

RONALD J. FREEMAN CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW
BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

**NOVEMBER
2022
EDITION**

SAVE THE DATE:
GSU BLSA 40TH ANNIVERSARY
BLACK EXCELLENCE RECEPTION

The Ronald J. Freeman BLSA Chapter is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a Reception on Saturday February 25th, 2023!



We are VERY excited to share this news with you.
More information to come!

Academic Advisor's Corner

Dear BLSA Family and Friends,

I am writing to provide an update on important changes to the funding of student organizations, like the Black Law Students Association, with a specific mission informed by its status as an affinity group. The mission of the National Black Law Students Association, of which CoL BLSA is a chapter member, is as follows:

The mission of NBLSA is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

Our chapter has served this important and still relevant mission with distinction for the past 40 years; however, current changes to central university funding protocols have created obstacles to the organization receiving the support it has received in the past. Despite, BLSA's reputation as the most active, engaged, and inclusive student organization at the CoL, programming, activities and events that are not focused on the entire GSU student population are not eligible for university funding earmarked for student organizations.

BLSA is a chapter of a national organization and cannot change its mission, nor does it desire to. Despite the fiscal framework within which BLSA must operate and in order to continue to provide the high-quality professional and academic programming that our chapter is known for, we are asking our BLSA alumni and friends to enhance their giving.

This year we are celebrating our 40th anniversary and we invite you to (re)commit to supporting BLSA and its mission with a generous one-time or monthly donation of \$40, \$400, \$4,000 or more! Your generosity will allow BLSA to continue to serve and support Black law students at GSU, as they complete their legal education and prepare to join the ranks of a thriving and distinguished community BLSA alumni in Atlanta, in Georgia, and throughout the nation.

On this upcoming "Black Friday", November 25, 2022, we are asking BLSA alumni and friends to invest in BLSA and the Black law students it serves. Your support and donations are appreciated and very much welcomed!

In Peace, Power, and Community,

Professor Tanya Washington
(Proud Faculty Advisor of the CoL Chapter of BLSA)



**CALLING ALL BLSA DONORS AND
ALUMNI TO JOIN THE 40/40 CLUB!**

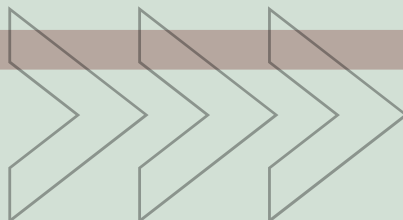
This year, BLSA Celebrates our 40th anniversary!

We invite BLSA Donors and Alumni to commit to supporting BLSA and its mission with a generous monthly donation of \$40, \$400, \$4,000 or more for one calendar year.

Your support our mission to is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

View the next page for more information on how to give!

ROAD TO
RAISE
\$100K



FUNDING
THE
FUTURE

HOW TO DONATE TO BLSA'S FUTURE LEADERS

INVESTING IN GSU BLSA STUDENTS

DONATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLSA *

*Tax-Deductible, Preferred Method

1. PLEASE MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT VIA
THIS LINK:

[HTTPS://NETCOMMUNITY.GSU.EDU/GIVE-TO-LAW](https://netcommunity.gsu.edu/give-to-law)

2. UNDER THE DESIGNATION PROMPT, PLEASE
SELECT "OTHER".

3. PLEASE TYPE "02314 COLLEGE OF LAW SPECIAL
PROJECT"

IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION "HOW WOULD
YOU LIKE TO DIRECT YOUR DONATION?"

4. PLEASE TYPE "RONALD J. FREEMAN BLACK LAW
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION" IN THE COMMENTS BOX.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE TO BLSA**

**Not Tax-Deductible



EMAIL: BLSATREASURERGSU@GMAIL.COM

NAME ON ACCOUNT: BLSA TREASURER GSU

Please select "Friends and Family" as payment type

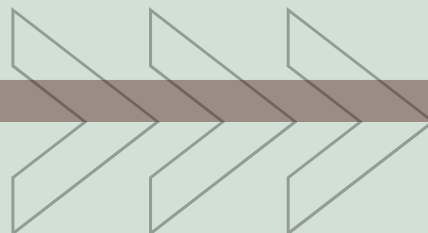


CASHAPP HANDLE: \$BLSAGSU

NAME ON ACCOUNT: BLSA TREASURER

CASH AND CHECKS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED.

ROAD TO
RAISE
\$100K

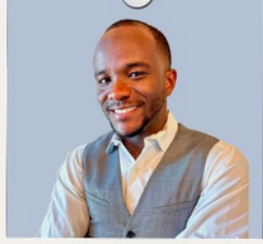


FUNDING
THE
FUTURE

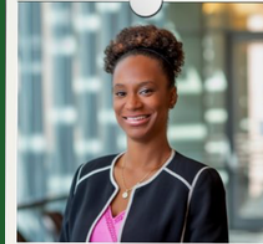
WELCOME OUR 2022-2023 BLSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS!



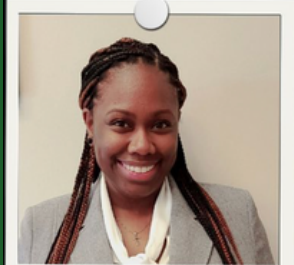
Briana Blackwell
Chair



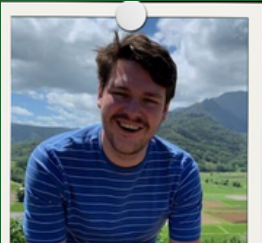
Mike Strickland
Chair



Abayomi Jones
Chair



Kanesha Weaver
Chair



Zach Vigneau
Vice-Chair



Alissa Williams
Vice-Chair



Kierra Ross
Chair



Jada Clayton-Woods
Vice-Chair



Courtney-Simone Graves
Vice-Chair



Kanesha Weaver
Vice-Chair



Jazmine Rogers
Vice-Chair



Alissa Williams
Vice-Chair



Amber Reese
Vice-Chair

Committees

Political Action

BRIANA BLACKWELL
CHAIR

ZACH VIGNEAU
VICE-CHAIR

COURTNEY-SIMONE GRAVES
VICE-CHAIR

Pre-Law Engagement

MIKE STRICKLAND
CHAIR

ALISSA WILLIAMS
VICE-CHAIR

KANESHA WEAVER
VICE-CHAIR

Alumni Outreach/ Donor Relations

KIERRA ROSS
CHAIR

JAZMINE ROGERS
VICE-CHAIR

Events

ABOYOMI JONES
CHAIR

JADA CLAYTON-WOODS
VICE-CHAIR

ALISSA WILLIAMS
VICE-CHAIR

Community Engagement

KANESHA WEAVER
CHAIR

AMBER REESE
VICE-CHAIR

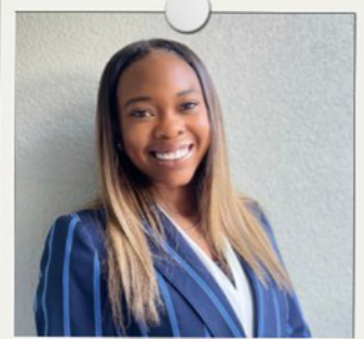
WELCOMING OUR 2022-2023 CLASS REPRESENTATIVES!



Jazmine Rogers
1L Rep



Briana Blackwell
2L Rep



Taylor Harrison
3L Rep



Jada Clayton-Woods



Precious Okoawoh
LLM Rep



Kanisha Weaver
1LP Rep

THANK YOU LADIES FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO GSU BLSA!



SEPTEMBER 2022 BLSA GENERAL BODY MEETING!

At the top of the semester, GSU BLSA welcomed back our students with the first General Body Meeting of the school year!

Over 50 students attended and we were joined by past GSU BLSA President and President-Elect of Gate City Bar Association, Kevin Coleman, Esq.





GCBA & GABWA

PRESENTS:

2022 BLACK LAW
STUDENTS RECEPTION &
RETREAT

On September 23 - 24th, King & Spalding hosted over a dozen GSU BLSA students for the annual Black Law Students Reception and Retreat. The weekend was filled with programming including panel discussions, mock interviews, and chances for BLSA students to network with their colleagues.





2022 GSU BLSA PRE-LAW SUMMIT

On October 1st, our chapter invited a diverse group of prospective law students to learn about BLSA and the GSU LAW experience. Attendees experienced a mock lecture, a presentation from the admissions office and a Q&A session with current BLSA students.





BLSA WEEK 2022!

BLSA WEEK WAS A SUCCESS WITH A FULL SLATE OF FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES! THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED DURING BLSA WEEK THIS YEAR.

- Monday: BLSA Take Over
- Tuesday: Black Firm Life Panel
- Wednesday: Diaspora Discussion
- Thoughtful Thursday: Self-Care
- Friday: Black Power Happy Hour
- Saturday: SRBLSA Academic Retreat



BLSA ALUMNI MIXER AT BAR VEGAN

On October 13th, GSU Alumni had a chance to reconnect with old classmates and new colleagues at the BLSA Alumni Mixer!



Our theme for 2022 is "Stronger Together," so it was exciting to have so many of our BLSA family gathered in the same place!

Our GSU BLSA alumni are doing excellent work!

SRBLSA ACADEMIC RETREATS



Dr. Aboyomi Jones, (2L), was a featured panelist at the Pancakes & Politics roundtable for SRBLSA's Sub-Region III. Members also represented the Ronald J. Freeman Chapter in Montgomery, Alabama at SRBLSA's Sub-Region I BLSA Academic Retreat on October 15th, 2022.



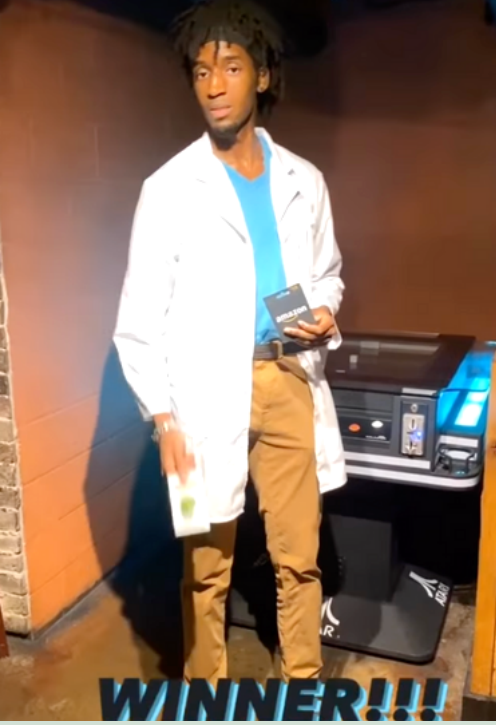
CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY &
BLSA LUNCH-AND LEARN
— FEATURING JUSTIN GIBONEY —



On Thursday, October 27th, BLSA and the Christian Legal Society (CLS) co-sponsored a lunch-and-learn with attorney Justin Giboney.

This conversation navigated the intersection of faith and politics. Giboney is also a political strategist and author of the book *Compassion & Conviction*.

THINGS ARE GETTING SPOOKY!



GSU BLSA celebrated Halloween weekend with a fun-filled Costume Contest and game night at Ormsby's in Atlanta! We had a blast in our costumes.

Stanley Ndubuizu (3L) won the contest dressed as Rick from Rick & Morty!



CELEBRATING GATE CITY BAR ASSOCIATION'S HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Congratulations to DeChino Duke (3L) and Briana Blackwell (2L) for their recognition and scholarship awards at the Gate City Bar Association Hall of Fame Gala.

We're so proud of how you represent the Ronald J. Freeman BLSA Chapter!

A WARM CELEBRATION FOR BRILLIANT INNOVATION!



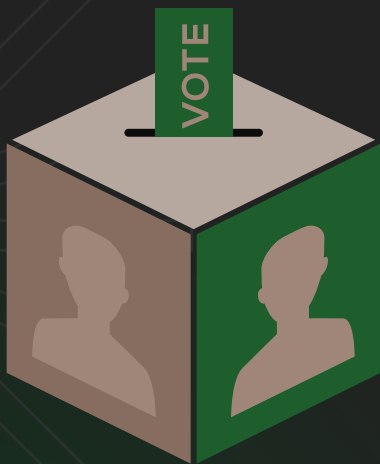
Congratulations Keimani Harvey (left) and Chantal Wynter-Jackson (center) for their participation in Hofstra Law's National Legal Innovation Tournament!

Keimani and Chantal competed against law and computer science students to design apps to help change the face of dispute resolution.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: PROTECTING VOTER RIGHTS

GSU continued its involvement with The New Georgia Project's Voter Defender Program. NGP is a non-partisan election protection organization.

Additionally, the American Constitution Society (ACS) and GSU BLSA partnered to create a resource guide for voters ahead of the 2022 election. The guide highlighted information about how and when to vote, what to bring to local polling sites, and rights as a Georgia voter.



Georgia State University College of Law
Black Law Students Association

Winter Clothing Drive



Donation Period:
October 1st - November 16th

For All Questions Contact:
blsa.gsu@gmail.com

BLSA'S FALL 2022 VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES

"Everybody can
be great, because
anybody can
serve."

- Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.

LEGAL TEXTBOOK DRIVE

Alumni and Current Students:
If you have any books you are
not using, please email
blsa.gsu@gmail.com to
coordinate local pick-up or to
receive shipping instructions

Donation Deadline:
November 16th, 2022

NOVEMBER ACADEMIC EVENTS

1L MOCK EXAM

This year's 1L mock exam took place on November 5 from 9am-1pm in the Ceremonial Courtroom.

Over 70 1L students had the opportunity to take a timed contracts exam proctored and graded by teacher assistants.

The mock exam experience gives 1L students a chance to assess their progress and prepare for their first real final exam!



KAPLAN BAR TALK

Kaplan visited GSU BLSA on November 8th, 2022 to share bar exam resources with our members. Students left the event one step closer to being prepared to sit for the bar exam!

NOVEMBER STUDENT NETWORKING EVENTS

MCGUIRE WOODS 1L DIVERSITY & INCLUSION PANEL & RECEPTION

1McGuire Woods invited GSU BLSA 1Ls to visit thier Atlanta office and network with attorneys and learn about diversity in the legal profession.



WITHERITE GROUP MIXER

The Witherite Group and Attorney Adewale Odetunde were thrilled to meet with GSU BLSA students and network!

This event was a casual mixer featuring for students interested in personal injury law .

CELEBRATING SERENA!



After a 27-year career, Serena Williams' legacy is unmatched.

She won her first U.S. Open title at age 17 in 1999, the beginning of a modern record 23 Grand Slam titles.

After playing what is likely her final US Open, she plans to continue her impact as an entrepreneur, mogul and a mother.

ALEX PATAFIO (3L)



Alex was a law clerk at the Arora Law Firm and a student at Georgia State University College of Law. She passed away on October 7th, 2022.



IN MEMORIAM

GSU BLSA honors the memories of Alex Patafio and Nick Lambros

NICK LAMBROS (2L)

Nick was a student at Georgia State University College of Law and had planned to join his family's law practice after graduation. He passed on November 9, 2022.



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RONALD J. FREEMAN CHAPTER

 **BLSA**

ON SOCIAL

MEDIA!



Stay Connected for our latest news
& updates on social media!



[LINKTR.EE/GSUBLSA](https://linktr.ee/GSUBLSA)