Boyd Black Law Students Association

We, the Black Law Students Association of the UNLV Boyd School of Law (BLSA), exist for the support, guidance, and direction of Black students in academic, professional, and social endeavors. Our main function is to assist our members in the development of their legal careers and to provide opportunities for exposure to various areas and aspects of the legal profession. We recognize the need to act positively in the development of the Black community, to encourage cooperation and closer ties between members of the law school's Black community, and to establish a vehicle through which our concerns are brought to bear on policy at the law school, the university, and the community at large.

BLSA is the only Nevada chapter of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), a national organization designed to articulate and promote the professional needs and goals of Black law students. As the largest student run organization in the country, NBLSA encourages the development of talented, socially conscious, lawyers of tomorrow. NBLSA is comprised of six regions, representing over 6,000 members across the nation.

BLSA works closely together with the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA), the local chapter of the National Bar Association, the nation’s oldest minority bar and largest national association of predominately African-American lawyers and judges.

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2012-2013 UNLV Boyd BLSA Officers

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sonya Miller</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Cook</td>
<td>Vice President of Operations &amp; Philanthropy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Britannica Collins</td>
<td>Vice President of Programming &amp; Community Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Lee</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Igelek</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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Contact: boyd.blsa@gmail.com

boyd.blsa@gmail.com | http://law.unlv.edu/current-students/student-organization/BLSA.html http://lasvegasnba.org/blsa/

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UNLV Boyd BLSA 2011-2012 Year in Review

BLSA organizes, co-hosts, and co-sponsors numerous events throughout the year. BLSA members also engage in a wide range of community service as individuals and as an organization. BLSA members also participate in events organized by the LVNBA.

Judge Harry T. Edwards
BLSA hosted Judge Edwards in October 2011. Judge Edwards received his B.S. from Cornell University and his J.D. from Michigan Law School. He is a Visiting Professor at New York University School of Law and former Chief Judge on the United States Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit. Judge Edwards spoke at the Boyd School of Law about race conscious action, access to legal services, renewing commitment to legal ideals, and the disjunct between legal education and the legal profession.

Secretary of the Nevada Senate, David Byerman
In April 2012, BLSA hosted Secretary Byerman who talked about the legislative process, his job specifically, and the action steps he is taking to allow the legislative process to be more accessible and understandable to the general public.

Undergraduate Outreach
BLSA held an event in April 2012 at which our members provided information to minority undergraduate students about law school and other graduate study programs. (co-sponsored by the BGSA)

UNLV Boyd Public Interest Law Film Festival
BLSA co-sponsored this day-long film festival which was open to the public and brought together student and community organizations to emphasize the role of social justice in the community. In both the films and discussions throughout the day, BLSA members also tabled and handed out information about the event and BLSA. (co-sponsored with numerous law school and community organizations)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
BLSA members were trained and certified to prepare taxes and with this training, went out and prepared taxes for low income individuals in the community.

Pitch Black Lock-in
BLSA co-sponsored the Pitch Black Lock-in at the Pearson Community Center. Approximately 50 minority youth in the community attended the event. BLSA members taught a session on “Youth rights,” specifically freedom of speech, approximately five times to different groups of students. (co-sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.)

MLK Drum Major for Justice Scholarship Competition
BLSA led a four-hour Saturday writing workshop in March 2012 for high school students in the Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow (an organization linked to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.) to encourage and aid them in preparing submissions for the National Bar Associations’ annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy Competition. BLSA members facilitated brainstorming of ideas related to the essay question and talked about writing structure and grammar. BLSA members later reviewed, commented on, and returned rough drafts the students sent by email. Two of the top three students who competed were students who had attended the workshop. (co-hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.)

Minority Mixer
BLSA co-sponsored an event in April 2012 for the minority organizations at Boyd to come together and socialize. (co-sponsored by APLSA and MLSA)

UNLV Boyd BLSA Contact & Info.

blsa.boyd@gmail.com

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