
ALLIANCE OF BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS

Newsletter

<http://www.msba.org/links/md/specialty/abwa/index.htm>

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June 2010

Message From The President

Greetings Alliance Members,

It has been my pleasure to serve the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys (the "Alliance") as President during the 2009-2010 term. My term has ended a very good year for the Alliance. My Executive Board and I attempted to ensure that there was something for everyone to participate in and be a part of whether it was a happy hour at Pazo's or a career seminar (i.e. on alternative careers).

I would like to publicly thank my Executive Board for their cohesiveness. We were definitely a "team" in every way. I can truly say that every member of the Board worked diligently to ensure that goals we started with at the beginning of the year were met. I additionally would like to thank my judicial chair, Stephanie Kinder, who sacrificed many hours and her office space to ensure that our judicial interviews ran smoothly.

This year, I worked very hard to increase or visibility and our viability. I believe that our new president Savonne L. Ferguson (who I must say was an outstanding President Elect) will continue that momentum.

The 2010-2011 term will begin tomorrow,



July 1, 2010. We have a great year planned and a great executive board ready to work. I would again encourage each of our members to pay your dues and continue to come out and support the Alliance's events. Our first official event will be our annual reception on Thursday, July 29, 2010 at the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse. We are honoring of new Admittees to the Maryland State Bar and our newly appointed Judges. The event is being co-sponsored by the Monumental City Bar Foundation and YLS Diversity Initiatives Committee of the Maryland State Bar Association. We need your support. Our organization is only as strong and effective as our membership.

We have been given the task to continue the vision of our founders and support the interests of our community. Our history requires it and our legacy demands it. We look forward to seeing you this year at Alliance Sponsored Events.

Monifa Bailey Coaxum, Esq.

Baltimore Scholars Brunch

In January, the Alliance hosted a brunch at Miss Shirley's Café Inner Harbor for eight students participating in the University of

Baltimore School of Law's Baltimore Scholars Program. The Baltimore Scholars Program is a unique collaboration between the University of Baltimore School of Law and Maryland's four historically black colleges and universities ("HBCU"). The purpose of the program is to increase diversity in the legal profession, allowing college students to explore and develop their interest in studying the law while improving their analytical and writing skills. Those selected from the four HBCU to participate in the program spent a week at the University of Baltimore School of Law attending classes, meeting with professors, and legal practitioners throughout the Baltimore community. To continue the Alliance's efforts of encouraging African-Americans to attend law school and pursue various careers within the legal profession., the Alliance hosted the brunch to expose the Baltimore Scholars to attorneys that represent the diverse range of career opportunities available within the legal arena. We would like to thank all of our members who attended the brunch for taking the time to come and share their knowledge and experiences with the 2010 Baltimore Scholars.

The Alliance Celebrates Black History Month Through Community Service

In February, for Black History Month, the Alliance partnered with Mayor's Young Women in Action Girls Mentoring Program (YWIA) through Ms. Denise Parker. YWIA is a multifaceted approach to mentor girls, in select Baltimore City middle schools and high schools, who are at-risk for skipping school, dropping out of school, teen pregnancy, suspensions, expulsions, and getting in trouble with the law.

In celebration of black history month the Alliance held a panel discussion with a select group of young women that are involved in YWIA. The major focus of the discussion was geared towards college preparation, but we also touched upon our experiences in the legal

profession, general life skills, and encouraging positive self-esteem. The young women were enthusiastic and participated in a spirited discussion. It was a very enriching and fulfilling experience for both our panel members and the young women who participated. We would like to thank all of our panel members for taking the time to come and share their knowledge and experiences with these young women. Also, the Alliance would like to thank Ms. Denise Parker of YWIA for collaborating with us to make this event a success. The Alliance remains dedicated to actively participating in our community, and we look forward to working with the Young Women in Action Girls Mentoring Program for future community outreach events.

Happy Hour at Pazo Restaurant was a Success!!!

The Alliance held a happy hour at Pazo Restaurant in March to once again bring members and other legal professionals in the area together. We extended invitations to several professional organizations, including: Monumental City Bar Association, Baltimore City Bar Association, MSBA – Young Lawyers Division, the State's Attorney Office, and the Office of the Public Defender. We also invited students from the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law. This was a fun filled evening that provided a great opportunity for several legal professionals to gather to enjoy good food, beverages and networking. The happy hour was a great success! We would like to thank everyone that came out to support this event, and we look forward to seeing you again at future happy hour events.

Alliance Spring Community Service

In April, the Alliance participated in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies. The Alliance joined hundreds of volunteers in raising money for this annual event. We hope to see many more

members at next year's March of Dimes Walk for Babies event. The Alliance is also planning to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure Breast Cancer Walk in October. These events are a great way to give back to the community and get to know other members of the Alliance. We would like to thank everyone that assisted the Alliance in our fundraising efforts for the March of Dimes Walk for Babies and hope to see you all in October as we Race for a Cure!

The Alliance About Town!

On Sunday, May 2, 2010 members of the Alliance attended the Black Women Bar Association of Southern Maryland's Annual Tea at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. Members networked with attorneys from the various Maryland counties and enjoyed the keynote address by Congresswoman Donna Edwards.

On Thursday, May 20, 2010 members of the Alliance attended the Monumental City Bar Association's 75th Anniversary gala held at the Glass Pavilion on the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University. Members networked with various attorneys and judges and enjoyed the keynote address by Kurt L. Schmoke, Dean of the Howard University School of Law and Former Mayor of Baltimore City.

Events on the Horizon

The 2010 National Bar Association annual conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from August 9-13, 2010. Please go to www.nationalbar.org for more information and to register for the upcoming conference.

The 2011 National Bar Association's annual conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. A host committee comprised of area attorneys has been formed to collaborate with the National Bar Association's conference planning

committee. If you are interested in participating in the planning of the conference, please contact Savonne L. Ferguson at savonnelfergusonesq@gmail.com or Syeetah Hampton-el at missinfo@aol.com.

Mailing Address for the Alliance

P.O. Box 23784
Baltimore, MD 21203

Membership Dues Reminder

The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys relies on dues to offer quality programs and events. The dues year is from July 1st through June 30th. Please remember to pay your membership dues.

Dues Categories:

Graduated more than 5 years- \$50

Graduated 3-5 years - \$40.00

Graduated less than 3 years - \$30

Law Student Associate Membership - \$10

Please visit the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys' website to pay dues on-line or for the application/dues form:

http://www.msba.org/links/md/specialty/abwa/A_BWA_APPLICATION.pdf

For the first 25 members to pay their dues (excluding the 2010-2011 executive board members), will have their name entered into our raffle for a \$50 gift card to Sullivan's Steakhouse. Don't miss out on this opportunity!!!

Upcoming Alliance Events

- On **July 6, 2010**, the Alliance will be hosting a swearing in ceremony for our newly elected executive board members. The 2010-2011 Executive Board consists of: Savonne Ferguson – President, Sakeenah Smith – President Elect, Monifa Bailey Coaxum – Treasurer, Marja Plater– Recording Secretary, Tamiya Wilkes – Corresponding Secretary, Taren Stanton– Member At Large, and Kay Harding – Member At Large.
- On **July 29, 2010**, the Alliance, Monumental City Bar Foundation, and the MSBA YLS Diversity Initiatives Committee will host a reception for December 2009 and June 2010 New Admittees and 2010 Newly Appointed Judges
- **August 3, 2010: ABWA General Body Meeting**

Alliance of Black Women Attorneys

2009-2010 Executive Board

Monifa N. Bailey - President

Savonne L. Ferguson- President Elect

Ara Parker - Treasurer

Taren Stanton – Recording Secretary

Marja Plater – Corresponding Secretary

Tamiya Wilkes - Member At Large

Sakeenah Smith - Member At Large