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ALLIANCE OF BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS NEWSLETTER

Message From the President

Greetings Alliance Members,

It has been my pleasure to serve the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys (the "Alliance") as President this 2010-2011 term. In addition to carrying on the rich legacy of our organization, during my tenure it has been my goal to continue to pursue activities, initiatives and endeavors that focus on the interests and development of African-American women attorneys within the State of Maryland. During the first half of the 2010-2011 term, the Alliance's Executive Board has shown its commitment to providing seminars, social networking events and community service endeavors of interest to our membership. The Alliance has also encouraged our membership to play an active role in the legal community as well as in the community at-large.

Our Judicial Committee, chaired by Monifa B. Coaxum, Esq., also conducted judicial interviews for candidates interested in the Court of Special Appeals judgeships. In addition, members of the Alliance's Executive Board attended the investitures of Judge Michele D. Hotten, the first African-American woman appointed to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals; Judge Kendra Y. Ausby and Judge Yolanda A. Tanner, both appointed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; and Judge Shannon E. Avery and Judge Karen C. Friedman, both appointed to the District Court for Baltimore City.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will read about the Alliance's events during the first half of the 2010-2011 term, such as, the New Admittees Reception, the Career Panel – From the Recruiter's Perspective, the Happy Hour at Aloft, our participation in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, and our Annual Tea hosted by Judge Marcella A. Holland.

Six more months remain in this term and the Executive Board has quite a few events planned. It is our duty to continue the vision of our founders and support the interests of our community. We need you and your support. In order to provide you, "our members", with various career panels, seminars, social gatherings, etc., we need our members to participate. I would encourage each of our members to come out to at least one event. Our organization is only as effective as our membership.

Our history requires it, Our legacy demands it.

Savonne L. Ferguson, Esquire

2010-2011 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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New Admittees Reception

On July 29, 2010 the Alliance, along with Monumental City Bar Foundation and the MSBA YLS Diversity Initiatives Committee, once again hosted the New Admittees Reception at the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse for those individuals that were admitted to the Maryland State Bar in December 2009 and June 2010. In addition to celebrating the newly admitted attorneys, we also recognized the 2010 newly appointed Judges to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. Several Baltimore City Circuit Court Judges were in attendance, along with other members of the Baltimore legal community. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals provided opening remarks and welcomed the new admittees to the Bar. Our guest speaker for the evening, David S. Coaxum, Esq. a Greenbelt based civil, family and business law attorney, spoke to the new admittees about their future destinies as leaders in the legal profession. In addition, Judge Arrie W. Davis addressed the attendees and provided the new admittees with insightful advice with respect to their responsibilities as attorneys in the State of Maryland. Judge Michele D. Hotten, also spoke to the attendees and shared with us her enthusiasm as she embarked upon her newest endeavor in the Maryland judiciary. Thereafter, the new admittees were given the opportunity to network and mingle with our guest speakers and other attorneys/judges that attended the event. The Alliance truly appreciates Chief Judge Bell, Judge Davis, Judge Hotten and Mr. Coaxum for taking time out of their busy schedules to provide the new admittees with such candid and encouraging words of advice. The Alliance looks forward to hosting the New Admittees Reception again in 2011!!

Alliance Community Service

The Alliance partnered with the University of Baltimore School of Law's Black Law Student Association ("UB-BLSA team") to raise money and participate in the American Heart Association's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. On the chilly fall morning of October 24, 2010, members of the Alliance and UB-BLSA gathered on the fields of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg YMCA with hundreds of others to honor breast cancer survivors, remember those that have been lost to cancer, and raise awareness to help end this disease. At approximately 9:00 a.m., walkers flooded 33rd Street and Windmere Avenue to embark on a three mile walk, which included a stroll around Lake Montebello. Fun was had by all for such a worthwhile cause. After the walk, the Alliance members had brunch at Paper Moon. It was a very enjoyable community service endeavor. We would like to thank the University of Baltimore School of Law's Black Law Student Association for allowing us to partner with them on this event and we hope to collaborate with them on other community service initiatives.

Career Panel: From the Recruiters Perspective

On November 16, 2010, the Alliance held its career panel “From the Recruiters Perspective” at the law firm of Venable LLP. The decision to host such a panel discussion was sparked by a desire to provide attorneys with insightful information to facilitate their search for employment and assist them in navigating through the recruitment process.

We were fortunate to have as panelists, Ellen Feldman, Special Counsel; Antonio Moore, Moore Solutions Group, LLC; and Astrid Schmidt, Esq., Director for Law Career Development, University of Baltimore School of Law. Thanks to this dynamic group of recruiters, the panel discussion was a huge success.

As part of the discussion, the panelists spoke about what recruiters and employers are looking for in applicants and trends that are emerging in legal employment. In addition, the panelists addressed various questions from the attendees and discussed employment opportunities that are currently available and whether there is any area, legal or geographical, that is emerging with employment opportunities.

Happy Hour at the Aloft Hotel was a Success!!!

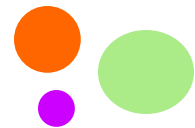
The Alliance held a happy hour at Aloft Hotel on September 23, 2010 to bring members and other professionals in the area together. Members enjoyed cocktails with members of the National Association of Black Accountants and members of 100 Black Men. This was a fun filled evening that provided a great opportunity for several 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. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Mary Parks, Senior Sales Manager of Aloft Hotel, for assisting us in hosting such a successful event.

Annual Holiday Tea



On Sunday December 5, 2010, the Alliance held its 15th Annual Holiday Tea. The event was hosted by and held in the home of the Honorable Marcella A. Holland, Chief Administrative Judge of the Baltimore City Circuit Court. The event was a great success, with a large number of law students, attorneys and judges in attendance. The attendees enjoyed fellowship with each other, while sipping tea and sharing the delectable appetizers and desserts they prepared for each other at this pot luck affair.

In addition, Alliance members contributed various items for donation to the House of Ruth. The House of Ruth truly appreciated the generous donations from the attendees of the Holiday Tea. The Alliance extends a very special thanks to Judge Holland for her warm hospitality.



Alliance About Town

August 9-13, 2010, members of the Alliance attended the 2010 National Bar Association's Annual Conference held in New Orleans. During the conference, Judge Marcella A. Holland was also installed as the 2010-2011 Chair of the National Bar Association Judicial Council. In addition to participating in various CLEs, seminars and social networking events during the conference, members of the Alliance assisted with the kick-off reception for the 2011 conference to be held in Baltimore.

On Thursday, October 14, 2010, members of the Alliance attended the 2010 swearing-in ceremony of Monumental City Bar Association's 2010-2011 Executive Board.

On Friday, October 29, 2010, the President of the Alliance served as a panelist for the plenary session on Effective Programming at the MSBA's 51st Annual Conference of Bar Presidents.

On Friday, November 5, 2010, members of the Alliance joined each other for the showing of Tyler Perry's FOR COLORED GIRLS at The Senator Theater.

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, members of the Alliance attended the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland's 20th Anniversary Benefit Gala "A Gallery of the Stars" held at The Cylburn Arboretum Vollmer Center. During the event, attorneys of various local and specialty bar associations were honored and recognized for their commitment to providing legal services on a pro bono basis. Marilyn Pierre, Esq., the Alliance's 2010 Pro Bono star, was among the honorees.

On Thursday, December 9, 2010, members of the Alliance enjoyed a Private Holiday Shopping Event at Baltimore Clayworks. Proceeds from the event will benefit the upcoming "Transcending Integration Exhibition", an exhibition of African-American contemporary ceramics (March 5-April 16, 2011).

On Friday, December 17, 2010, members of the Alliance attended Monumental City Bar Association's holiday gala held at Teavolve in downtown Baltimore. Members networked with various attorneys and judges, and donated unwrapped toys to Monumental's holiday toy drive.

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

Events on the Horizon

The 2011 National Bar Association's annual conference will be held in Baltimore. A host committee comprised of area attorneys has been working with the National Bar Association's conference planning committee to plan various events for the convention. The 2011 annual conference will be held from July 31 – August 4, 2011. Please go to www.nationalbar.org to register and for more information regarding the upcoming conference.

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

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/ABWA_APPLICATION.pdf

2010 Pro Bono and IOLTA Reporting

All lawyers licensed to practice law in the State of Maryland are required to fulfill two important reporting requirements each year. Both the Pro Bono Report and the IOLTA Report will be due no later than February 15, 2011. A single mailing will be sent to Maryland lawyers no later than January 10, 2011, which will include the filing forms to complete and return by mail as well as instructions to file both reports over the Internet. Online filing is strongly encouraged.

A Few Upcoming Alliance Events

- **January 15, 2011** - The Alliance Hosts Brunch for the University of Baltimore School of Law's 2011 Baltimore Scholars
- **January 19, 2011** - The Alliance and Monumental City Bar Association present "So You Want to Be A Judge": A Panel/Seminar on the Application, Interview and Recommendation Process for Judicial Appointments in the State of Maryland.
- **February 12, 2011** - The Alliance Celebrates Black History Month through Community Service with Young Women in Action
- **May 2011** - The Alliance's 2011 Golf Event