit, direct-service organization to offer foster children who are about to become emancipated from the state foster care system the resources needed to help them make a smooth transition into the real world and independent living. Trigg-Jones experienced the foster care system as a child and saw a deep and growing need for energetic, nonprofit work in this area that provides sensible solutions. She is a New York State Court Appointed Special Advocate for Foster Children and serves on the boards of Operation Keloid, the Columbia University Double Discovery Center, and the Black Entrepreneur Initiative.

Cathleen is a dynamic executive with demonstrated success building and leading complex projects and organizations. Her businesses are certified by the NY/NJ Minority Supplier Development Council and operate as Minority Women Business Enterprises. She received her BA in Journalism from Delaware State University.

California Western School of Law
is proud to support the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
49th Annual Gala.

CWSL.EDU



California Western School of Law
would like to congratulate
Löan Shillinger '04
for her service as
2024-2025 President of the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.

JAMS is a proud supporter of the

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation 49th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala

and we congratulate the recipients

jamsadr.com/sandiego

JAMS
The way forward™

↗ MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE BAND - R&B SATISFIERS



Satisfiers are a San Diego based R&B band playing R&B Hits and B-sides from the 50's and 60's.

DJ - DJ DILLA



DJ Jilla is one of Southern California's most electrifying DJs, originally born and raised in Chicago. Now based in San Diego for over 14 years, he has built a name in the West Coast music scene providing top-notch DJ services for a variety of events and occasions.

HARPIST - MARIEA ANTOINETTE



Mariea Antoinette is an extraordinary African American jazz harpist. Classically trained, she began her musical journey in San Diego and pursued her undergraduate studies in music at the University of California, San Diego.

DANCE PERFORMANCE - CULTURE SHOCK SAN DIEGO

culture shock® SAN DIEGO

Culture Shock San Diego is a nonprofit Hip Hop dance troupe dedicated to innovative performance entertainment, artist development education & community outreach.

↗ INVOCATION OFFICIANT

RANDY JONES



Randy is a Life Member of the National Bar Association, California Association of Black Lawyers, and Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association of San Diego. He served as EBGBA President from 1990-1991. He also teaches bible study in his local community.

↗ LIFT EVERY VOICE PERFORMER

ISAAC JACKSON



Isaac is longtime member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and a past president of of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. He is a talented broadway signer.

↗ “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson,
Music by J. Rosamond Johnson Performed by: Isaac Jackson

Lift every voice and sing ‘til earth and heaven ring. Ring with the harmony of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies. Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on ‘til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod. Felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet Come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered Out from the gloomy past, ‘til now we stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years God of our silent tears Thou who has brought us thus far on the way Thou who has by thy might Led us into the light Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand True to our God, True to our native land.

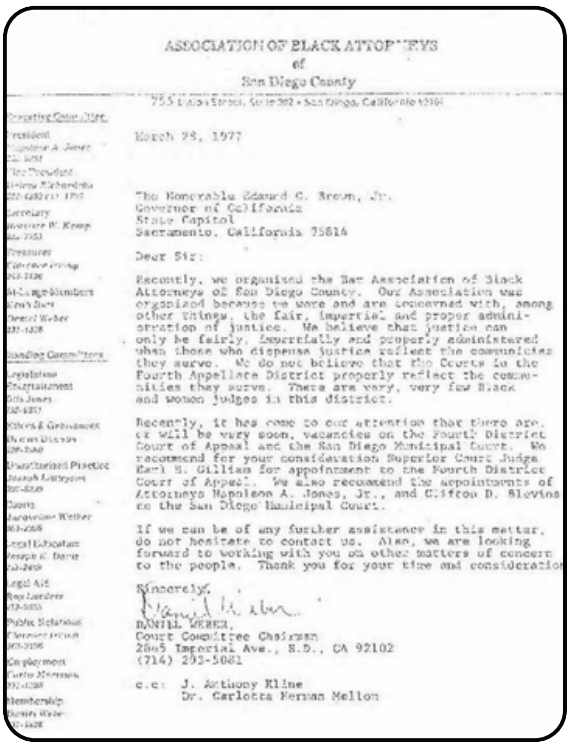
↗ HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association was originally established in 1976 as the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County ("ABASDC"). In 1982, under the presidency of Daniel Weber, ABASDC formally changed its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association ("EBGBA") in recognition of the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam, the first African American United States District Court judge for the Southern District of California. Judge Gilliam was also the first African American to serve as a San Diego County Superior Court judge. In the mid-1970s there were very few Black attorneys in San Diego County. On a Saturday morning a small group of the ones who were here met up at Emma's Pancake House at 54th and El Cajon. When they finished the meeting, they all went out to go about their day and it started to rain. The men all began running to get out of the rain and no sooner had they started than a police car came up and stopped all of them. The policeman said there had been a robbery in the area and these men fit the description of the suspect. After being harassed for several minutes, upon being asked for identification all but one of the men produced their California State Bar cards. Surprised, but apparently not deterred, the policeman arrested the one man, attorney Willard Anthony, who did not have his bar card with him.

The others called the only local judge they could, Hon. Earl B. Gilliam. Judge Gilliam got Mr. Anthony immediately released and his record expunged. They were also able to determine that no such robbery had been reported and made sure that the conduct of the police was noted in each officer's personnel file. As a result of this experience, the men came together to form the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County.*

In 2014, the Board and the members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association voted to split the organization into two separate entities to better serve the community. The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association was designated as a 501(c)(6) organization to increase the organization's political and civic voice in the San Diego community and a sister organization was created to focus on charitable efforts benefiting the community. The new organization was named the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and its mission is to represent the interests of the African-American legal community in San Diego County. The Foundation exists primarily to provide support for diversifying the legal community, which currently includes scholarships for law students and programs for African American legal professionals in growing as attorneys, obtaining, and maintaining employment, developing private practice as sole practitioners or partners within law firms, advancing in public sector employment, and related efforts. The Foundation hosts annual events, like the Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Forum, Summer Soiree, and Scholarship and Awards Gala, designed to foster community and show both aspiring and seasoned attorneys that they are not alone. Since 2016, the Foundation has awarded over $170,000 in scholarships to law students and recently efforts have extended to new programs for K-12 and college students.



ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ATTORNEYS
of
San Diego County

March 28, 1977

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Sir:

Recently, we organized the Bar Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County. Our Association was organized because we were and are concerned with, among other things, the fair, impartial and proper administration of justice. We believe that justice can only be fairly, impartially and properly administered when those who dispense justice reflect the communities they serve. We do not believe that the Courts in the Fourth Appellate District properly reflect the communities they serve. There are very, very few Black and women judges in this district.

Recently, it has come to our attention that there are, or will be very soon, vacancies on the Fourth District Court of Appeal and the San Diego Municipal Court. We recommend for your consideration Superior Court Judge Earl B. Gilliam for appointment to the Fourth District Court of Appeal. We also recommend the appointments of Attorneys Napoleon A. Jones, Jr., and Clifton D. Blevins to the San Diego Municipal Court.

If we can be of any further assistance in this matter, do not hesitate to contact us. Also, we are looking forward to working with you on other matters of concern to the people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

DANIEL WEBER,
Court Committee Chairman
2865 Imperial Ave., S.D., CA 92102
(714) 233-5082

c.c: J. Anthony Kline
Dr. Carlotta Ferman Mellon

*The above information is paraphrased from a speech given by Daniel Weber's widow, California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber, on November 9, 2013, at the 37th Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner.

↗ HONORABLE EARL B. GILLIAM

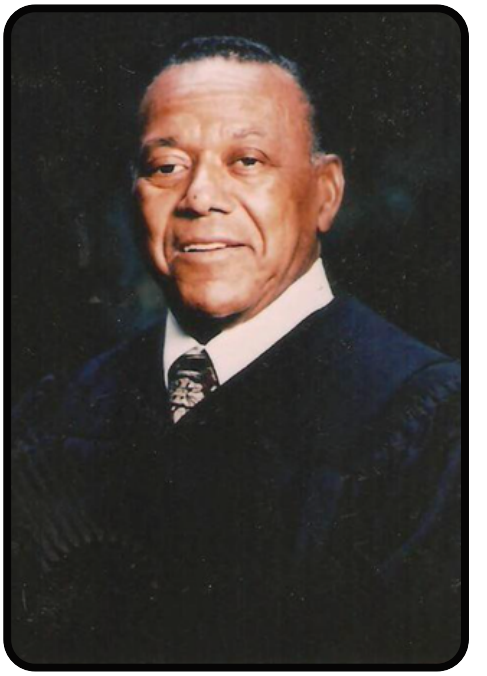
Earl B. Gilliam received his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State College in 1953 and his Juris Doctor from University Of California College of the Law San Francisco (Formerly Hastings College of Law) in 1957. That same year, he began his legal career as a deputy district attorney in the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

In 1961, he went into private practice and continued in that capacity for two years before becoming a San Diego Municipal Court judge in 1963. He subsequently became the first African American to serve as a San Diego County Superior Court judge in 1975. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as a judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of California. In 1993, he attained senior status at the United States District Court. Judge Gilliam was the first African American U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

In addition to serving as a judicial officer, Judge Gilliam also worked as a law professor at Western State College of Law, an instructor in Urban and Rural Studies at the University of California at San Diego and as a guest lecturer at the United States International University.

Due to his many contributions to the legal community and the community at large, Judge Gilliam was honored with more than a dozen awards during his legal career, including the following: San Diego Chamber of Commerce Young Man of the Year (1965), San Diego Citizen of the Year (1973 and 1994); San Diego Good Guy Award (1974); Boy's Club of San Diego Golden Man of the Year (1981); San Diego Trial Lawyers Association Trial Judge of the Year (1981); and a place on the San Diego High School Wall of Honor (1994).

Judge Gilliam's community and civic activities have been numerous, including, YMCA, Advisory Committees for the Board of Education on Equal Education;. Villa View Hospital Foundation; San Diego Kind Corporation; San Diego State University Alumni Association; Salvation Army; Urban League; Navy League; and 200th Anniversary of the City of San Diego.



Judge Gilliam was also awarded the National Bar Association's Wiley A. Branton Award (1997) and the California Association of Black Lawyers' Judicial Pioneer Award (1998). Judge Gilliam was also inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame, which honors lawyers who have been licensed to practice for forty years or more and have made a significant contribution to the cause of justice.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOE LACAVA
FIRST COUNCIL DISTRICT

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Association,

For 49 years, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Association has demonstrated unwavering dedication to representing the interest of the African American legal community in San Diego County and diversifying the legal community through scholarships and employment assistance. The work this organization has done not only assists today's students and legal community but also inspires future legal leaders in San Diego.

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Association is a powerful example of service, empowerment, and leadership. By promoting access to justice and creating opportunities for underrepresented individuals in the legal system, you have helped shape a more inclusive and equitable community in San Diego and beyond. Your efforts are truly worth commemorating.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to this year's awardees for their extraordinary work and dedication to helping the Black community access effective legal representation and advice. Your service strengthens the foundation of justice and equity in our region.

Isend best wishes for a memorable and successful Gala. May this celebration honor the achievements of the past while continuing to inspire progress for the future.

Sincerely,

Joe LaCava

Joe LaCava
Council President

City of San Diego, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA92101 | 619-236-6611| joelacava@sandiego.gov

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM KENT LEE

Council District Six

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and Members,

Congratulations on your 49th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala!

This foundation's dedication to diversity is evident through decades of service in supporting, representing, and advancing the interests of the African American legal community throughout San Diego.

This year's theme "A Celebration of Culture, Community, and Legal Excellence" is a concept I personally resonate with. As a member of the AAPI community, I believe that lived-experiences and cultural wealth enhances the public good. Your efforts to increase the political and civic voice of the African American community in San Diego is extremely important and deserves to be celebrated.

I look forward to seeing our communities flourish alongside the dedicated lawyers, judges, law students, and other legal professionals born from this foundation.

On behalf of our office, I send my sincere congratulations and wish you a wonderful gala.

Best regards,

Kent Lee
Council President Pro Tem, Sixth District
San Diego City Council

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

HENRY L. FOSTER III

COUNCILMEMBER ◆ DISTRICT FOUR



October 10, 2025

As the Councilmember representing San Diego's District 4, I know that the pursuit of justice and equity is not easy work. Our communities continue to face barriers that require persistence, courage, and partnership to overcome. That's why organizations like the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation are so vital. They provide the advocacy, mentorship, and resources needed to strengthen our legal system and strive to ensure it works for everyone.

I recognize and value the Foundation's role in supporting and representing the African American legal community. Change begins when we challenge inequities head-on and equip future generations with the tools to lead. By investing in the education and empowerment of law students and young attorneys, the Foundation is building a stronger and more equitable San Diego.

In District 4, we know that knowledge of the law can be transformative. It empowers families to protect their rights, communities to demand fairness, and institutions to grow more accountable. When paired with representation that reflects our diversity, that knowledge becomes a force for lasting progress.

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's work advances a vision we all share: a just society where opportunity is not limited by race or background. Through its scholarships, mentorship, and recognition of trailblazers in the legal field, the Foundation is investing in leaders who will carry that vision forward. Their efforts remind us that justice is not an abstract idea—it is built daily by the people who dedicate their lives to serving others.

I commend the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation for its continued dedication to equity, opportunity, and community empowerment. Your work inspires us all to keep pushing for a fairer, more inclusive future.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Foster III
Councilmember, City of San Diego

202 C STREET ◆ 10TH FLOOR ◆ SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101
(619) 236-6644 ◆ EMAIL: HenryFoster@sandiego.gov

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SanDiegoDA.com

OFFICE OF
THEDISTRICTATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

SUMMER STEPHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DWAIN D. WOODLEY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY



November 1, 2025

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Members,

Congratulations on celebrating 49 years of outstanding service and leadership in San Diego County. Your steadfast commitment to advancing the interests of African American lawyers, judges, and law students has strengthened not only our legal community, but the broader community we all serve. This year's theme, *"A Celebration of Culture, Community, andLegal Excellence – Inspired bytheSpirit oftheHarlem Renaissance,"* beautifully reflects the creativity, resilience, and shared purpose that continue to move us toward a more just and equitable future.

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 employees of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, we proudly stand with you in your work to uphold human rights and to ensure justice is applied fairly and equally. We are especially proud of the Deputy District Attorneys who have contributed to your association and foundation through leadership and service in past and present.

Best wishes for a successful 49th Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner. We look forward to continuing to partner in the pursuit of justice and opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

Summer Stephan

Summer Stephan
SanDiegoCounty District Attorney

Follow the District Attorney's Office on

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7310
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4039

DISTRICT OFFICE
7575 METROPOLITAN DRIVE
SUITE 100
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108
TEL (619) 688-6700

California State Senate

SENATOR
AKILAH WEBER PIERSON, M.D.
THIRTY-NINTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

November 1, 2025

EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION
49TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS GALA

Dear Members and Guests of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the 49th Annual Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Scholarship & Awards Gala. This evening, we come together to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our distinguished scholarship recipients and to honor the legacy of Earl B. Gilliam.

This year's theme, *"A Celebration of Culture, Community, and Legal Excellence — Inspired by the Spirit of the Harlem Renaissance,"* beautifully captures the essence of this occasion. The Harlem Renaissance was more than a cultural movement, it was a declaration of self-determination, creativity, and pride in Black identity. It mirrors the mission of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and this Gala: to honor excellence, uplift community, and celebrate the enduring strength and brilliance of Black leadership in the legal profession.

To the scholarship recipients, your hard work and dedication inspires us all. I am excited to see the incredible impact you will make in our communities and beyond. Congratulations on your hard earned achievements.

Thank you to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation for nearly five decades of unwavering commitment to advancing African Americans in the legal field and advocating for justice in our broader community. Wishing you continued success and a memorable evening of celebration.

Sincerely,

Senator Akilah Weber Pierson, M.D.
39th Senate District

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDERS ASSOCIATION 451 "A" Street,
Suite 900 | San Diego, CA 92101
Email: sdpublicdefendersassociation@gmail.com

Dear Earl B Gilliam Bar Members,

The San Diego County Public Defenders Association extends its support and congratulations to Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation for your 49th Annual Scholarship and Award Gala! This remarkable milestone is a true testament to your commitment and long-standing service to the African American legal community in San Diego County.

Your dedication to advocacy, empowerment, and equity within the legal profession has had a profound and lasting impact—not only within the local community but across the broader landscape of justice and representation.

The San Diego Public Defender's Association sends its sincere congratulations to the 2025 scholarship and award recipients. It is heartening to see such bright and talented individuals recognized and supported as they pursue excellence and drive positive change within the legal field.

As you celebrate this gala and all it represents, our organization has immense appreciation for your continued work in advancing justice, fostering mentorship, and nurturing future generations of legal professionals.

Sincerely,

The San Diego County Public Defenders Association

To Those Making a Difference

Perkins Coie is proud to sponsor Earl B. Gilliam Bar's 49th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala.

perkinscoie.com

Perkins Coie

Perkins Coie LLP Lawyer Advertising

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



AMARI ROSE HOOD | 2L

Signature Resolution Diamond Scholarship ~ $5,000

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Amari Rose Hood is a law student at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, dedicated to advocacy, leadership, and academic achievement. She serves as Vice President of the Criminal Law Society and Parliamentarian of the Student Bar Association, and she successfully helped restart the Delta Theta Phi chapter. While maintaining honor roll standing, she also works with the San Diego County Public Defender's Office, gaining hands-on legal experience and strengthening her practical skills. Originally from New Jersey, Amari balances her studies and leadership with missing her family back home, grounding herself through wellness practices and her passion for driving meaningful change.



KIAH NORRIS | 2L

Signature Resolution Diamond Scholarship ~ $5,000
California Western School of Law

Kiah Norris is a wife and mother of two children, aged one and three, who is attending California Western School of Law part-time. She aspires to work in appeals and eventually become an appellate judge. Kiah earned her bachelor's degree in Comparative Religion and her master's degree in Creative Writing. In her free time, Kiah loves to play with her children, read and write fantasy stories, travel internationally, and obsess over the Lord of the Rings.



KYRA FISCHBACH | 3L

Perkins Coie LLP Scholarship ~ $3,000
University of San Diego School of Law

Kyra Fischbach is from Los Angeles and currently serve as the Co-President of the USD School of Law Black Law Students Association. She's passionate about pursuing a career in family law, and when she's not studying, you can usually find her running an unhealthy number of miles.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION
2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CAILI ANDERSON | 3L

Matching Justice Challenge Scholarship ~ $3,000
Sponsored by Jonathan Andrews & Individual donations
UCLA School of Law

Caili Anderson is a 3L at UCLA School of Law specializing in Critical Race Studies and Criminal Law & Policy. She graduated from San Diego State University in 2023. At UCLA, she has served as BLSA Gala Co-Chair, a legal writing advisor for 1Ls, and a mentor for pre-law students. She volunteers with the El Centro Reentry Clinic and the LAFLA Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic. She is a member of UCLA's Trial Team and currently externs with the LA County Alternate Public Defender. Caili was a summer associate and diversity scholar at Latham & Watkins San Diego for both summers and will return post-graduation.



SHARDAE CANN | 3L

Matching Justice Challenge Scholarship ~ $3,000
Sponsored by Jonathan Andrews & Individual donations
University of San Diego School of Law

Shardae Cann is a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law where she is a senior member of San Diego Law Review, and a USD BLSA member. Shardae graduated magna cum laude from the University of Washington with a degree in Law, Societies, and Justice. She has a passion for advocating for real people in her community. Shardae's legal experience includes advocating for plaintiffs and public interest work. She is also a mother of two.



ARIANA MONTREUIL | 2L

Littler Mendelson P.C. Scholarship ~ $2,500
University of San Diego School of Law

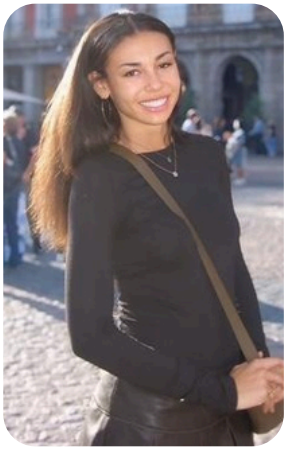
Ariana Montreuil is a San Diego native and a 2L at the University of San Diego School of Law. She is interested in practicing Tax Law and is passionate about volunteering and serving the San Diego community.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ISAIAH ARTIS | 3L

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ $2,000
University of San Diego School of Law
Isaiah Artis is a 3L at USD School of Law pursuing a concentration in Public Interest Law. He serves as Co-President of BLSA, President of the Law Students for Cross-Racial Understanding, and a member of the National Mock Trial Team. Originally from Seattle, Washington, Isaiah is passionate about advancing equity and access to justice for underrepresented communities. After graduation, he plans to continue his work in public interest law and aspires to serve as a San Diego city or county councilmember.



ALEXIS ROAF | 3L

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ $2,000
University of San Diego School of Law
Alexis Roaf is a first-generation college graduate and law student dedicated to public service and justice. Raised by a single mother, she developed a strong work ethic and resilience in the face of adversity. She aspires to become a civil rights attorney to protect and uplift marginalized communities and challenge systemic injustice. Her lived experience fuels her passion for advocacy and equity. She is committed to using the law as a tool to empower others, amplify underrepresented voices, and create lasting change within the communities she serves.



JAYLENE POTTER | 2L

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ $2,000
California Western School of Law
Jaylene Potter is a second-year law student at California Western School of Law from San Jose, California. She is passionate about entertainment and intellectual property law, focusing on equitable representation for creatives and communities of color. She serves as Social Chair for the Black Law Students Association and as a Student Fellow at the New Media Rights Clinic, where she assists clients with media and copyright matters. Her goal is to become in-house counsel in the entertainment industry, promoting diversity and cultural integrity in creative spaces.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



KENNEDY LOGAN | 2L

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ $2,000
Thomas Jefferson – School of Law

Kennedy Logan is a 2L law student with aspirations of becoming a leading attorney in intellectual property and entertainment law. She is the current VP of the Black Law Students Association and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Kennedy is committed to advancing diversity in the legal profession, mentoring future law students, and using her career to protect creativity and empower underrepresented voices.



NERLY BATES-GRAY | 2L

EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ $1,000
California Western School of Law

Nerly Bates-Gray is a second-year law student at California Western School of Law. She is passionate about criminal justice reform and post-conviction advocacy. Nerly is committed to using her legal education to champion fairness, equity, and accountability within the justice system. She is an active member of the BLSA and serves on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee. Balancing law school and motherhood, Nerly strives to model resilience, compassion, and purpose both in and out of the courtroom. She enjoys taking Afrobeats dance classes.



YLES FISHER | 2L

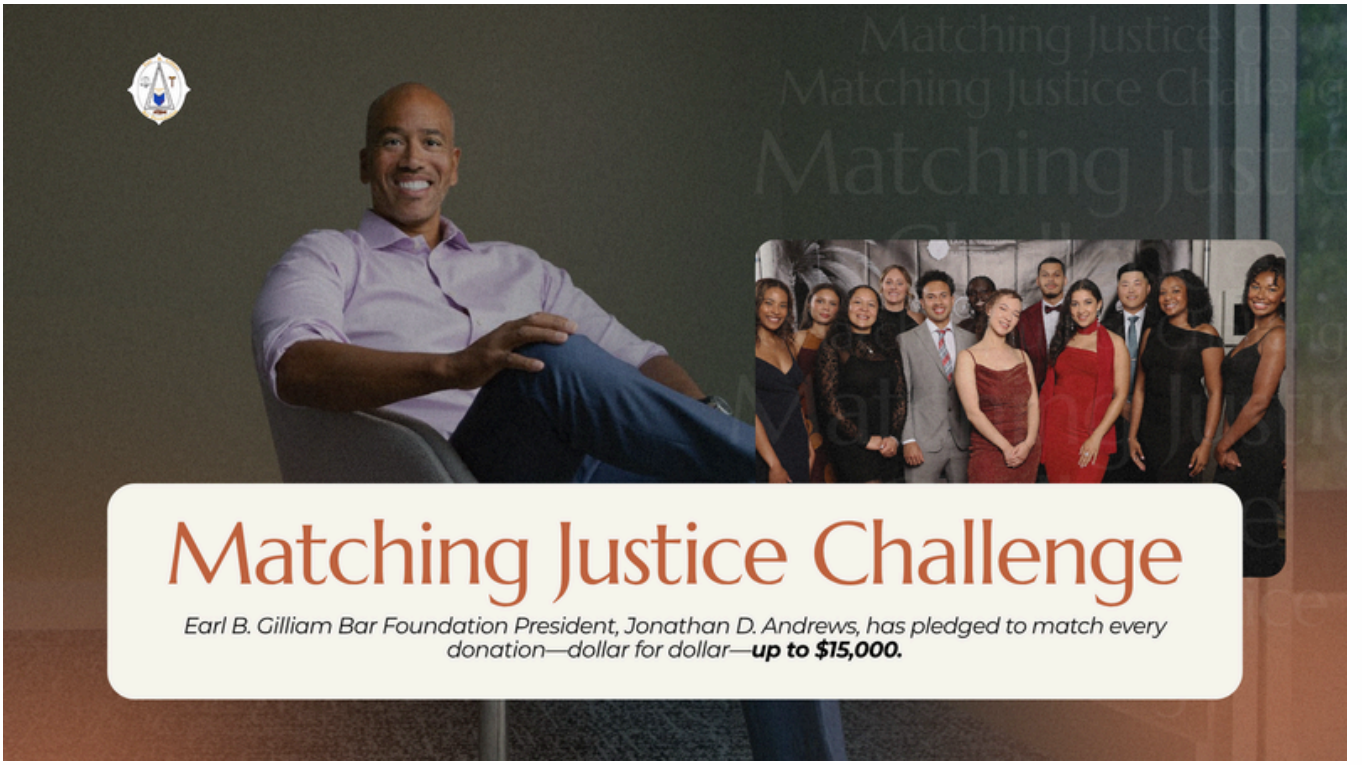
EBGBF Fund General Scholarship ~ $1,000
California Western School of Law

Yles Fisher was born and raised in Sacramento, CA. She moved to San Diego in 2022 to attend San Diego State University where she graduated summer of 2024, Summa Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. She's currently attending California Western School of Law where she focuses in criminal law to become a prosecutor. Some of her hobbies include singing, dancing, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.



LOUISA TWITCHELL | 3L
Lourine W. Twyman Scholarship ~ $5,000
Sponsored by California Western School of Law
California Western School of Law

Louisa majored in psychology with plans to pursue a master's degree in social work. before focusing on law school. She is an executive Editor of Law Review Board;
Clinic Leader of California Western's Community Law Project (CLP); and a Law Student Member Public Interest Law Foundation, Member. Louisa is married and strives to use her skills for the public interests of her local community.



The **Matching Justice Challenge**, set out to raise additional money for students. through your gifts. I have pledged to personally match every donation—dollar for dollar—up to **$15,000**. Thanks to the individuals donations we were able to raise **$6000** for additional two scholarships, which will go directly to a deserving students in need. However, we have more room to go. Please scan the QR code below to donate tonight. We can do more for more students.

With Gratitude,
Jonathan D. Andrews
President | Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation

↗ LEGACY OF ADVOCACY & EDUCATION AWARD

PROFESSOR ROY L. BROOKS, JD



A Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, University of San Diego - School of Law.

An advocate, professor, and community leader focused on civil rights, race relations, and constitutional law, who has had a profound impact in social justice in the legal field. Roy L. Brooks, JD, is a USD Warren Distinguished Professor of Law on February 27, 2025.

Professor Brooks also earned the rank of University Professor twice. He is a graduate of Yale Law School, where he served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. After law school, Professor Brooks clerked for a federal judge and practiced corporate law on Wall Street before being recruited to the university in 1979 by then-Provost, Sister Sally Furay. The law school faculty awarded him tenure after his second year of teaching. Professor Brooks has taught courses in Corporations, Corporate Finance, Securities Regulation, Legal Writing, Civil Procedure, Civil Process, and Employment Discrimination. Currently, he teaches Jurisprudence, Civil Rights Theory, International Human Rights, Reparations, and Discrimination Law & Diversity.

Professor Brooks teaches and writes in the areas of legal and critical theory, civil procedure, civil rights, employment discrimination, and international human rights.

A member of the American Law Institute and the Authors Guild, Roy L. Brooks has received national book awards, including the Brandeis University Library Learned Research Journal Award and two recognitions of the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award. Professor Brooks has been awarded the School of Law's Thorsnes Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship (four times) and its Thorsnes Prize for Outstanding Teacher (four times).

Professor Brooks has authored over 20 books and contributed to numerous academic journals. Some of his scholarly work includes: *The Racial Glass Ceiling: Subordination in American Law and Culture* (Yale); *Integration of Separation? A Strategy for Racial Equality* (Harvard); *Atonement and Forgiveness: A New Model for Black Reparations* (California); *Diversity Judgments: Democratizing Judicial Legitimacy* (Cambridge); *When Sorry Isn't Enough: The Controversy Over Apologies and Reparations for Human Injustice* (NYU); and *Racial Justice in the Age of Obama* (Princeton).

Professor Brooks earned his Juris Doctorate from Yale University in 1975 and his Bachelor's of Arts from the University of Connecticut in 1972. Professor Brooks served as a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal, clerked for the Honorable Clifford Scott Green of the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, and practiced corporate law with Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City. He joined the USD School of Law faculty in 1979.

Throughout his career, he has focused on Civil Procedure, Civil Rights, International Human Rights, Employment and Labor Law, Employment Discrimination, Federal Courts, Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Public Interest/Public Law and Regulation, and Race and Gender Identity.

He has received numerous prestigious awards, including but not limited to: Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award (two times); the Brandeis University Library Learned Research Journal Award; the Law School's Thorsnes Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship (four times); the Thorsnes Prize for Outstanding Teaching (four times); and USD University Professor in 2005 and 2018. University of San Diego named the Roy L. Brooks Distinguished Lecture Series in honor of Professor Brooks.

Professor Brooks has dedicated himself to creating solutions that foster a better community, supporting African Americans in the legal field, academia, politics, and social life.

He has pontificated about creating a more systemic and diverse environment for African Americans on and off a university campus. Professor Brooks's courses have been described as challenging but engaging, providing a deeper level of analysis.



Culture and Community

We are proud to support the **Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation** and its enduring commitment to empowering members of the Black legal community in San Diego.

Congratulations to this evening's awardees.

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MINTZ



University of San Diego School of Law proudly supports the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation and its mission to advance the interests of the African-American legal community in San Diego County, while promoting diversity in the legal profession through scholarships for law students.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AWARD SAN DIEGO UNITY BAR ASSOCIATION

Award Recipients: Current Co-chairs and founders:
Ted Holmquist and Arcelia Magaña

SAN DIEGO UNITY BAR

The San Diego Unity Bar is an affiliation of nine diverse bar associations in San Diego: Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (EBGBA), Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego (FALSD), Iranian American Bar Association – San Diego Chapter (IABA-SD), Korean American Bar Association of San Diego (KABA-SD), Lawyers Club of San Diego (Lawyers Club), Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD), San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (SDLRLA), South Asian Bar Association of San Diego (SABA-SD), and the Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association (THLA). The San Diego Unity Bar is associated with the California Unity Bar Association.

The purpose of the San Diego Unity Bar is to endorse and support diverse judicial candidates for appointment and election to the bench. In addition, the leaders of our respective organizations seek opportunities to collaborate and issue statements regarding matters of mutual concern. Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association

The San Diego Unity Bar exemplifies outstanding service in promoting diversity and inclusion within the legal profession. As an affiliation of nine diverse bar associations—representing racial, ethnic, gender, and LGBTQ+ communities—it serves as a powerful collaborative force advancing equity and representation in San Diego's legal community.

Founded with the shared purpose of endorsing and supporting diverse judicial candidates for appointment and election to the bench, the Unity Bar has created a unified voice to champion fairness and inclusion in the judiciary. Its leaders also work collectively to issue statements and take action on matters of mutual concern that impact underrepresented communities and the broader legal system.

Since its inaugural event on January 18, 2024, the San Diego Unity Bar has strengthened relationships among San Diego's affinity bar associations and inspired a renewed commitment to shared advocacy, mentorship, and leadership. Its collaborative model and sustained dedication to advancing diversity make it a distinguished example of organizational service deserving of this recognition.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION RISING STAR AWARD
SUSAN HENDERSON



Susan was appointed Secretary for the 2025 Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. She took the reins demonstrating a strong commitment to serving the EBGBA board, her clients at Wilson Turner and Kosmo, and the community at large.

Susan has gone above and beyond- it's clear that she is going places- active in Jack and Jill, active with her children, and ensuring that her children are at all events, being an amazing secretary available at all time.

Susan Henderson is an associate of Wilson Tuner Kosmo LLP focusing on Employment Law and Business Immigration practice groups. Her practice focuses on representing and counseling employers involved in claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, failure to accommodate, and wage and hour litigation. She also serves clients with business immigration needs, including immigration benefits, I-9 compliance and audits, as well as assisting companies and foreign workers with obtaining temporary and/or permanent work status in the United States.

Prior to joining Wilson Turner Kosmo, Susan served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable John A. Houston of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

During her time at California Western School of Law (CWSL), Susan completed a judicial externship at the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California. Additionally, she served as a student mediator at Small Claims Court in the Hall of Justice through CWSL's Mediation Clinic.
Prior to law school, Susan worked in the insurance industry as a business operations and development specialist and in the computer software industry as a product support specialist.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION 1ST PRESIDENTIAL AWARD
HONORABLE JOHN A HOUSTON



Honorable John Houston is a senior United States district judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

Since April 1998, Judge Houston has served as a federal judicial officer in the Southern District of California in the capacities of United States Magistrate Judge and United States District Judge. In April 1998, he was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge by the U.S. District Court. In October 2003, the United States Senate confirmed, by a vote of 98-0, President George W. Bush's nomination of Judge Houston to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. He was appointed to sit by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the District of Guam, and the District of the Northern Mariana Islands. Judge Houston transitioned to Senior Status in February 2017.

Judge Houston has addressed significant criminal and civil cases, including *Garrett v. City of Escondido*, which blocked a city ordinance targeting undocumented residents, and *Harper v. City of Poway*, which denied injunctive relief related to free speech and religious expression. Notable cases like *Prometheus Lab Inc. v. Mayo Collaborative* had his decisions reversed twice by the Federal Circuit and later affirmed unanimously by the Supreme Court. He also presided over cases involving Border Patrol corruption and terrorism-related fraud.

Since the mid-2020s, Judge Houston has provided training and consultation to justices in South Africa and Vietnam, and judicial officers in several other countries. His engagements include consultations with Attorneys General from South Africa and Argentina, a meeting with Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, and moderating a panel on international judgments at a money laundering law enforcement conference. Additionally, he has trained prosecutors in Cape Town and law professors at Hanoi Law University.

Judge Houston was born in Greensboro, North Carolina. He attended Lincoln Junior High School and Ben L. Smith High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina A&T State University in 1974. In 1977, he received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law.

Judge Houston has provided internships and externships to numerous law school students, as well as clerkships to new attorneys, helping them excel in their legal careers with a commitment to legal excellence and a tempered judicial application. Judge Houston is a living legend and sustaining life member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. He is a vital pillar of both the legal field and the community at large.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION 2ND PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

HONORABLE SHERRY THOMPSON-TAYLOR



Hon. Sherry Thompson-Taylor received her undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and graduated from the University of Arizona College of Law. Judge Thompson-Taylor served as legal intern to the late Hon. Senator John McCain and published an article on Indian Gaming in the *Arizona International & Comparative Law Journal*. She is also a past president of the Earl B. Gilliam Association.

Judge Thompson-Taylor worked at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office from 1995 to 2022, handling misdemeanor trials, preliminary hearings, and felony trials, including homicides, robberies, and mental health cases. She was the sole prosecutor in the JUDGE Unit, a grant-funded unit targeting gangs and drug enforcement. Additionally, she assisted with the Adult Literacy Program in conjunction with the San Diego Council on Literacy. She was appointed Assistant Chief in the South Bay Branch.

Afterward, she spent two years in the Special Operations Unit, prosecuting high-profile matters related to attorney misconduct, police misconduct, public officials, and political corruption. Judge Thompson-Taylor later led the Disability Healthcare Insurance Fraud Team, combating fraud by medical professionals. In December 2014, she was promoted to Assistant Chief and then Division Chief in December 2016, overseeing 60 employees.

On March 14, 2022, she was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the San Diego Superior Court, taking the oath on March 17, 2022. From 2022 to 2024, she presided over criminal matters in the East County Branch and then moved to Chula Vista to handle family law cases, including divorce and child custody.

She is a Life Member and Board Member of the Association of African-American, California judicial officers and the California Association of Black Lawyers – Judicial Council. She was the President of the William L. Todd, Jr. American Inns of Court for four years. A recipient of the 40 Under Forty Award from San Diego Metropolitan Magazine, she has also received the Legal Trailblazer Award and the Thurgood Marshall Award from the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.

Judge Thompson-Taylor served as the fundraising chair for the Coronado High School Cheer Team for three years and coached a Mock Trial Team at Abraham Lincoln High School in 2025. Active in the San Diego Girl Scouts since 2010, she started her own troop and served as a troop leader. In 2024, she received the San Diego Girl Scouts Cool Women Award and served as a keynote speaker at the Gold Award Ceremonies. She is currently on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts San Diego.

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proudly supports the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation
and its mission to represent the interests of the African-American legal community in San Diego County and to diversify the legal community through scholarships for law students.

University of San Diego SCHOOL OF LAW

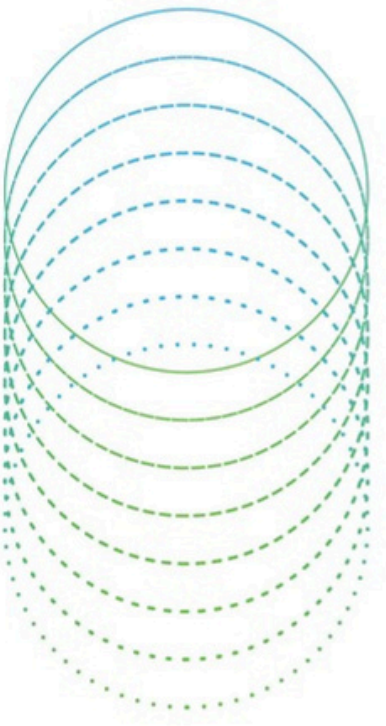
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LITTLER PROUDLY SUPPORTS

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation 49th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala — a celebration of culture, community, and legal excellence.

True change requires real action, and Littler is committed to standing with and supporting the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and Foundation in its mission to defend the legal and human rights of all people, promote the administration of justice, and eradicate the root causes of racism.

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↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION THURGOOD MARSHALL LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. TERRIE E. ROBERTS



Judge Terrie E. Roberts was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the San Diego Superior Court on October 25, 2019. She is the Assistant Supervisor of the Family Law Division, presiding over a Long Cause Trial Department.

In May 2008, Judge Roberts made history as the first African American woman appointed Commissioner in San Diego County. She was a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney, sole practitioner, business litigation associate for the Law Offices of Beatrice Kemp, and San Diego County Deputy Public Defender.

Judge Roberts has an exemplary record of dedication to professionalism, education, mentorship for the purpose of advancement of the bench. Judge Roberts received the 2025 Bernard S. Jefferson Award for Excellence in Judicial Education. She served as a Seminar Leader at the B.E. Witkin Judicial College and co-taught the mandatory Domestic Violence course. Judge Roberts taught at New Judges Orientation for the Center for Judicial Education and Resources since 2015, Qualifying Ethics since 2017, and served on the Qualifying Ethics Work Group. She serves on the Judicial Branch Access, Ethics & Fairness Curriculum Committee, launching a course entitled, "An In-depth Look at Bias,"□ and on the Family Law Curriculum Committee helping develop a Webinar entitled, "Inspired by Elkins: Sharing Best Practices for Increasing Access to Justice and Supporting Judicial Officers in Family Court."□

Judge Roberts received the President Barack Obama's Call to Service Award in 2014 and the 2008 San Diego County Bar Association's Outstanding Service by a Public Attorney Award. She mentors students and participates in programs, such as Success Inside & Out with Las Colinas Detention Facility, San Diego High School Mock Trial, and Judicial Mentorship program. She serves on the California Association of Black Lawyer's Judicial Evaluation Committee; Judicial Branch Access, Ethics & Fairness Committee; California Judges Association's Ethics Committee; and Association of African American California Judicial Officers Executive Board. Judge Roberts recently served on the San Diego Superior Court's Executive Committee.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION LEGAL TRAILBLAZER AWARD
ARMILLA STALEY NGOMO



Armilla Staley-Ngomo is an appellate and post-conviction attorney at Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. with seventeen years of legal experience. She represents indigent clients charged with and convicted of criminal and immigration-related offenses before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and manages all the office's sentence reduction matters.

In that capacity, Armilla has successfully reduced the sentences of more than 30 federal inmates by filing and litigating compassionate release motions. This has resulted in more than 85 years total off her clients' sentences. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission's compassionate release data reports, the Southern District of California routinely grants the largest number of these motions due to Armilla's efforts leading the unit. Armilla has trained and mentored countless interns, law students, and attorneys throughout the community, as well as established her office's Black Affinity Group.

Armilla is also heavily involved in the San Diego legal community. She is a lifetime member of EBGBA, previously serving as its Treasurer and Member-at-Large. She also co-chaired the Diverse Women's Committee and Bench-Bar Committee for the Lawyers Club of San Diego. Currently, she serves as co-chair for the Southern District of California's Lawyers Representatives, and as Vice President of Strategic Engagement for the San Diego Federal Bar Association's Board of Directors. Armilla has served in all these organizations for three years each. Armilla earned her B.A., magna cum laude, in Political Science and Spanish, from Whittier College. She earned her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Prior to joining Federal Defenders, she worked as a trial and habeas attorney in the Central District of California and the District of Nevada, and as a civil litigator at various law firms. She clerked for the Honorable Consuelo B. Marshall, U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. DWAYNE K. MORING



Born and raised in San Diego, Dwayne K. Moring is a judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County, handling felony matters at the Central Courthouse. Judge Moring won re-election for judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County in California in the primary on June 7, 2022. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Judge Moring on July 21, 2008. Judge Moring has over eighteen years of experience and knowledge handling various criminal matters, including prosecution and defense.

Judge Moring was nominated for this award based on his longstanding commitment to the legal community. He is a Board of Director of Crawford High School Academy of Law; Pepperdine Caruso School of Law; San Diego Judges Association South County Representatives; and University Club Atop Symphony Towers.

Judge Moring is a member of the Association of African American California Judicial Officers; CABL; Lawyers Club; American Board of Trial Advocates; and Master with the Wallace American Inn of Court. He is a lifetime member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. As part of the Association, he revived the Association newsletter and boosted membership.

Judge Moring was the first African-American Chula Vista Court Supervising Judge (2020-2021); Superior Court Executive Committee (2020-Present); California Judges Association Executive Board San Diego Representative (2019-2021); Superior Court Judicial Mentor Program Committee Chair; Chair of Annual Bench/Bar/Media Program Committee (2018-Present; Judicial Council of California Supervising Judges Institute Faculty (2022-2023}.

Judge Moring has received numerous academic and community awards, such as Pepperdine University's Top 40 Over 40 Alumni"; "Flame Of Inspiration Award" Thomas Jefferson School Of Law BLSA (2008); and "Outstanding Service By A Public Attorney Award." Lastly, Judge Moring was on the board of directors of Crawford High School Academy of Law (2014-2022) and the San Diego Judges Association South County Representative (2015-2022).

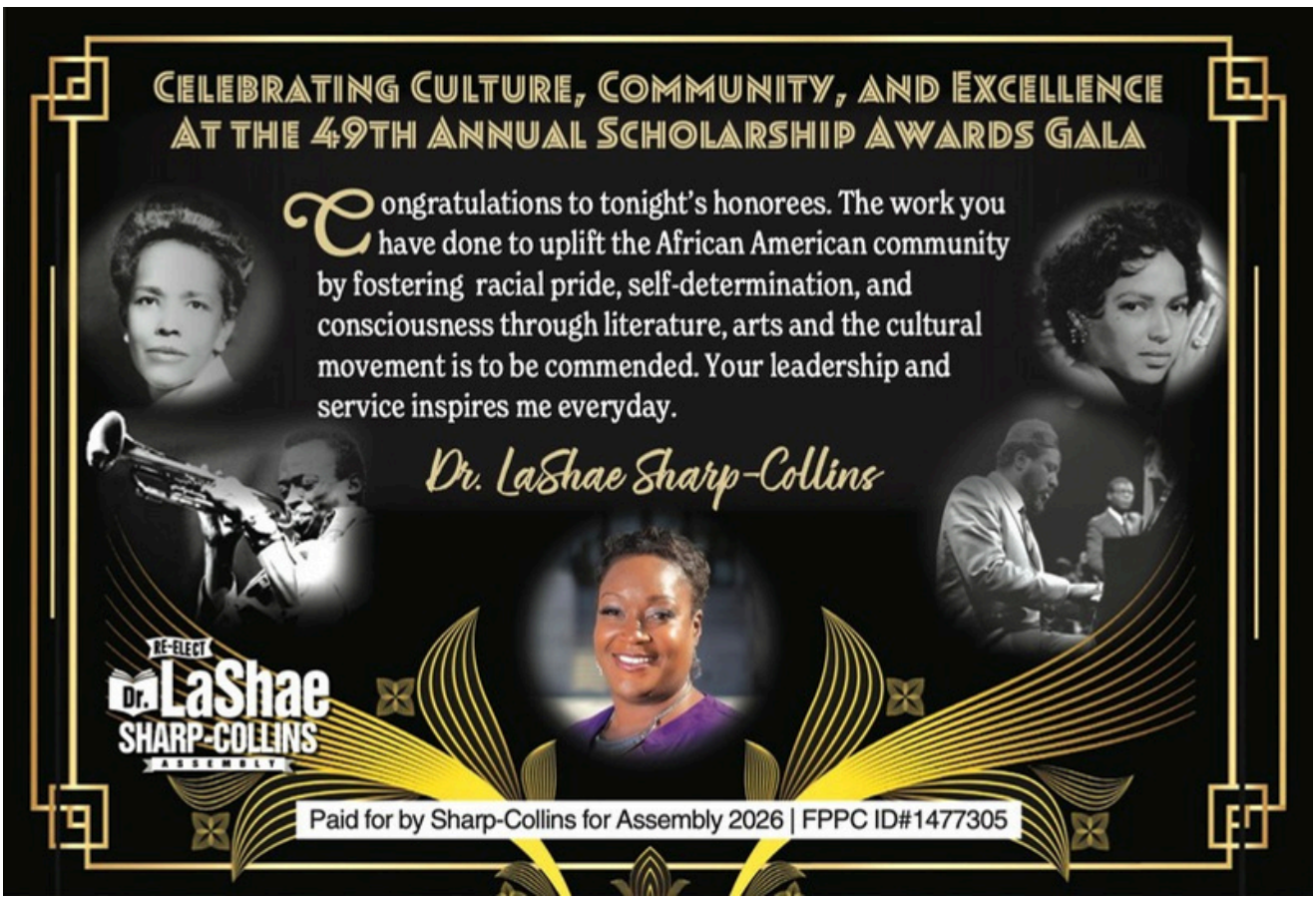
Judge Moring is the highest example of an exemplary professional in our legal community who has made outstanding contributions to the community's needs through his charitable, educational, and mentorship works.

Our differences as well as our similarities make us strong.

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49th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala

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2026 FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
JONATHAN ANDREWS



I am honored to continue representing the
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's bicentennial (50th) year.

In recognition of our Gala theme, the Harlem Renaissance taught us that when a community rises together, it does more than create art, music, and literature—it creates hope, strength, and legacy. Our Foundation stands in that same tradition, drawing power from unity and pride in who we are. Just as those visionaries lifted their voices to inspire a generation, we too must raise one another up, ensuring that our light shines not only within our profession but across San Diego.

Lifting each other up means recognizing that every victory—large or small—is shared. When one of us advances, our entire community advances. By mentoring, celebrating, and supporting one another, we reaffirm the truth that our collective strength far exceeds what any of us could achieve alone. Together, we are the bridge for those who follow and the foundation upon which future generations will build.

As we reflect on 2025 and move forward, let us remember that our duty is not only to the practice of law but also to the practice of love, justice, and community. In that spirit, we will continue to create spaces where opportunity flourishes, where voices are heard, and where the dream of equality is not deferred but realized. Together, we rise—honoring the legacy of the past while shaping the promise of tomorrow.

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION
YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY - In partnership with the Association, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation ("Foundation") once again participated in the 42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade. The Foundation donated **$150** to the parade event.

FEBRUARY - The Foundation donated **$2,177** to Lincoln High School to help them participate in the 19th Annual San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition.

APRIL - The Foundation helped the Association sponsor the Raising of the Bar. This new stable event provides 3L students with information and resources for their academic, mental health, and physical well-being as they begin studying for the bar exam. The Foundation donated **$408** for the event and set aside **$4,000** for Adaptibar course subscriptions for the students who attended.

MAY - The Foundation and Signature Resolution hosted a Neighborhood in Law social mixer. The mixer unveiled the 49th Gala Theme and helped the community get to know the Foundation Board of Directors and the Foundation's goals.

JUNE - The Association and Foundation co-sponsored the Black Summit event at the University of San Diego. The Foundation donated **$1250** for the event. The Summit focused on consolidating and aligning the Association and Foundation's missions to achieve coordinated goals in 2025 and beyond.

JULY - The Foundation donated **$700** to help two Black Law Student Association students from California Western School of Law to attend the 2025 National Bar Association Convention.

Over the course of the year, the Foundation has donated nearly **$5,000** and set aside another **$4,000** to support local events and programs that advance law school students in the African American community.



↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR FOUNDATION PAST PRESIDENTS

- Alicia Phillip Williams 2024
- David Middleton 2023
- Isaac J. Jackson 2022
- Joscelyn B. Campbell 2021
- Honorable Euketa Oliver 2020
- Yahairah Aristy 2019
- Abrina Wheatfall 2018
- Aaron Dumas, Jr. 2017
- Joy Utomi 2016
- Honorable Tilisha T. Martin* 2015
- Honorable Charles Bell 2014-2015
- Omar Passons 2014

* The Honorable Judge Tilisha T. Martin was appointed to the San Diego County Superior Court 11 days after being sworn in as President.

↗ PILLARS OF THE FOUNDATION

A. King Amanpour Janice Brown Dave Carothers Dennis Dawson Hon. Robert Dahlquist Hon. Raymond Edwards (ret) Hon. Joe Littlejohn (ret) Hon. Elizabeth Riggs Tina Fryar Hon. John Houston Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis Hon. Dwayne Moring Rebecca Prater Patricia Robinson Kelly Rand Hon. Roderick Shelton Hon. Randa Trapp (ret) Vickie Turner Lei-Chala Wilson

*The above individuals were lifetime members of the original 501(c)(3) now known as the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors with no membership. Pillars of the Foundation recognize individuals that have helped sustain the organization through monetary support. If you would like to become a Pillar of the Foundation, please contact info@ebgbf.org



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↗ 2025 ASSOCIATION OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
LÖAN T. SHILLINGER



As I reflect on this past year serving as president of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for what we've accomplished together.

Our theme of Community & Connections for the year was successfully achieved. My heart is full after witnessing the incredible collaboration and diversity within San Diego's legal community-it was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together. Through landmark events like the Night at the Black Museum and our inaugural Black Lawyer Summit, we created spaces for meaningful connection, learning, and professional growth.

Our gatherings throughout the year served not only as networking opportunities but also as platforms for substantive dialogue and knowledge sharing, which strengthened our collective voice in the San Diego legal community.

What began as a vision for strengthening our community has blossomed into tangible results. The engagement and enthusiasm I've witnessed at our events, the meaningful connections forged, and the educational opportunities created have all reinforced what I knew when I began this journey: the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association is more than just a professional organization; it's a community that nurtures, supports, and empowers its members.

As I prepare to pass the torch, I'm deeply thankful for the dedication of our board members, the enthusiasm of our membership, and the support of our broader community. Together, we've not only honored the legacy of those who came before us but also paved the way for future generations of legal professionals.

The warmth and commitment I felt from this organization as a law student continues to inspire me, and I'm proud that we've been able to extend that same spirit of support and empowerment to others during my tenure. While my term as president comes to a close, my dedication to this organization and its mission remains unwavering.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. The community and connections we've built, the initiatives we've launched, and the community we've strengthened will continue to bear fruit for years to come.

With deep appreciation and continued commitment,

Löan T. Shillinger
2024-2025 EBGBA President

↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION
YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2024-2025 term embodied our theme of “Community & Connections”, demonstrating the power of meaningful relationships throughout San Diego and beyond. This year marked a period of growth, collaborative spirit, and impact that will leave a lasting legacy.

JANUARY - EBGBA and EBGBF marched in unison at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.

MARCH - EBGBA hosted and EBGBF co-sponsored the Annual Men’s Retreat on March 29, 2025, at a local member’s home. The Retreat provided intimate settings for fellowship and professional growth.

APRIL - On April 2, 2025, EBGBA co-sponsored the Lawyer’s Club of San Diego annual Women of Color Reception. An event that helps recognize women’s legal accomplishments.

JUNE - On June 7, 2025, EBGBA, sponsored by EBGBF, held the inaugural Black Lawyers Summit. The event brought together legal professionals, creating a dynamic space for knowledge sharing and professional development.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - August through September, EBGBA and Legal Aid Society partnered with other San Diego affinity bar associations to present the annual Neighborhood Law School Series. The Series included several sessions presented to the San Diego community to help them navigate various legal fields, such as know-your-rights, family law, employment law, and more.

September 22, 2025, EBGBA hosted its annual Pathways to the Bench featuring Judge Charles Bell, Judge David Rubin, and Judge Marsha Amin. The presentation focused on careers as Appellate Staff Attorneys.

September 27, 2025, EBGBA hosted its annual Summer Soirée. The luncheon was an all-white apparel event with dancing, food, and clothing exhibits.

OCTOBER - EBGBA hosted its annual Black Law Student Association BBQ at Judge Shelton’s home, allowing law school students to interact with fellow students, attorneys, and judges in the community.

EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION
YEAR IN REVIEW

We enhanced our statewide impact by deepening relationships with affiliate bar associations, including the California Association of Black Lawyers and the Langston Bar Association, allowing us to participate meaningfully in California-wide initiatives. Our connection with the National Bar Association further expanded our presence from coast to coast, ensuring our voice was heard on issues that matter to our profession and community.

As we look back on 2024-2025, we celebrate not just the events and programs we've created, but also the stronger and more connected we've become. Through every initiative, partnership, and gathering, we've demonstrated that when we come together, our impact reaches far beyond the boundaries of our profession, touching lives and creating positive change throughout San Diego and beyond.

























↗ EARL B. GILLIAM BAR ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

- Taneashia Morrell, 2024
- Desirae Sanders, 2023
- Maresa Talbert, 2022
- Genevieve Jones-Wright, 2021
- Andrea St. Julian 2019, 2020
- H.J. Simms, 2000
- L. Marcel Stewart 2017, 2018
- Dennis Dawson 2016, 2015
- Omar Passons 2014
- Udoka Nwanna 2013
- Christian Scott 2012
- Valoree Wortham 2011
- Antoinette Middleton 2010
- Doc Anthony Anderson, III 2009
- Tina M. Fryar 2008
- Lei-Chala I. Wilson 2007, 2006
- Petrina M. Branch 2005
- S. Maria Hannah 2004
- Hon. Roderick Shelton 2003
- Marvin Mizell 2002
- Hon. Sherry Thompson-Taylor 2001
  H.J. Sims 2000
- Doc Anthony Anderson, III 1999
- Ben E. Johnson 1997
- Lei -Chala I. Wilson 1998
- Harold G. Murray 1996
- Vickie E. Turner 1995
- Janice P. Brown 1994
- Daniel E. Eaton 1993
- Douglas A. Oden 1992
- Randy K. Jones 1991
- Hon. Randa M. Trapp 1990
- Thomas Gayton 1989
- Barbara Davis 1988
- Hon. H Wesley Pratt 1987
- Mary A. Franklin 1986
- Patricia Robinson 1985
- Robert Bennett 1984
- Hon. Daniel Weber 1983
- Keith Burt 1982
- Dennis W. Dawson 1981, 1980
- Hon. Joseph K. Davis 1979
- Delroy Richardson 1978
- Hon. Napoleon Jones, Jr. 1977
- Hon. Elizabeth Riggs 1976

↗ KEYNOTE SPEAKER
BENJAMIN CRUMP



Listed amongst the Most Influential People of 2021 by TIME100, Ebony Magazine's Power 100 Most Influential African Americans, The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers, and the 2014 NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, Attorney Ben Crump is referred to as "Black America's Attorney General." Through a steadfast dedication to justice and service, renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Benjamin Crump has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social justice.

He has successfully battled to protect constitutional rights at the local, state, and federal levels, using his advocacy skills and the high profile of the cases to provide a voice to those long silenced and hope to those pushed to the outside. He is the founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law. Attorney Crump's tireless advocacy has led to legislation preventing excessive force and developing implicit bias training and policies, leading him to represent clients in some of the most high-profile cases in the United States. His work has involved cases including Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Sonya Massey, and Stephon Clark, as well as the precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court case involving Robbie Tolan. He represented nine Black women in the Holtzclaw Oklahoma City Police rape case and fought for the residents of Flint, Michigan, affected by poisoned water, securing a $626 million settlement. Recently, he represented the families of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Henrietta Lacks in a landmark reparations case. He achieved a unanimous victory in Lanier v. Harvard for a Black woman suing over photographs, valued at approximately $100 million, of enslaved ancestors.

Crump has helped secure record-breaking verdicts and settlements for families facing injustices, including a $310 million verdict for the family of Tyre Sampson, a $98 million verdict for the family of Botham Jean, a $411 million trucking accident verdict, and $500 million in settlements in banking while Black cases. His $27 million settlement for George Floyd's family and $12 million for Breonna Taylor's family have set precedents for accountability.

Attorney Crump is also a filmmaker and storyteller, producing the powerful documentary How to Sue the Klan. This film tells the story of five Black women from Chattanooga, Tennessee, who took on the Ku Klux Klan in a landmark 1982 civil trial.

He has served in leadership positions at the highest levels of the legal profession and has been recognized for his efforts by numerous esteemed organizations. In 2021, St. Thomas University College of Law, one of the most diverse law schools in the nation, announced the Benjamin L. Crump Center for Social Justice in his honor, which will open doors for minority students pursuing law degrees. He served as the 73rd President of the National Bar Association and is the current President of the National Civil Rights Trial Lawyers Association. He was the first African American to chair the Florida State University College of Law Board of Directors.

Crump's accolades include the NAACP Thurgood Marshall Award, the SCLC Martin Luther King Servant Leader Award, the American Association for Justice Johnnie Cochran Award, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Eleanor Roosevelt Medallion for Service.

His storytelling extends to film and television. He is the executive producer of the groundbreaking documentary Woman in Motion and hosted acclaimed legal docudramas Evidence of Innocence and Who Killed Tupac: The Search For Justice. He portrayed legendary civil rights attorney. Alexander Looby in the film Marshall and has appeared in documentaries like Beating Justice and BET's I Am Trayvon.
Crump's book, Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People, published in October 2019, reflects on landmark cases he has fought and exposes systemic discrimination in the legal system.



Despite his national prominence, Attorney Crump has prioritized his local community, serving as BoardChairman of Legal Services of North Florida and, with his former law partner Daryl Parks, donating $1 million to the organization's capital campaign. Born in 1969 in Lumberton, North Carolina, Attorney Crump graduated from Florida State University (FSU) and received his law degree from FSU College of Law. He is married to Dr. Genae Angelique Crump.

↗ INSTALLATION OFFICIANT
HONORABLE RODERICK WARD SHELTON



On September 17, 2025, Honorable Judge Roderick Shelton was elected Assistant Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, County of San Diego. Judge Shelton is the first African American to be elected to the post.

He has held many notable positions in the legal field, including President and founding member of the Association of African American California Judicial Officers (AAACJO). The AAACJO is a nonprofit organization established in September 2017, comprising over 100 judicial officers throughout the state of California.

Judge Shelton has become a monumental pillar in the legal community and continues to serve as an example of legal excellence for students, attorneys, and fellow judicial officers.

On November 7, 2006, Judge Shelton was elected to the Superior Court bench of San Diego County. He replaced Judge Joe O. Littlejohn, who retired that same year. He was re-elected to the bench in 2012 and 2018. Judge Shelton was also the first African American Supervising Judge for the Criminal Division of the San Diego Superior Court. He presided over felony and misdemeanor arraignments, domestic violence, family law, and juvenile matters. He is also he first African-American Supervising Judge of the East County Branch.

Prior to taking the bench, from 1995 to 1999, Judge Shelton was a Deputy Public Defender with the San Diego Public Defender's Office. From 1999 to 2006, he was a Deputy District Attorney with the Office of the District Attorney of San Diego County. He worked with the Gang Prosecution Unit and prosecuted cases in South and East County branches.

Judge Shelton earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of California - Los Angeles School of Law in 1995 and a Bachelor's of Arts from Washington University in 1992.

As a member of the community, Judge Shelton has received several awards for his legal and community work. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (2001). Judge Shelton was honored on October 23, 2025 at the San Diego Law Library Foundation Witkin Award Dinner for Excellence in the Adjudication of the Law.

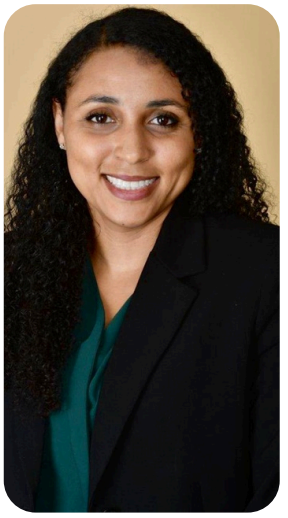
He is a life member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association; a lifetime member of the California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL); and a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Judge Shelton also teaches at Southwestern Community College, encouraging students at City College to pursue their educational goals by sharing his experience in the criminal justice system and law school, and emphasizing the importance of diversity in the legal field.

↗ 2026 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



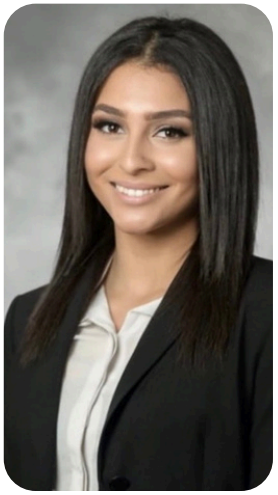
JONATHAN ANDREWS | PRESIDENT

Jonathan D. Andrews is an Employment Mediator with Signature Resolution. Prior to joining Signature, Jonathan was an employment litigator for more than 23 years, including serving as managing partner for over 13 years. For seventeen years in a row, Jonathan's peers have consistently selected him as one of the Top 50 Super Lawyers and voted to include him on the lists of Super Lawyers. He has also been named a Top Attorney by the Daily Transcript in the area of labor and employment law, and he has been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© in the practice area of Employment Law—Management. Jonathan is a member of the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers and International Academy of Mediators.



ALEXANDRIA JONES | VICE-PRESIDENT

Alexandria recently took a position with the Califronia Victim Compensation Board in the appellate division. Over the last five years, she was an Associate at the Law Offices of Beatrice L. Snider, APC, handling complex family, civil, and appellate law matters. Alexandria is from San Jose, California. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & International Relations and Conflict Resolution from the California State Sacramento. She has traveled all over the world in pursuit of her education and pleasure. Alexandria previously worked as extern for Hon. John Houston at the United States District Court in Southern California. As a previous Earl B. Gilliam scholarship recipient, Alexandria hopes to continue making positive strides with the organization.



EMANI LAWRENCE | TREASURER

Emani Lawrence has proudly served as a San Diego Public Defender for the past three years, where she advocates daily for justice and fairness. A returning member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board of Directors, she is committed to uplifting her community and supporting the next generation of legal professionals. Deeply passionate about her work, Emani draws strength and motivation from the current political climate, which fuels her determination to fight tirelessly for the underrepresented.



ALICIA PHILLIP WILLIAMS | PARLIAMENTARIAN

For the past ten years, Alicia has served as a Federal Prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California. During her tenure at the United States Attorney's Office, she has handled a wide range of cases, from drug trafficking offenses to civil rights violations. From 2021 to 2025, she served as the District's Hate Crimes Coordinator, leading efforts to collaborate with law enforcement and community groups to prevent hate crimes, raise public awareness, and increase reporting of hate crimes. As a member of the Earl B. Gilliam Foundation Board since 2021, Alicia has served as Board Secretary, Co-Chair of the Civil Rights Program, and the 2024 Board President. Alicia is also a member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and serves as a board member for Just the Beginning, an organization that introduces high school students to careers in the legal field.



CHRISTOPHER CHANDLER | DIRECTOR

Christopher Chandler is a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office where he has been a prosecutor for 16 years. He has prosecuted a wide range of misdemeanor and felony crimes from DUI to homicide. Chris is presently assigned to the East County Branch where he is a Team Leader and Felony Dispo Deputy. Outside the courtroom, Chris is heavily involved in office hiring, recruitment, training, community outreach, and mentorship programs. He was previously a member of the District Attorney's Committee on Race and Equity where he worked to help eliminate inequalities in the criminal justice system. Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, from the University of California, Davis. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law. In his free time Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters.



PRISCILLA ANING | DIRECTOR

Priscilla Aning was born in Ghana, West Africa and raised up in Chicago. Priscilla is an Attorney for the San Diego Public Defender's Office. She earned her Juris Doctor from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. As the eldest of four sisters, she naturally developed strong leadership and communication skills. She is fluent in three languages. Priscilla is n avid traveler and has a deep appreciation for diverse cultures and experiences. Her favorite places she's travelled to are Dubai and Ghana.



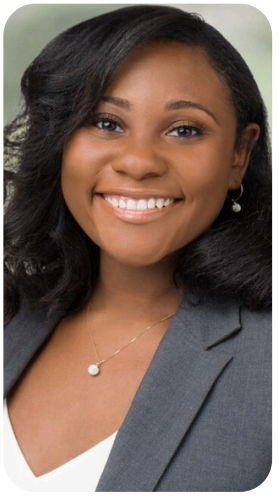
KAMIL ROBINSON | DIRECTOR

Kamil Robinson is a board member of the Earl B. Gilliam Foundation and an Associate Attorney at HHJ Trial Attorneys. Kamil is a firm and zealous advocate for clients who have suffered catastrophic injuries and discrimination within the workplace. Kamil was born in Inglewood, California, however, is a San Diego native at heart as he has been in San Diego since the age of 4. In 2019, Kamil received two undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice, with an emphasis in Public Law, from San Diego State University. In May 2022, Kamil earned his Juris Doctor graduating cum laude from California Western School of Law.



JULIAN CAMPER | DIRECTOR

Julian X. Camper is an Associate at Littler Mendelson, P.C., where he specializes in employment law, with expertise spanning discrimination, wrongful termination, retaliation, whistleblower claims, labor code violations, and broader civil rights issues. His legal journey began in plaintiff-side employment litigation, later transitioning to defense—demonstrating his versatility and deep understanding of both sides of the courtroom.



ALEXANDRIA PRITCHETT | DIRECTOR

Alex is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She atteneded University of San Diego School of Law in 2018. After graduating in 2021, she began her legal career practicing privacy litigation at an AM Law 50 Firm. In 2024, she became a law clerk for a federal district judge in the Southern District of California. Alex now practices business litigation at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in San Diego. She is passionate about increasing visibility and opportunities for young Black attorneys. Outside of work, Alex enjoys traveling, taking dance classes, and spending time with her one-year-old Cavapoo dog, Ivy.

2025 FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
ALEXANDRIA JONES



Each year at the President's discretion, a member of our service community is singled out for their dedication and commitment to helping others. Recipient of this award show a willingness to go above and beyond the call to duty in their aid to others. This year's recipient is Alexandria Jones.

Alexandria Jones is originally from San Jose, California. She moved to San Diego to attend Thomas Jefferson School of law. Prior to living in San Diego, she travelled through several countries and lived in Japan.

Alexandria was admitted to the California bar in 2020. She became a civil attorney focusing on complex family law, appellate, and civil matters. Over the last five years, Alexandria has handled complex and contentious family law and appellate matters. Her co-authored appellate briefs have resulted in successful results and published opinions that have helped shape California family law.

Prior to bar admission, Alexandria worked as a paralegal for the Appellate Division at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. She was a law school extern for the honorable John A. Houston at the United States District Courts - Southern District of California.

Alexandria is a member of the San Diego Bar Association, San Diego Family Law Bar Association, California Association of Black Lawyers, and California Lawyer's Association.

Alexandria joined the board in 2023 and is currently the 2025 Secretary. She is also on the 2025 Gala Planning Committee. Her efforts to organize, collaborate, and generosity of spirit, and exceptional service. You are always ready to lend a hand, support others, and ensure every detail is cared for. Your kindness and commitment exemplify true leadership and community. She is extremely grateful for Warsame Hassan, Sacha Brackins, and Angie Quach of the Destiny Lab. They were each internal parts to the planning process that have made the 2025 Gala a resounding success.

The 2025 Gala is a celebration of Black Culture, Community and Legal Excellence, let's celebrate the fruits of our labor tonight.

↗ FOUNDATION DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

Thank you all for your years of dedicated service to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation.



JORDAN TURNER
VICE PRESIDENT 2025
PARLIAMENTARIAN 2024
TREASURER 2023-2022
DIRECTOR SINCE 2021

Jordan R. Turner represents employers in a variety of employment disputes, including all forms discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour litigation. Prior to joining Littler Mendelson, P.C., During law school, Jordan was a Judicial Extern for the Hon. Judge Jill L. Burkhardt of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Jordan is a longtime active member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board of Directors, where he has served as Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Immediate Past Treasurer. Jordan will be going on to focus on his family and career.



WARSAME HASSAN
TREASURER 2025-2023
DIRECTOR SINCE 2022

Warsame Hassan is a native San Diegan and an employment attorney at Littler Mendelson, P.C. He represents clients in various areas of labor and employment law. He also serves on Littler's recruitment committee and provides pro bono services through the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program. Before Littler, Warsame served as a Judicial Clerk to the Hon. John A. Houston.
Warsame is a longtime active member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board of Directors, where he has served as a Director at Large (2022-2023), Treasurer (2023-2025), and a member of the 2025 Gala planning committee. Warsame will be moving on to focus on his career and interests.



SACHA BRACKINS
DIRECTOR 2024
GALA PLANNING CHAIR
2024-2025

Sacha Brackins is an Intellectual Property and Asset Protection Attorney with a passion for helping her community build and preserve wealth and a strong legacy through legal tools, business strategies & family office services. She began her career in music as a booking agent for top music artists, demonstrating a history of success in the entertainment and special event industries. Sacha is a longtime active member of the Earl. B. Gilliam Bar Foundation Board of Directors, where she served as a Director at large and Gala planning chair for the 2024 and 2025 Annual Galas. Sacha is going on to focus on her family, practice, and philanthropic endeavors.

↗ 2026 ASSOCIATION INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ANDRÉ RÍOS BOLLINGER



The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and its members have supported me throughout my entire legal career. It is with deep honor and humility that I accept the responsibility of serving as the Association's next President. I do so standing on the shoulders of giants—men and women whom I admire, respect, and can never truly replace, but whose example lights the path forward for me.

Since 1976, this organization has been rooted in integrity, honor, and service. The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association continues the legacy of Judge Gilliam by fostering excellence in the legal profession and advocating for fairness and equality throughout the legal system.

As I step into this role, I am joined by an extraordinary Board of Directors—leaders in their own right—whose dedication, knowledge, and energy inspire me every day. I am excited for the year ahead and confident in all that we will accomplish together. I extend my deepest gratitude to each board member for their commitment to EBGBA, its mission, and the legal community we serve.

I also wish to recognize those whose mentorship has directly guided me: our past five presidents—all trailblazing women—Löan Shillinger, Taneashia Morrell, Desirae Sanders, Maresa Talbert, and Geneviéve Jones-Wright. Each of you has given your time, counsel, and support in preparing me for this role. Thank you.

In 2026, my priorities as President will be to:

(1) Support and empower our community through professional development, mentorship, and advocacy; (2) Build and preserve our institutional learning and memory; (3) Strengthen our relationships with San Diego's other affinity bar associations; and (4) Promote equal access to justice for all.

I want to thank my family, friends, mentors, and colleagues—many of whom are here tonight—for your constant support, wisdom, and encouragement. Above all, I want to thank my wife, Reem, whose love and sacrifice make everything I do possible. Her patience and strength—especially while caring for our two young children during countless evenings and weekends—are the foundation of my service.

Finally, congratulations to all of tonight's honorees and scholarship recipients. You represent the future of our profession, and we celebrate you. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. Together, we will continue to honor our past, empower our present, and build the future our community deserves.

↗ 2026 ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ANDRÉ RÍOS BOLLINGER | PRESIDENT

André Ríos Bollinger is a criminal defense and civil plaintiffs' attorney based in San Diego, California. A former educator turned advocate, he believes every person deserves a passionate and compassionate voice in their pursuit of justice. Mr. Bollinger earned his B.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego and his Master's degree from Loyola Marymount University before teaching in South Central Los Angeles. Inspired to address systemic inequities through law, he earned his J.D. from Loyola Law School and served as a Deputy Public Defender for San Diego County for 11 years, handling cases from misdemeanors to homicides. In 2023, he founded Rios Bollinger Law, APC, focusing on holistic representation in criminal defense and civil litigation. He has held leadership roles with California Public Defender's Association, the San Diego County Bar Association, and the State Bar's JNE Commission, and remains an active member of EBGBA, La Raza Lawyers, and Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.



ELIKA MORRIS | VICE PRESIDENT

Elika S. Morris, Esq. is an associate attorney in the San Diego office of Koeller Nebeker Carlson & Haluck LLP, where she focuses her practice on construction-defect and civil litigation. Before joining KNCH, she specialized in complex business litigation and retail defense, representing major corporations in premises liability, product liability, and personal injury matters. She previously served as in-house counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in the Primary Litigation Unit. A graduate of California Western School of Law, Elika's commitment to justice began as a clinical intern with the California Innocence Project, where her advocacy contributed to the release of a wrongfully convicted client.
As Vice President of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Elika is dedicated to advancing justice, innovation, and professional growth within San Diego's legal community.



LÖAN T. SHILLINGER | IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Löan T. Shillinger is an experienced estate planning, trust administration, and probate attorney in California. After 15 years in the field, she recently relaunched Shillinger Law to focus on helping clients plan for the future. She is passionate about changing the traditional view of estate planning from 'planning for end-of-life' to planning for today. She has spoken at various events to educate people about the importance of planning for the future. Before launching her own private practice, Attorney Shillinger clerked for the Honorable John A. Houston in the Southern District of California Federal Court; she was the court attorney for the Honorable Patrick Border in the Hawaii Circuit Court and she served internationally as the court lawyer for the Chuuk State Supreme Court Justices in Micronesia.



MICHAEL FLEMMING| TREASURER

Before forming Flemming Law, Michael served as the Deputy Director of Government Affairs for ACLU California Action in Sacramento. And prior to joining ACLU, Michael was Deputy Public Defender at the San Diego County Public Defender's Office., Michael was a Special Assistant at Western Area Counsel Office aboard Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. In law school Michael also served as Legal Fellow, in then, Senator Barbra Boxer's San Diego District Office and the Office of Democratic Policy in Washington, D.C. Michael obtained his Bachelorette of Arts in International Studies, with a minor in Chinese, from the Croft Institute of International Studies at Ole Miss and later obtained Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.



SUSAN HENDERSON | SECRETARY

Susan Henderson practices employment defense law with Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP and serves as EBGBA Secretary. Before joining WTK, Susan served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable John A. Houston of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. During her time at California Western School of Law, she was impressed by EBGBA's strong ties among members and dedicated service to the African-American community in San Diego. Susan's desire to give back and mirror the commitment and professionalism she observed as a law student inspires her to proudly serve on EBGBA's Board of Directors.



DOUG ODEN | MEMBER AT LARGE

Douglas A. Oden has been licensed to practice law in California since 1978. He has been a member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association since 1979. He has served in a number of capacities including Vice President and President. He is currently a member of the board of EBGBA. He is a Past President of the California Association of Black Lawyers and a Past President of the San Diego Branch NAACP. He is the senior litigation attorney at Oden & Greene, San Diego County's oldest Black law firm. He currently is President of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance, MoGo.



ADRIENNE L. CONRAD | MEMBER AT LARGE

Adrienne L. Conrad is an Equity Principal in the San Diego, California office of Jackson Lewis P.C. Adrienne has practiced labor and employment law for more than 25 years. An experienced trial lawyer, Adrienne is a member of the Firm's Trial Group, and she defends employers in litigation involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour issues. In addition, Adrienne represents companies in matters related to complex non-competition and trade secrets litigation.She is a graduate of Cornell University Law School and received her bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from UCLA.



RODEECE DEAN | MEMBER AT LARGE

Commander RoDeece Dean, is as a Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. He joined the office in July 2021, as a Graduate Law Clerk with the Special Operations Division, and worked on sentencing and conviction review, as well as assisting in a high-profile police officer prosecution case. During his 24 years in the United States Navy, he served in a variety of leadership roles. A native of San Diego, California, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He later earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of California, San Diego in 2013. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center with a Juris Doctor degree in 2021 and is licensed to practice law in California and the District of Columbia.



STEPHANIE ACHEAMPONG| MEMBER AT LARGE

Stephanie A. Acheampong is a a Product Liability and Product Liability attorney for Wilson, Turner, and Kosmo. She represents manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in breach of warranty, product liability, and fraud matters. Stephanie was a San Diego County Public Defender. Stephanie earned her J.D. from California Western School of Law, where she received the Academic Excellence Award in Trial Practice. Furthermore, Stephanie served as a board member for the Black Law Student Association and the Student Bar Association.



DANTE PRIDE | MEMBER AT LARGE

Dante T. Pride is the founding partner of The Pride Law Firm in San Diego, California. Dante attended the University of San Diego School of Law. Upon graduating, Dante accepted a position at a prestigious San Diego law firm where he practiced Employment and Labor litigation. As a Morehouse alumnus, Dante decided to start The Pride Law Firm based on the idea that “Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere.” Focusing on Criminal Defense, Personal Injury, and Employment Law, Dante strives to eradicate injustice in both state and federal courts.



TARIQ BLAKE| MEMBER AT LARGE

Tariq is an Attorney of Berger & Williams, LLP, a civil litigation firm focusing on complex class action, labor standards enforcement, trade secrets, USERRA, and retaliation, discrimination and harassment matters. Tariq has a strong passion for justice and equity for workers and small businesses.

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I would like to thank my number one fans — my heart, my loves Taty & Tate

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↗ ASSOCIATION DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

Thank you for all of your dedicated service to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.



ADRIAN DOUGLAS | MEMBER AT LARGE

Adrian Douglas is an associate attorney at Gates, Gonter, Guy, Proudfoot & Muench LLP, specializing in insurance defense. He also has experience in criminal law. Adrian obtained his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law. He prides himself on serving his community through pro bono programs. Adrian is a brother of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a sports fan, traveler, and personal trainer, and he enjoys spending time with his significant other doing DIY home projects.
During 2025, Adrian chaired the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, co-chaired the Raising the Bar Event, and student focused events for EBGBA. Adrian was an energetic and positive force for EBGBA.



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