

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association Hosts 2022 Harlem Renaissance Gala

BY ANGELA COOK, ESQ., CALEB GREEN, ESQ., JONATHAN LEE, ESQ., LATISHA ROBINSON, ESQ., AND ANDRÉA SIMMONS, ESQ.



This year's Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA) scholarship and awards gala boasted flapper dresses, silk gloves, high-heeled shoes, fedora hats, bow ties, and handkerchiefs in a celebration of the Harlem Renaissance era.

The Harlem Renaissance refers to “development of the Harlem neighborhood in New York City as a Black cultural mecca in the early 20th Century and the subsequent social and artistic explosion that resulted.”¹ This period is widely considered a golden age in African American culture and was propelled by a population boom from 1910 to 1920 known as the Great Migration. During the Great Migration, African Americans fled the South to the North in large numbers. Many, who were enticed by companies that had lost workers due to World War I-related immigration decline and who were out-of-work sharecroppers due to natural disasters in the South, landed in the popular destination of Harlem. An amalgamation of these and other historical events manifested themselves in an explosion of literature, music, stage performance, and art. The spirit and symbols of the times were alive and well at the Orleans Hotel & Casino on October 8, 2022, during the annual LVNBA Scholarship & Awards Gala.

The LVNBA is an organization of predominantly African American attorneys, judges, professors, and other legal professionals. It was originally

incorporated in 1981 by a small, yet mighty, group of 14 attorneys and judges looking to blaze a trail in the Las Vegas legal community. Each year since its inception, the LVNBA strives to host an annual gala to award scholarships to law students and recognize individuals and organizations in the legal community who support the LVNBA's mission.

Central to that mission is promoting social dialogue with members of the bar; advancing diversity in the legal arena; cultivating leadership and professional development; and improving the science of jurisprudence through education, commentary, and scholarly analysis. The LVNBA is also committed to promoting professionalism, education, the pursuit of equal opportunity, justice for all, and much more.

The LVNBA Foundation was established to support fundraising efforts for the annual gala. Through the foundation, the LVNBA has been able to provide scholarships to students who demonstrate commitment to serving low-income, minority, and other underserved communities in Clark County.



5

The LVNBA Gala Committee, consisting of LVNBA President Angela Cook; Parliamentarian, Pro Bono, and Scholarship & Awards Committees Chair Jonathan Lee; Gala Committee Co-Chairs Latisha Robinson and Andréa Simmons; and Treasurer and Fundraising & Corporate Sponsorship Committee Chair Caleb Green set a goal of awarding an unprecedented \$41,000 for scholarship recipients in an effort to surpass the \$40,000 awarded to last year's recipients. With the hard work of the Gala Committee and generous community partners, members, and volunteers, the LVNBA met and exceeded its fundraising goals.

At this year's gala, the LVNBA was fortunate to have Nevada Attorney General Aaron D. Ford as the featured speaker, to help celebrate the organization's 41 years of service and commitment to our community.

The scholarships presented included the Justice Michael L. Douglas Scholarship, Judge Johnnie B. Rawlinson Scholarship, Judge Addeliar D. Guy III Scholarship, Judge Earle W. White, Jr. Scholarship, Bryan K. Scott Book Scholarship, and the President's Book Scholarship. In addition to the scholarship awards, the LVNBA presented the following awards to the community:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Jason Frierson
- **President's Award** – Mary Bacon
- **Organization of the Year Award** – ACLU of Nevada
- **Law Firm of the Year Award** – Las Vegas City Attorney's Office & Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
- **Rising Star Award** – Caleb Green
- **Attorney of the Year Award** – Sandra Douglass Morgan

Members of the executive board include President Cook, Vice President Brittnie Watkins, Treasurer Green, Recording Secretary Crislove Igeleke, Corresponding Secretary Maliq Kendricks, Historian Loline-Marie Djidade, and Parliamentarian Lee. The LVNBA Foundation board consists of Chair Simmons, Immediate Past President Augusta Massey, Vice Chair Richard Manhattan, Treasurer Yvonne Schuman, and Secretary Robinson.

The LVNBA looks forward to celebrating again at the LVNBA's 2023 annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

Stay up to date on LVNBA events at <https://www.lasvegasnba.org/events-programs> and follow us on social media.

PHOTO CAPTIONS ON PAGE 41

ENDNOTE:

1. Harlem Renaissance, <https://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/harlem-renaissance> (Jan. 12, 2022).



ANGELA M. COOK is a team chief in the Children's Attorneys Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. As a children's attorney, she represents abused and neglected children. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law for the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law's Externship Program, serves as the president of the LVNBA, and as the children state coordinator for Nevada for the National Association of Counsel for Children. Cook earned her J.D. from Boyd in 2013. Cook is licensed to practice law in Nevada and U.S. Federal Court.



CALEB GREEN is an associate at Dickinson Wright in its Las Vegas office, where he practices intellectual property, cyber-security, and immigration law. He is a proud two-time alumnus from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he earned his J.D. and bachelor's degree in computer science.



JONATHAN LEE is an attorney with Richard Harris Law Firm, practicing personal injury law. Prior to joining Richard Harris, he was an attorney with Marquis Aurbach, practicing civil, corporate, and construction defect law. Lee graduated from Maryland's Towson University with bachelor's degrees in economics and political science. He then earned his J.D. from Boyd.



LATISHA ROBINSON is a senior trial attorney at Allstate and has a civil litigation practice that focuses primarily on the defense of bodily injury and property damages. Prior to joining Allstate, Robinson was an associate at Phillips, Spallas & Angstadt, where she was responsible for defending claims related to premise and product liability for a Fortune 500 company. Robinson graduated cum laude with her J.D. degree from Southern University.



ANDRÉA SIMMONS, LL.M received her J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2016 while raising four children with a spouse working overseas. She later obtained her Master of Laws in international business law in March 2020. Simmons is a licensed attorney with a solo practice in St. George, Utah. Her firm focuses on the practice of intellectual property (IP) law (copyright, trademark, trade secrets, licensing agreements, etc.), international business law, entertainment law, contracts, non-disclosure agreements, cease and desist, and business law. She sits on the board of Nevada Prep Charter School.

News & Notes

STATE NEWS

Attorneys and Firms Recognized at Pro Bono Awards Ceremony



Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) recognized outstanding pro bono lawyers and law firms in Southern Nevada during its 22nd annual Pro Bono Awards luncheon held on December 16, 2022. Volunteer attorneys throughout Clark County have contributed more than 14,000 hours of direct representation time through LACSN and have helped more than 4,000 of our community's most vulnerable people fight injustice pro bono.

The winners are:

- Pro Bono Attorney of the Year: Marjorie Guymon;
- Law Firm of the Year: Ballard Spahr, LLP;
- Lied Award for Most Hours by a Law Firm: Ballard Spahr, LLP;
- Lied Award for Most Cases by a Law Firm: Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie;
- Lied Award for Most Hours by an Attorney: Dawn Hathaway Thoman;
- Lied Award for Most Cases by an Attorney: Andréa L. Vieira and Keiara A. Stevenson;
- William S. Boyd Award of Excellence: R&R Partners;
- Justice Nancy Becker Pro Bono Award of Judicial Excellence: Justice James Hardesty;
- Vince Consul Memorial Pro Bono Award: Dan R. Waite;
- Louie Wiener Pro Bono Service Award: Shannon R. Wilson;
- Myrna Williams Children's Pro Bono Award: Keiara Stevenson;
- Volunteer Education Advocate Award: Stephanie Stolz;
- Public Interest Law Student of Distinction: Priscila Venzor; and
- Ask-A-Lawyer Community Commitment Award: Michelle Darquea.

The Pro Bono Project connects LACSN clients in need of representation for concerns ranging from traumatic divorce cases involving domestic violence and child custody disputes to fraudulent consumer matters and housing issues. Legal assistance is available by calling 702-386-1070. Local attorneys who are interested in volunteering their time and resources should contact Michael Wendlberger, Pro Bono Project director, at 702-386-1429.

U.S. COURTS

U.S. District Court Posts Notice for Appointment of New Magistrate Judge

The Judicial Conference of the U.S. has authorized the appointment of a full-time U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Nevada to be located in Las Vegas. The current annual salary of the position is \$205,528. The term of office is eight years.

A public notice for the magistrate judge position and an application form is available on the court's website (www.nvd.uscourts.gov). Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2023. Questions can be directed to the Clerk of Court at 702-464-5456.

Harlem Renaissance Gala

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

1: Scholarship recipients pose with LVNBA members, including Latisha Robinson, Andrea Simmons, Talibah Abdul-Wahid, Niyah Brown, Samuel Figueroa, Michael "Mike" Brooks, Alco Robinson, Kendrea Roby, Leah Chan Grinvald, Genell Maggiacomo, Kiana Parkes, Augusta Massey, Tamia "Mia" Perez, Justice Michael L. Douglas (ret.), Doreen Spears Hartwell, Angela Cook, Crystal Washington, Eddie Curry, Scott Morris, Brittne Watkins, Uchenna Okeneme, and Jonathan Lee.

2: Guest speaker was Nevada Attorney General Aaron D. Ford.

3: Jason Frierson, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrates with Judge Cybill Dotson and Angela Cook.

4: Brittne Watkins, Barbara Buckley, and Angela Cook present and receive the Law Firm of the Year Award for the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

5: Past presidents of the LVNBA include Karl Riley, Augusta Massey, Justice Michael L. Douglas, Angela Cook, Jason Frierson, Rachel Anderson, and Doreen Spears Hartwell.