

The John Mercer Langston Bar
Association
and
The Local Chapters of The
Black Law Students
Association

Present

THE
NINTH ANNUAL
GALA
AND
BARRISTER'S
SALUTE

*Inspiring Change;
Fostering Community*

Saturday, April 15, 2023
The Fives, Columbus

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Evening Program

Welcome

The Honorable Jarrod Skinner,
Master of Ceremonies

Remarks

Ryan Wheeler, JMLBA President
Sydney Pahren, JMLBA President-Elect

Dinner is Served

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Laurel Beatty-Blunt,
Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals

Keynote Address

LaDavid S. Drane, Esquire
Global Head of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity, Amazon Web Services

Scholarship Presentation and Acknowledgment of Graduates

Humphrey Kweiminyi, JMLBA Mentoring Co-Chair

Presentation of Legacy Award to Janet E. Jackson

The Honorable Jaiza Page
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas

Sponsorship Recognition

Tiara Ross, 2023 Gala Co-Chair

Closing and Celebration



Dear JMLBA Members, Sponsors, Friends, and Allies:

On behalf of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association ("JMLBA") Executive Board, our gala committee, and the entire membership of JMLBA, I would like to thank you for joining us as we commemorate our Ninth Annual JMLBA and Black Law Students Association Gala "Inspiring Change; Fostering Community." I have had the distinct privilege of leading JMLBA through two galas, and after the achievement of last year's gala, I was eager to use it as a launch point for a successful 2022-2023 membership year for JMLBA.

This year's theme is important to me because it truly aligns with two of my goals for the 2022-2023 membership year: *Inspire Change* and *Foster Community*. JMLBA truly inspired change this year as we worked closely with the next generation of attorneys in the BLSA chapters at Capital University Law School and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, resulting in high student turnout to our law school student programs and three times as many submissions for the annual scholarship as we had last year. We fostered community by inviting our members to come together with a fulsome calendar of in-person events after years of mostly hosting virtual events, including one virtual gala.

With this year's gala upon us, let us take this opportunity to come together again to honor those who paved the way and celebrate the achievements of the 2023 BLSA 3Ls at Capital University Law School and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. We would also like to acknowledge each of you for your help making this event possible. In addition to supporting this event, your contributions will be used to fund scholarships for law students as well as educational programs, community service projects, and networking events for our members.

As JMLBA marches toward our decennial gala and my time as President winds down, I am proud of the accomplishments of JMLBA over the last year and recognize that we could not have reached these heights without the support of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, members, allies, and supporters. This is just the beginning, and I again find myself eagerly anticipating the next chapter for JMLBA.

Sincerely,

Ryan E. Wheeler
JMLBA President



The John Mercer Langston Bar Association is Columbus, Ohio's affiliate member of the National Bar Association. Our purpose is to be a facilitator for excellence within the legal profession while also encouraging community service for those in need. The John Mercer Langston Bar Association achieves these goals by providing valuable information, networking opportunities, mentoring opportunities and Continuing Legal Education programs.

THE JOHN MERCER LANGSTON BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The John Mercer Langston Bar Association Scholarship Fund of the Columbus Bar Foundation was established to recognize and promote the academic achievement of law students in Central Ohio who embody the legacy of John Mercer Langston through:

- Academic excellence and achievement;
- Leadership in community organizations that further the mission of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association; a future career in the legal profession that furthers the mission of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and the legacy of John Mercer Langston; and
- Achievement through personal milestones or overcoming personal hardships.

John Mercer Langston (1829-1897) was a prominent African American lawyer, politician and public servant who rose to prominence in Ohio. After graduating from Oberlin College, Langston was denied entry to all but one of the law schools to which he applied. He studied law under a judge and passed the bar in 1854, then was elected to public office in 1855 after a brief career as a trial lawyer in private practice. As a civil rights advocate, Langston worked tirelessly as a champion for the cause of including the disenfranchised in the public life of the country. He served as the Education Inspector of the Freedmen's

Bureau, the first Dean of Howard University School of Law, Consul General to the nation of Haiti, president of Virginia Normal College Institute (now Virginia State University), and as a politician, elected to the United States Congress from his home state of Virginia.

The John Mercer Langston Bar Association Scholarship is awarded to law students in Central Ohio who honor the legacy of John Mercer Langston by furthering his ideals- embodied by the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and its mission- in the present day.



Nationwide is proud to support the John Mercer Langston Bar Association

JMLBA's namesake, John Mercer Langston, was a trailblazer who inspired change, and Nationwide® is honored to be a Trailblazing Sponsor for this year's JMLBA and BLSA Scholarship Gala. As a company, we believe in the same values and tenets that have shaped this historic organization. We are committed to the success and development of Black legal professionals and students in the workplace and beyond.

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JMLBA

Leadership



Ryan Wheeler
President



Sydney Pahren
President-Elect



Arryn Cole
Immediate Past President



Jonathan Fox
Secretary



Louisa Edzie
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Jhay Spottswood
Professionalism Chair



Chassidy Barham
Gala Co-Chair



Tiara Ross
Gala Co-Chair



Latashia Love
Community Service Chair

JMLBA Leadership



David Roper
Mentoring Chair (Attorneys)



Tiffany Lipscomb-Jackson
Government Relations
and Activism Co-Chair



Kyle Strickland
Government Relations
and Activism Co-Chair



Humphrey Kweminyi
Mentoring Co-Chair
(Law Students)



Keesha Warmby
Mentoring Co-Chair
(Law Students)



India Scarver
Social Media Chair



Zeynep Kart
In-House Partnership Co-Chair



Monique Hall
In-House Partnership Co-Chair

**Diversity.
Community.
Unity.**



The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is a national organization that was founded in 1968 at the New York University Law School for the purpose of advancing the presence of African Americans in the legal profession.

Today, the Black Law Students Association strives to articulate and promote the needs and goals of black law students, effectuate change in the legal community, and encourage the development of talented, socially conscious lawyers of tomorrow.

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BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Capital University Law School

To Our Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at Capital University Law School, I would like to thank you for joining us at the 9th Annual Gala, “Inspiring Change; Fostering Community,” hosted by the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and the Black Law Student Associations. This gala not only celebrates the achievements of our current graduates, but it is a commemorative time to reflect on the moments of excellence from our past, present, and future.

The 2022-2023 school year was a productive, formative year for the BLSA chapter here at Capital. We hosted mock interviews at the school for students to prepare for the hiring season, partnered with the Legal Aid Society of Columbus to host a pro bono wills clinic, and continued to foster our relationship with Ohio State’s BLSA through community service. Our chapter has consistently focused on becoming an organization that Capital students can depend on for academic support as well as social support. Through listening to our members we have incorporated lunch hours during the week for BLSA members to socialize, and we have incorporated study sessions on Saturdays to ensure BLSA students are succeeding academically.

It has been an honor to serve as Capital’s BLSA President this year. Our executive board has shown grace in the face of adversity and for that I am grateful. I truly learned from the wonderful members on Capital’s BLSA executive board about what it means to be courageous and consistent about change in our school community.

To the sponsors, thank you for your continued support and commitment to the JMLBA and BLSA. Your support is a true testament to further diversifying leadership and representation in the legal community. Thank you to this year’s gala coordinators, moderator, our fellow BLSA counterparts at Moritz and JMLBA for planning another amazing event!

To the families and friends of our graduates, thank you for your patience and understanding through this long journey. To the Capital faculty and staff, thank you for your guidance and support. Lastly, to our graduates, be proud of the commitment, hard work, and persistence you have shown in order to get to this moment. Hold on to your professional aspirations that pushed you through law school as they will guide you and encourage you through the next stages of your career. As Maya Angelou once said, “You can only become accomplished at something you love. Don’t make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love and then do them so well that people can’t take their eyes off you.” May you all succeed in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Tiara Dowling
BLSA President
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2023
Capital University Law School



BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

To Our Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the Black Law Students Association at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, welcome to the 9th Annual John Mercer Langston Bar Association Gala and Barrister's Salute. I would like to personally thank each one of you for joining us tonight to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of the distinguished graduates of BLSA and attorneys in our legal community.

Tonight's gala would not be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors. It is beyond humbling to see the degree to which the Columbus legal community is willing to support this organization and its members. Your generous support and commitment to the JMLBA and BLSA is a true testament to the importance of further diversifying leadership in the legal community. We appreciate your selflessness, kindness, and continued support. Thank you for all that you've done so far and continue to do.

This evening, the Moritz BLSA chapter would like to honor each of its graduating members. Many have spent time on BLSA's Executive Board, held leadership positions in various Moritz organizations, and most importantly, helped build the BLSA community here at Moritz. Our graduates have also gained invaluable experience by working as summer associates at some of Columbus's best law firms, providing legal services to disenfranchised clients through pro bono efforts, and taking part in clinic courses and externships.

Throughout the past year, our chapter has built community in ways that capture the excellence of our school, organization, and members. We have kept with tradition by hosting a BLSA Boot Camp Pre-Orientation program, which is designed to introduce 1Ls to faculty, staff, practicing attorneys, existing BLSA members, and each other. This year, our chapter has been intentional about connecting with surrounding BLSA chapters. This past fall, we organized happy hours with BLSA students from Capital University Law school. This spring, our chapter hosted the Ohio Sip n' Serve in collaboration with Midwest BLSA, with students from Moritz College of Law, Capital University Law School, and Cleveland State University College of Law coming together to volunteer on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We hosted a variety of informational sessions for our members to support them throughout the school year and we have partnered with various organizations to highlight issues our members care about, and so much more. I am beyond proud of this organization and thankful for the many folks who have dedicated their time and energy towards making it the outstanding organization it is today.

To the families of our graduates, thank you for your patience and understanding through this long journey. To the Moritz faculty and staff, thank you for your vital support. Lastly, to our graduates, thank you for your commitment to this community. We are confident that you all are equipped to be shining lights in our legal community. Your perseverance, brilliance, and hard work have led you to this moment, and you deserve it all. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation and from our chapter to you, we wish you success in your future endeavors.


Best,

Aleah Holley
BLSA President
J.D. Candidate, May 2024
The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership and Connection

We applaud the important role that the JMLBA plays within the Central Ohio legal community and are proud to support its mission of promoting professional development, networking, mentoring and community activism.

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2023 Gala Keynote Speaker

LaDavia S. Drane, Esquire

Global Head of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at Amazon Web Services

LaDavia Drane is a bridge between the worlds of technology and inclusion, diversity, and equity. Leveraging technology for good, in ways both big and small, and with a global impact is her personal and professional mission. With a background comprised of work and education in public policy, public relations, technology and inclusion, diversity, and equity, LaDavia has cultivated strategically aligned relationships to remove barriers and build opportunities that accelerate equity in the circles she navigates and beyond. LaDavia lives out her mission, daily, as the Global Head of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for Amazon Web Services. Prior to this role, she served as the U.S. Public Policy Head of Diversity & Inclusion for Amazon. After earning a Juris Doctorate from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, LaDavia joined Ulmer & Berne LLP, in Cleveland, as a law associate. A drive to impact change propelled LaDavia to move to Washington, D.C. to launch a career in politics and public policy. That decision gave rise to a successful career on Capitol Hill that included stints as Chief of Staff, Legislative Director and Executive Director for the Congressional Black Caucus, and as the Director of Federal and Regional Affairs for DC Mayor Muriel Bowser.

LaDavia utilized her relationship management and coalition-building skillset as the Director of African American Outreach and Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs for Secretary Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. LaDavia's community service is as inclusive and diverse as her professional

work. She is an Amazon Women@Amazon Executive Sponsor and Amazon Black Employee Network Executive Sponsor. She is the Co-Chair of NPower and a Corporate Partner for Girls in Tech, Women in Cloud. In addition, LaDavia serves as Corporate Partner for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and as a Corporate Board Member for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. In addition, she is also a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board Member, COSI Board Member, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation Board Member and on the Miami University Alumni Board.



2023 Legacy Award Winner

The Honorable Janet E. Jackson



Janet E. Jackson spent 14 years as president and CEO of United Way of Central Ohio, one of the largest United Way organizations in the country. She was the first woman and the first African American to lead the organization.

Prior to coming to United Way, Janet served six years as Columbus City Attorney, a first for a woman in Columbus. Her election to that office was also a first for an African American. As Columbus City Attorney, she served as the City's chief legal advisor.

Before her appointment as City Attorney, Janet served nearly ten years as a Franklin County Municipal Court judge, making her the first African-American female judge in Franklin County history. She holds a B.A. degree from Wittenberg University and a J.D. degree from The National Law Center at George Washington University.

Under Janet's leadership, United Way of Central Ohio steadily expanded its position as an organization that goes far beyond fundraising to mobilize its community to comprehensively address the root causes of poverty and create lasting, measurable change. She has been instrumental in educating local business and community leaders about poverty in central Ohio and in inspiring them to join with United Way in developing an integrated approach to providing the opportunities people need to rise above poverty.

Her honors and awards include: Allies of Equality Award from Equality Ohio, Woman of Achievement Award from the YWCA of Columbus, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Columbus Education Association, 2013 Professional Woman of the Year by the Women of Color Foundation and Woman of the Year by the Niagara Foundation. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 2001. She also received the 2015 Mortar Board Alumni Achievement Award and an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Capital University Law School. She was named Outstanding Head of Diversity in the Columbus Business First Diversity in Business Awards and won the Champions of Diversity Legend Award.

Janet is member of the board of Installed Building Products (a publicly traded company) and chair of its compensation committee. She also serves on the board of Wittenberg University. She served as a member of the Task Force to Prevent Family Homelessness. Janet is proud to have served as Chair of the Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission and currently serves as Chair of the Civilian Police Review Board. She is also a member of the International Women's Forum, IWF Ohio and Women Corporate Directors. She also serves on the Siemer Institute National Advisory Council and on the board of the Jazz Arts Group.



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2023 Scholarship Recipients



Victoria Heard was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. She is a first-year law student at Capital University Law School. Victoria attended Denison University, earning a B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology and Communication. Her interest in pursuing a legal career began in high school when she participated in the Law and Leadership Institute Program. During the program, she competed in numerous mock trials and interned at Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff.

Victoria is a first-generation high school and college graduate and will be the first lawyer in her family. She plans to use her hardships and accomplishments to encourage and support Black youth who are interested in pursuing higher education.

Victoria is uncertain about which legal field she will practice, but she is dedicated to remaining open-minded and working hard to determine which area is best for her.

2023 Scholarship Recipients



Aleah Holley is a 2L at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. As a native of Columbus, serving her community has been at the forefront of her professional and personal life. Before law school, Aleah served as a Legislative Aide in the Ohio House of Representatives, assisting constituents through COVID-19 unemployment.

Aleah's passion for justice and equity has led her to engage in impactful community work, including serving as President of Ohio State's Black Law Student Association. Currently, she volunteers as a restorative justice circle member with the Franklin County Juvenile Court to help expunge

juvenile misdemeanor records and is a Girl Scout leader to a Brownie-Junior troop.

This summer, Aleah will be working as a summer associate with Wilson Sonsini in Palo Alto, California as a Google Legal Summer Institute Scholar.

2023 Scholarship Recipients



Tyler Parker is a second-year law student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. In 2019, she received a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Kentucky. She later received her master's degree from American University. Over the past year, Tyler served as the Director of Career and Professional Development and the Pre-Law Director for the Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association ("NBLSA"), which oversees NBLSA chapters in fifteen states.

Beyond that, Tyler is a judicial extern at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio, a moot court travel team member, and a Staff

Editor for the Ohio State Technology Law Journal.

This summer, Tyler will join Taft Stettinius & Hollister as a returning summer associate. Finally, Tyler is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Capital University

1903 Law School

Dean Reynaldo Anaya Valencia,
Associate Dean Scott Anderson,
and the Faculty and Staff salute
the 2023 BLSA graduates and
extend congratulations to BLSA at
the 9th Annual JMLBA/BLSA Gala



The faculty and staff of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law congratulates the BLSA Class of 2023. We are thankful for your many contributions and proud of your impressive accomplishments. Good luck on your future endeavors.

Kendall Beard
Vanessa Boddy
Jasmine Corrie
Morgan Davis
Myranda Duhart
Chika Ezeonyebuchi
Makda Gebremichael
Alicia Herman
Tyler Hopkins
Jakini Ingram

Shynelle Kissi
Takell Lawson
Anthony Long
Taylor McGlashan
Michael Moon
Stephanie Payano
Madison Pemberton
Kasey Redding
Whitney Smelly
Lee Solomo

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Associations of Capital
University Law School and
The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law.



Stephanie Hanna
Aaron Granger

April 13, 2023

Dear Capital University 2023 BLSA Graduating Students:

On behalf of the students, staff, administrators, and faculty of Capital University Law School, I congratulate you as you near your law school graduation. The summer before you entered law school, you and the world experienced the senseless killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, among others. You also endured a pandemic and a year of online learning, followed by many more months of masked learning when we returned to in-person classes last year. Happily, during your time in school, Capital University Law School and the world celebrated the elevation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. These painful and joyful experiences served as profound lessons about the importance of seeking justice. Through it all, you persevered and achieved your graduation goal. We are proud of you and confident that your years of study, hard work, dedication and sacrifice will yield great results in the future.

In 1903, Mr. William Corn, the founder of what would ultimately become Capital University Law School, pronounced that “the new law school would provide accessible, legal education to all, regardless of race, sex, or financial status.” Since our founding over 100 years ago, therefore, Capital has embraced diversity of background and thought in all of its forms and we are committed to creating a culture of inclusion. We fully understand and appreciate that a diverse learning community leads not only to a more diverse legal profession but also helps ensure that all of our graduates are better prepared to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse and globalized society.

The Black Law Students Association plays an integral part in the life of Capital University Law School. BLSA helps the Law School fulfill its mission through programming that promotes cultural awareness and educates our community about legal issues affecting African Americans. Through their leadership and fellowship, BLSA students help make Capital more than a law school; they help make us a community. The Law School is honored to participate in tonight’s celebration and to support BLSA in its efforts to foster a supportive community for African American law students and to enhance the academic and cultural experience for all Capital law students.

I also wish to thank the members of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and our colleagues at The Ohio State University Michael E. Mortiz College of Law for their continued partnership in this event. Capital looks forward to continuing to work with them to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between our two schools and the African-American legal community.

Congratulations again to the graduating members of BLSA. Best wishes for success in all of your future endeavors, and we look forward to celebrating your successes in the years to come!

Sincerely,

Reynaldo Anaya Valencia
Dean and Professor of Law



To the Moritz College of Law Black Law Students Association
Class of 2023

The Moritz College of Law is honored to celebrate the Black Law Student Association's Class of 2023. Kendall Beard, Vanessa Boddy, Jasmine Corrie, Morgan Davis, Myranda Duhart, Chika Ezeonyebuchi, Makda Gebremichael, Alicia Herman, Tyler Hopkins, Jakini Ingram, Shynelle Kissi, Takell Lawson, Anthony Long, Taylor McGlashan, Michael Moon, Stephanie Payano, Madison Pemberton, Kasey Redding, Whitney Smelly, and Lee Solomon - we salute your hard work, your commitment to excellence, and your contributions to the Moritz College of Law.

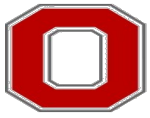
The Class of 2023's law school journey will always be noted for the profound challenges it endured – racialized violence and racial reckoning, the reversal and anticipated reversals of Supreme Court precedent that call into question fundamental concepts of individual rights, social justice, and stare decisis. You witnessed, as budding members of the legal profession, profound attacks on core democratic institutions at both the state and federal level. You began this journey during the pandemic - a time of isolation and separation. You end the law school journey witnessing a targeted and scripted effort to ensure that the youth of our nation are prevented from learning the historic and ongoing truth about the role of race and racism in our judicial system and in society at large.

These challenges were, and are, profound. Equally profound is the resilience, the camaraderie, the leadership, the compassion, and the commitment with which you pursued your law school career. As students, you spoke truth to power. You may not yet see the full fruits of your labor; be assured that your influence, your persistence, have set in motion systemic and substantial change at Moritz. You are, and we are confident that you will continue to be, the change agents we recognized in your law school applications. We are proud of you and all you have

accomplished while at Moritz. We admire who you are and anticipate who you will become. We are excited to see the difference you represent in our profession and in our society.

Continue to live your dreams and to fulfill your purpose. You are the change this Nation needs.

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff of the Moritz College of Law.
Well done.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW



Jasmine Corrie is a graduating third year law student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Jasmine received her B.S. in Graphic Design with minors in Product Design and Digital Media from Drexel University. She began her career in eLearning design which led to her interest in education. Prior to law school, she worked in various education roles, including in school administration, in the Greater Philadelphia area.

As a law student, Jasmine served as a Managing Editor on the Ohio State Law Journal, earning two editing awards. She also served as President of the Education Law Society and 3L Advisor for Moritz's Black Law Student Association. Additionally, Jasmine works as a hearing officer with the Franklin County Teen Court and as a research assistant. During her time at Moritz, Jasmine received three CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in Appellate Advocacy, Education Law, and the Justice for Children Clinic.

During her 1L summer, Jasmine worked with the education team at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus and spent her 2L summer in Washington, D.C. at the U.S.

Department of Education Office of the General Counsel. She is currently a legal extern in the Children and Families Section at the Supreme Court of Ohio. She plans to use her legal education to improve educational access and opportunities for early childhood and K-12 students.



Morgan Davis is a double Buckeye, having graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Sociology in 2020. She will graduate from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in May. During her time at Moritz, she served as the Treasurer of the Black Law Students Association and a Senator for Advancement and Development in the Student Bar Association. Morgan also served as The Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution's first Online Note Editor. During her law school career, Morgan was a summer associate at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, an extern at the Office of University Compliance and Integrity at Ohio State, and a judicial extern for Magistrate Judge Chelsey Vascura.

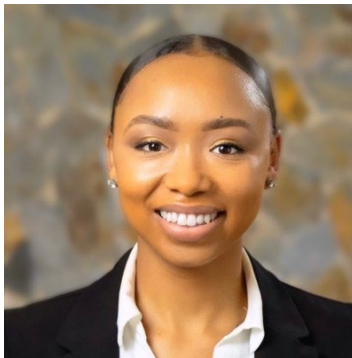
Prior to college, Morgan was a competitive baton twirler and competed at the international level. In undergrad, Morgan was the first Black woman to hold the position of Assistant Drum Major in the Ohio State Marching Band. In her free time, she enjoys coaching baton twirlers.

Following graduation, Morgan will take the Ohio Bar and join Vorys as an associate in Columbus.



Tyler Hopkins is a graduating 3rd year law student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. While at Ohio State, he was an active member of the Black Law Student Association and served as the Chief Articles Editor on the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution. Prior to attending Ohio State, he received his Bachelor's Degrees in History and Applied Politics from Bethel University, in Mishawaka, Indiana. While at Bethel, Tyler was the President of the Black Student Fellowship and worked at The University of Notre Dame in the Nonprofit and Professional Development Office.

Tyler was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio and plans on starting his career in Columbus as an Associate at Bailey Cavalieri. Tyler is a self-proclaimed "sneaker head" and enjoys spending time with his family in his free time.



Jakini Ingram received her B.A. in Political Science and African American Studies at The Ohio State University in 2020. During her time at Moritz College of Law, Jakini served as the Programming Chair for the BLSA chapter. She also served on the Moot Court Governing Board as Justice of Advocacy Skills, an extern for Judge Michael H. Watson for the Southern District of Ohio, and a student representative for Barbri. With the support of her faith, family, and friends, Jakini will take the Washington state bar exam and join Miller Nash LLP as an associate on their Real Estate team.



Anthony Long, II is a 3rd-year law student from Dayton, OH. He is a proud double-buckeye as he earned his BA in Political Science with two minors in the legal foundations of society and communication at The Ohio State University before attending OSU's Moritz College of Law. He currently serves as the Student Body President of the Inter-Professional Council, which governs over 3,300 professional students across the six professional colleges of Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Optometry. As Student Body President, Anthony focused on two goals or missions: creating opportunities for building community and engaging in advocacy. With these goals in mind, he spearheaded the annual Inter-Professional Drag Showcase and Fundraiser for the Kaleidoscope LGBTQ+ Youth Center. Additionally, he supported funding the charter and bringing Tri-Alpha – the national first-generation honor society – to the Ohio States campus.

Anthony's current passions include litigation and alternative dispute resolution. While at Moritz, he has served as a Research Assistant for Katrina Lee, Professor and Director of the Program on Dispute Resolution, and Nancy Rogers, former Ohio Attorney General and Professor Emeritus. Additionally, he serves the Columbus

community in Eviction Courts with Legal Aid in their Tennent Advocacy Program. After graduation, Anthony will join Thompson Hine in their Columbus Office, hoping to join either their business litigation or the labor and employment practice groups.



Michael Moon is a graduating third year law student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law from Akron, Ohio. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Criminal Justice from the University of Akron in 2015. Before law school, Michael worked as a Case Manager at the Department of Job and Family Services for four years. During his first year of law school, Michael served as the Student Bar Association 1L Representative on the Elections & Nominations Committee. In his second year, he was the Community Service Chair for the Black Law Student Executive Board.

For his 1L summer, Michael interned with the Department of Job and Family Services as an Adjudicator and was a Research Assistant for Professor Creola Johnson. During his 2L summer, he interned with Tucker Ellis, LLP, where he worked in the Transactional Department, drafting financing documents, conducting due diligence for a real estate acquisition, and creating internal materials on index rates. This past fall, Michael interned at the Entrepreneurial Business Law Clinic, where he assisted in the dissolution and formation of Ohio entities.

This semester, Michael interned with the Kayne Law Group, gaining extensive experience in drafting various transactional documents, including ECRs, Surrender and Notice Agreements, Delivery Date Agreements, MOLs, Intercreditor Agreements, and Subordinate Agreements. In his free time, Michael enjoys going to the movies, attending Broadway shows, spending time with friends and family, working out, and traveling.



Madison Pemberton is a graduating 3L from Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to attending The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Madison attended Collin College in Plano, Texas. She eventually transferred to the University of Texas at San Antonio where she earned her bachelor's degree in Global Affairs. As an undergraduate student, she served as Secretary of the American Sign Language Club, President of the moot court team, and Chair of Model United Nations.

During her time at Moritz College of Law, Madison was the Diversity Chair of the American Constitution Society, a note editor for the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution, a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee, president of Pro-Bono Research Group, and Parliamentarian of the Student Bar Association. Her favorite courses in law school were Employment Discrimination Law and the Immigration Clinic. Madison spent two summers as a summer associate in the Columbus office of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC. She was a 1L Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Scholar and spent part of her 1L summer interning at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company in Columbus, Ohio.

After sitting for the July 2023 bar exam, Madison will be joining Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC in Columbus. Although she misses the warm weather in Texas, she is ecstatic to call Ohio her new home.



Whitney Smelly is a graduating 3L from Youngstown, Ohio. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science with a minor in Engineering from The Ohio State University in 2017. During her time at Moritz, Whitney served on the executive board of the Black Law Student Association as the Professional Development Chairperson during her 2L year. During her second and third year, she was also an active member of the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution, the official law journal of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, where her student note was selected for publication.

She currently serves on the executive board as the Source Editor for the journal. She also had the opportunity during her 3L year to spend a semester abroad in Leiden, Netherlands at Leiden University studying international law. Whitney is a Judge Yvette McGee Brown Leadership Scholar and a Robert J. Watkins Scholar.

During her summers, Whitney worked as a summer associate at Jones Day, and will continue with the firm after graduation and completion of the Ohio Bar Exam.



Tiara Dowling is a graduating 3L at Capital University Law School from the great city of Philadelphia, PA. Prior to law school, Tiara graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with bachelor's degrees in women's studies, and criminology. Additionally, Tiara served a year with City Year Philadelphia as a teachers aid and mentor, as well as a cheerleading coaching, and literacy tutor. During law school Tiara has served as the Black Law Student Association's president and worked as a juvenile law clerk with the Franklin County Public Defender's Office.

Tiara's long term career goals are to work as an immigration attorney.



William LaGrone is 3L at Capital University Law School. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, William received his undergraduate degree from Denison University with a bachelor's in liberal arts with a major in Communication. While at Capital, William participated in Capital's Black Law Student Association all three years and where he currently serves as the chapter Treasurer.

William is a Themis Bar Prep representative, a Fellow for the Law and Leadership Institute, a David D. White Scholarship recipient, and a student panelist for Admitted Students Day. William has had the opportunity, during his tenure at Capital, to work as a Law Clerk for Geiser, Bowman, and McLafferty; a Legal Intern for CPS Inc; and as a Legal Extern for Justice Stewart at the Supreme Court of Ohio. William is currently a member of John Mercer Langston Bar Association, the Ohio chapter of the NAACP, American Bar Association, and the Columbus Bar Association.

William is currently on the Dean's List and looks forward to sitting for the bar in July and success thereafter.

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