

News & Notes

AFFINITY BARS

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association 2023 Soul Train Scholarship & Awards Gala

BY MARY BACON, ESQ.; ANGELA COOK, ESQ.; CALEB GREEN, ESQ.;
JOHNATHAN LEE, ESQ.; AND JAZMINE THOMPSON, ESQ.

The 2023 Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA) scholarship and awards gala featured bell bottoms, platform shoes, and natural hairstyles in celebration of the “Soul Train” era. “Soul Train” was a trailblazing program that showcased high energy soul, rhythm-and-blues, and funk dance music in the U.S. from 1971-2006. It was the first show of its kind that prominently featured the Black community and culture. Through music, dance, and fashion, “Soul Train” showed the world the strength, beauty, power, and creativity of Black people. On September 30, 2023, the LVNBA celebrated “Soul Train’s” spirit of love, peace, soul, and Black culture during its gala.

The LVNBA is an organization of predominantly Black attorneys, judges, professors, and other legal professionals. The LVNBA was originally incorporated in 1981 by a small, yet mighty, group of 14 attorneys and judges looking to uplift and advance each other and the 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.

At this year’s gala, the LVNBA was fortunate to have Justice Patricia Lee, the first Black woman and the first Asian American to serve as a Nevada Supreme Court Justice, as its keynote speaker, and Dominique Calhoun, the 81st president of the National Bar Association, as its featured speaker, to help celebrate 42 years of service and commitment to the community.



LVNBA 2023 Scholarship recipients Kendrea Roby, Shaira Young, D’Ahna Scott, Talibah Abdul-Wahid, Genell Maggiacomo, Ayanna Pope, Marcel Wilken-Brown, Kiana Parkes, Osirus Washington, Alco Robinson, Branden Parent, Crystal Washington, and Racaiim McKain pose with Angela Cook and Augusta Massey.

With the hard work of the LVNBA Gala Committee, consisting of LVNBA President Angela Cook, Scholarship & Awards Committee Chair Jonathan Lee, Gala Committee Co-Chairs Mary Bacon and Jazmine Thompson, and Fundraising & Corporate Sponsorship Committee Chair Caleb Green, and all the generous community partners, members, and volunteers, the LVNBA met and exceeded its fundraising goals by awarding \$48,000 to our scholarship recipients.

In addition to the scholarship awards, the LVNBA presented the following awards to the community:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Bryan K. Scott, Esq.
- **LVNBA Medal of Change** – Arthur L. Williams Jr.
- **Attorney of the Year Award** – Athar Haseebullah, Esq.
- **President’s Legacy Award** – Augusta Massey, Esq.
- **President’s Distinguished Service Award** – Senator Dina Neal
- **Law Firm of the Year Award** – Claggett & Sykes Law Firm and the Nevada State University Legal Department
- **Organization of the Year Award** – NAACP Las Vegas Branch #1111
- **Rising Star Award** – Jazmine Thompson, Esq.

The LVNBA sincerely thanks the members of its outgoing 2021-23 executive board: President Angela Cook, Vice President Brittnie Watkins, Immediate Past President Augusta Massey, Treasurer Caleb Green, Recording Secretary Crislove Igeleke, Corresponding Secretary Maliq Kendricks, Historian Loline-Marie Djidade, Parliamentarian Jonathan Lee, and

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Athar Haseebullah receives the Attorney of the Year Award from Jonathan Lee and Angela Cook.



LVNBA 2021 - 2023 Executive Board: Maliq Kendricks, Crislove Igeleke, Loline-Marie Djidade, Angela Cook, Brittnie Watkins, Caleb Green, and Jonathan Lee.



Past presidents of the LVNBA Karl Riley, Augusta Massey, Rachel Anderson, Angela Cook, Justice Michael L. Douglas, Bryan K. Scott, and Judge Richard Boulware pose with new president, Caleb Green.



Bryan K. Scott gives a speech after accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award.

chairs Karyna Armstrong, Karl Armstrong, Mary Bacon, Renee Becker, Monique Jammer, Zaniah Jordan-Kendricks, Latisha O'Neal, Andrea Simmons, Jessica Smith-Peterson, Phillip Smith, Jr., Jazmine Thompson, Alco Robinson, and Steven "JT" Washington, for their dedication and support.

Congratulations to incoming 2023-2025 LVNBA President Caleb Green and the LVNBA's new executive board.

The LVNBA looks forward to celebrating with everyone at its 2024 annual scholarship & awards gala. In the spirit of "Soul Train," the LVNBA wishes you, love, peace, and soul!

MARY BACON is a business litigation attorney with Spencer Fane. Her litigation practice is focused on complex civil litigation in both state and federal court involving construction disputes, breach of contract actions, and defending financial institutions.



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