51st National Convention
Programming Schedule

“Speaking Truth to Power: Celebrating Leadership Through Service”

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Organizational Day & Introductory Meetings

12:00pm  
NBLSA National Executive Board Arrival

1:00pm – 3:00pm  
NBLSA National Executive Board Meeting  
Marriott: Manning

5:00pm – 7:00pm  
NBLSA National Oral Advocacy Competitions Meeting  
Marriott: Manning

Wednesday, March 13, 2019
“Speaking Truth to Power: Building Oral Advocacy Skills through NBLSA National Competitions”
(Registration Day)

8:00am – 5:00pm  
General Convention Registration Open  
Convention Center: Caddo Registration Booth

11:00am - 1:00pm  
Community Service Event  
Come and join NBLSA at our community service event that will take place at Our House. Our House empowers homeless and near-homeless families and individuals to succeed in the workforce, in school, and in life.  
*Note: This event is for RSVP only to a certain maximum do to the volunteer capacity*

302 E. Roosevelt Rd, Little Rock, AR 72206

10:00pm – Until  
Night on the town  
Downtown Little Rock

Thursday, March 14, 2019
“Speaking Truth to Power: Navigating and Exploring Careers in the Law”

7:00am – 9:00am  
Breakfast  
Marriott: Salon B

8:00am – 5:00pm  
General Convention Registration Open  
Convention Center: Caddo Registration Booth

8:00am – 9:30am  
Opening Session  
Welcome & Corporate Roundtable  
Hear from dynamic leaders who impact Corporate America  
Marriott: Salon B

9:45am – 11:00am  
51st NBLSA General Assembly Plenary Session #1  
Convention Center: Wally Allen Ballroom B

11:15am – 12:15pm  
Exploring a Career with the U.S. Armed Forces  
“Come and hear from leaders within various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces to include the U.S. Army JAG Corps, the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, the U.S. Marine Corps Judge Advocates, and the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps. Learn about the vast opportunities available as you may consider entering such a profession.”  
Marriott: Hoffman
Thursday, March 14, 2019

“Speaking Truth to Power: Navigating and Exploring Careers in the Law”

11:15am – 12:30pm  Breakout Session  Career Paths-
Doing the Deal:  The Transactional
Side of Doing Law  Hosted by Perkins Coie
Are you about business? Close the deal! Panelists will discuss the various types of transactional law including business, real estate, mergers and acquisitions, licensing and technology, venture capital, and finance. The discussion will also focus on employment opportunities in these areas in law firms and corporations and how to prepare for a career on the transactional side of practicing law.
Marriott:Manning

12:45pm – 2:00pm  A. Leon Higginbotham Luncheon
Marriott: Salon B & C
This luncheon pays homage to the legacy of A. Leon Higginbotham

2:15pm – 5:00pm  51st NBLSA General Assembly Plenary Session #2
Convention Center:
Wally Allen Plenary
Ballroom B

2:15pm – 3:45pm  Breakout Session  Exploring a Career in Public Service
2:15pm – 3:45pm  The Secrets to Passing the Bar Exam – Understanding What Matters and Systematic Problem Solving
Marriott: Harris Brake

Breakout Session  The Secrets to Passing the Bar Exam

4:00pm – 5:30pm  Breakout Session  Documentary Film
Screening: Justice is a Black Woman: The Life and Work of Constance Baker Motley
Professor Gary Ford is a producer of the award winning Quinnipiac University documentary, Justice Is A Black Woman: The Life and Work of Constance Baker Motley (along with Michael Calia, director/producer and Susan Bailey, script writer).
*Snacks Provided
Marriott: Salon B

4:00pm – 5:30pm  Breakout Session  How to Really Network
Learn how to turn the art of networking into an opportunity. No matter what legal discipline, networking is necessary! This session on networking will provide NBLSA members with unique instruction regarding the vital art of networking in the legal field and provide a chance to put those skills into practice in a mock-networking session. Get real-time feedback before it counts!
Marriott: Harris Brake

6:30pm – 8:30pm  National Chair’s Welcome Reception
William H. Bowen School of Law, 1201 McMath Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72202
Downtown Little Rock

10:00pm – Until  Night on the town
Friday, March 15, 2019

“Speaking Truth to Power: Advocating on Issues that Impact Communities of Color”

7:00am – 9:00am
Breakfast
Convention: Wally Ballroom A&E
Caddo Registration Booth

8:00am – 5:00pm
General Convention Registration Open

8:00am - 5:00pm
Regional & Chapter of the Year Interview
Marriott: Lafayette
Convention Center: Wally Ballroom A&E

8:00am – 9:30am
Coffee and Conversation: Keep that Same Energy
Convention Center: Wally Allen Ballroom B
Marriott: Arkansas Ballroom

9:45am – 11:00am
51st NBLSA General Assembly Plenary Session #3

11:15am – 12:30pm
Breakout Session
Community leaders come together to discuss experiences with community policing initiatives and tense race relations. This conversation will explore what a city once plagued by police corruption and racism is doing to restore and revive its community. We will also discuss what future activism efforts look like.

12:45pm – 2:00pm
Sadie T.M. Alexander Luncheon
This luncheon pays homage to the legacy of Sadie T.M. Alexander
Convention Center: Wally Ballroom A&E

2:15pm – 5:00pm
Plenary

2:15pm – 3:45pm
Breakout Session
This event will provide awareness regarding the economic injustices that take place in minority communities and propose real action items young lawyers can take to combat these injustices. The program will begin with a presentation of the day-to-day practices of Together Restoring Economic Empowerment (TREE), an organization of attorneys who strive for economic equity in impoverished communities. From there, NBLSA will present a PowerPoint on some of the largest economic hurdles facing minority communities to date. The program will then include a Panel along with a Q & A discussion of how young attorneys can get involved in the fight for economic equity. Immediately after the Q & A session, the session will break into six working groups to strategize ways NBLSA can combat economic inequities unique to each region.

Convention Center: Wally Allen Ballroom B
Marriott: Harris Brake

NBLSA51
Striving to Balance Since 1968.
Friday, March 15, 2019

"Speaking Truth to Power: Advocating on Issues that Impact Communities of Color"

2:15pm – 3:45pm
Breakout Session
The Breakdown of the Black Dollar
In 2018, Black buying power accounted for $1.2 Trillion of all commerce. This session will focus on the restoration of our culture through our buying power.

Marriott: White Oak

5:30pm – 7:00pm
Oral Advocacy Competition Reception
For Competitors, Judges & Ticket Holders ONLY
Marriott: Pinnacle Upper

7:30pm – 9:30pm
“Rep your Region Cookout”
Join us for food and drinks as we network and represent our different regions.
Marriott: Riverview

10:00pm – Until
Night on the town
Downtown Little Rock

Saturday, March 16, 2019

"Speaking Truth to Power: A Celebration of Our Legacy and Our Future"

8:00am – 5:00pm
General Convention Information Desk
Convention Center: Caddo Registration Booth

8:00am – 5:00pm
NBLSA Pre-Law Symposium
Marriott: Hoffman

9:00am - 11:00am
Cultural Outgoing on the Town
Tour of the Mosaic Cultural Templar's Center
Hear from the curator of the Cultural Center as well as enjoy a tour/self-guided tour of the museum which celebrates Arkansas's African American history and tells the story of the African American experience in Arkansas.
501 W. Ninth Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

11:00am – 3:00pm
NBLSA Brunch
First come, first served
Marriott: Salon B & C

6:00pm -7:00pm
NBLSA 51st AJ Cooper Legacy Award Gala Pre-Reception
Convention Center: Wally Ballroom Foyer

7:00pm – 10:00pm
NBLSA Gala
NBLSA 51st AJ Cooper Legacy Award Gala Speaking Truth to Power: “Celebrating Leadership through Service”
Convention Center: Wally Ballroom A-E

10:30pm – Until
Downtown Little Rock
CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Thursday Speakers:

Opening Session
Mayor Frank Scott, Mayor of Little Rock
Gretchen Hall, President and Chief Executive Officer, Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau
Audra Thompson, Senior Associate Counsel, Walmart, Inc.
Exploring a Career with the U.S. Armed Forces
Tracie Ransom, Founder and CEO of Ransom Strategies Group LLC
Damon Burman, Attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General (Administrative Law)
Mishonda Mosley, Officer in Charge Region Legal Service Officer Southeast - Mayport Detachment Assistant Senior Trial Counsel
Levisy F. Crawford, Maj., USAF, Executive Officer to the Staff Judge Advocate, HQ AETC/JA
Colonel Christopher B. Shaw, Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Marine Corps
Captain Corey Tisdale, U.S. Army JAG Corps
Career Paths - Doing the Deal: The Transaction Side of Practicing Law
Bruce Dick (Partner, Perkins Coie LLP)
Harry Hutchinson (CEO, Marquee Media LLC)
Azar Koulibaly (Attorney, Microsoft Corporation)
Darilyn Olidge (General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer, Brightwood Capital Advisors LLC)
Richard Ross (Partner, Perkins Coie LLP)
Quisaira Almanzar Whitney (Senior Attorney, Microsoft Corporation)
A. Leon Higginbotham Luncheon
Dr. Gary L. Ford, Professor, Lehman College City University of New York
The Honorable Joyce Williams Warren
Exploring a Career in Public Service
Derick D. Dailey, Past National Chair (2016-2017), Associate, Dowd Bennett LLP
Kendra Pruitt, Senior Advisor to Mayor of Little Rock
The Honorable Marion Humphrey, Former Pulaski County Circuit Judge
Antwan Phillips, Partner, Wright Lindsey Jennings LLP
The Secrets to Passing the Bar Exam - Understanding What Matters and Systemic Problem Solving
Sam Farkas, Esq.
Documentary Film Screening: Justice is a Black Woman: The Life and Work of Constance Baker Motley
Dr. Gary L. Ford, Professor, Lehman College City University of New York
How to Really Network
Rodney G. Moore, Shareholder, Ogletree Deakins

Friday Speakers:

Coffee and Conversation: Keep That Same Energy
Representative John Walker (D-34th District), Esq.
Furonda Brasfield, Esq.
Separate & Still Not Equal
Traci Gibson, Esq.
Officer Tommy Norman
Erica Perry, Esq.
Sadie T.M. Alexander Luncheon
Theresa Cropper "Momma BLSA", Senior Strategic Consultant, Perkins Coie LLP
TREE: How Young Attorneys Can Lead The Battle for Economic Justice
Crystal Smitherman, NBLSA National Director of Membership Operations, City Councilwoman, Birmingham, AL (6th District)
Abe Conner, Staff Attorney, ACLU of Northern California
The Breakdown of the Black Dollar
Antwan Phillips, Partner, Wright Lindsey Jennings LLP
Jaribu Hill, Esq., Founder and Executive Director of the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights
Fredrick Buffington, Owner, The Buffington Effect, LLC
Rashauna Norment, Esq.

Saturday Speakers:

NBLSA Pre-Law Symposium
Miguel Willis, Law School Admission Council (LSAC)
Attorney Jasmin A. Robinson, Jas Talks Law
Ashley Pinkney
Alimease Lowe
Keniqua McAdams
Shaquita Randolph
AlJarreau Morgan
Professor Anastasia Boles, UA Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law
Bernetta Hayes, Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO)
Matthew Kerns, UA Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law
Isabelle Ramos, Law School Admission Council (LSAC)
Shir Davidovicz, Blueprint LSAT Preparation
Jacquie Carroll, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, AccessLex Institute