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Black Law Students Association

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Donning of the Kente

Seton Hall Law Black Law Students Association

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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Black Law Students Association

Donning of the Kente Ceremony

*A Celebration of
Accomplishments*

Wednesday May 23, 2018

Ceremony Program

OPENING REMARKS

Deborah Edwards
*Executive Director, Diversity
& Inclusion*

DEAN'S WELCOME & KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

Kathleen Boozang
Dean & Professor of Law

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Julien Neals
*County Counsel for Bergen
County*

BACKGROUND OF THE KENTE CLOTH

Najarian Peters
*Assistant Professor, Institute for
Privacy Protection*

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES & GIFTS

Deborah Edwards &
Najarian Peters

SPECIAL HONOREE PRESENTATION

Stacey Torres & Lauren
Jones
*2017-2018 BLSA President &
Vice President*

INTRODUCTION OF 2018-2019 BLSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Stacey Torres
BLSA President, 2017-2018

BENEDICTION

Tiffany Williams
*Deputy Assistant Secretary of
State*

JULIEN X. NEALS



Julien Xavier Neals is the current County Counsel for Bergen County in New Jersey. Mr. Neals has also served as Corporation Counsel, Chief Judge of the Municipal Court, and Business Administrator, for the City of Newark -- all appointed positions by former Mayor Cory Booker. From his time practicing corporate, governmental, employment and civil rights litigation as a partner attorney at Chasan, Leyner & Lamparello, to his seat in Newark Municipal Court, Mr. Neals' experience in and out of the courtroom, led to his nomination for the United States District Court by President Barack Obama in 2015.

Mr. Neals is a member of both New York and New Jersey bars and numerous bar associations. He implemented the Community Court program which, served to improve the Newark Municipal Court's case backlog. Mr. Neals has received countless awards for his impactful work as an attorney and has been regarded a "distinguished public servant" by President Obama. His service and dedication to the law are examples for all to follow. We are honored to have Mr. Neals deliver the keynote address this evening.

Dalvin Adebisi

Dalvin Adebisi graduated magna cum laude from Kean University with a B.A. in Economics and Business Management. Prior to starting college in his native Nigeria, Dalvin was diagnosed with the degenerative eye disease glaucoma. Dalvin describes this time in



his life as: "The most challenging period of my life. My dreams were in limbo. I was in a state of 'purgatory,' experiencing a wide range of emotions, debating whether to live or crawl up and die. But with the support of my family, I chose to live. And not just live—but to be the best person I could be with my new-found reality."

As a law student, Dalvin represented indigent clients as a student attorney in the Center for Social Justice and served as Treasurer and SBA Representative for the Black Law Student Association. Dalvin was also a member of the Student Bar Association's Diversity Committee and Academic and Curriculum committee. Dalvin was very active within the law school community, participating in several initiatives to increase diversity amongst the law school's academic and student body. He was featured on the law school's diversity page as one of its student ambassadors.

Dalvin also served as a research assistant to the law school's lawyering program and has held internships with the Center for Social Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Disability Rights of New Jersey, and a D.C based non-profit organization.

Dalvin intends to use the practice of law to fight for the downtrodden, and to right some of the grave injustices, biases, and prejudices found in our society.

Dalvin will be serving as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable William A. Daniel, in the Criminal Division at Union County Superior Court.

Yolanda Bromfield

Yolanda obtained a B.S. from Hartwick College and an M.A. from Columbia University. Prior to attending law school, Yolanda was a math teacher at Paul Robeson Charter School in Trenton, New Jersey. Yolanda also served as a corporate compliance fellow at Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, New

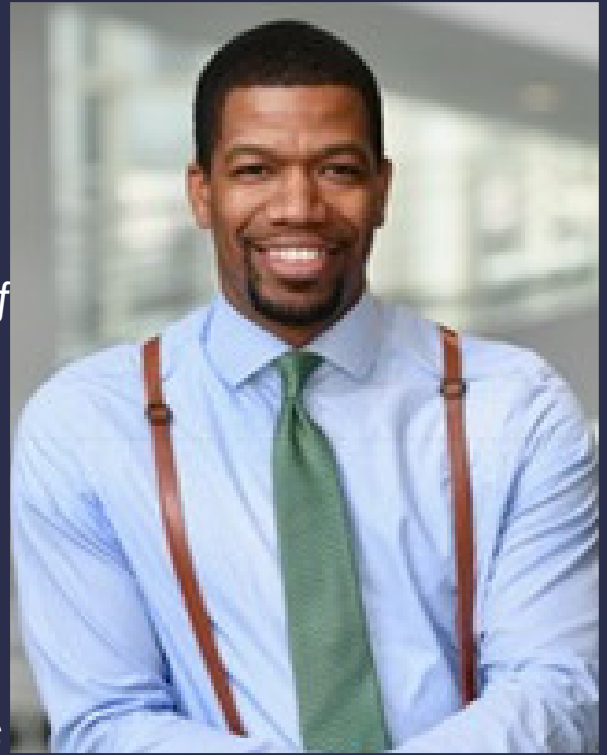


Jersey. While at J & J, Yolanda worked on various projects involving clinical trials over social media and the privacy and FDA implications that arise from engaging patients over the internet; as well as research on health care provider contracts. Yolanda also worked as a summer associate at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP in Newark, New Jersey. At McElroy, Yolanda worked in the practice areas of employment law, health law, commercial litigation, and construction law. Yolanda was an inaugural student fellow in the Institute for Privacy Protection. She was featured in the Washington Post and the CBS This Morning show for her work with elementary school students. Yolanda served as an Articles Editor for the Seton Hall Legislative Journal. Yolanda also served as BLSA's Attorney General. Yolanda will be serving as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Yolanda Ciccone, A.J.S.C. in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset County. After her clerkship, Yolanda will be joining Gibbons P.C. in Newark as an associate.

Yolanda would like to thank her family, professors, and friends for their love and support!

Jason Castle

Jason Castle is a 2018 Juris Doctor candidate and currently serves as a Councilman for the Township of Teaneck, NJ. While a member of the Law School community, Jason has been recognized for several achievements, including the Student Bar Association's "Hazard Zet Forward" Leadership Award. He also served as President of the Student Bar Association, President of the Student Veterans Association and President of the Black Law Students Association. Jason has been recognized as a Seton Hall University School of Law Leadership Fellow, and recipient of the Leadership Fellows Program "Giver of Hope" award. Jason served as a Student Advocate in the Seton Hall Law School Conflict Management program, representing pro se litigants at court-ordered mediations and settlement conferences in The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the District of New Jersey respectively.



Jason is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and served as an 0311-Infantry Rifleman during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He began his military service at Marine Barracks 8th & I in Washington D.C. on Presidential detail where he carried out orders at the White House, the Pentagon, and honored fallen service members during their military funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. Jason was a member of the distinguished Silent Drill Platoon whose orders included honoring the President, foreign dignitaries, and welcoming Heads of State. Jason was one of few select Marines to honor the late President Ronald Reagan during his Presidential funeral procession in 2004. Jason has been married for the last 10 years to his loving wife Tara and the couple are blessed with three beautiful children London (9), Madison (7), and Jason "JT" (4). Donning Jason will be his mother, Flossie Y. Fair Boyd.

"There is an enduring tenderness in the love of a mother to a son that transcends all other affections of the heart. My mother has been as relentless as the tides, she didn't just drive me to practice she drove me to greatness."

Ashley Fletcher

Ashley Fletcher is graduating from Seton Hall University School of Law with a concentration in health law. While in law school, she interned in various in-house roles, including several pharmaceutical companies, a health care insurer, and most recently a technology start-up focused on biometrics.



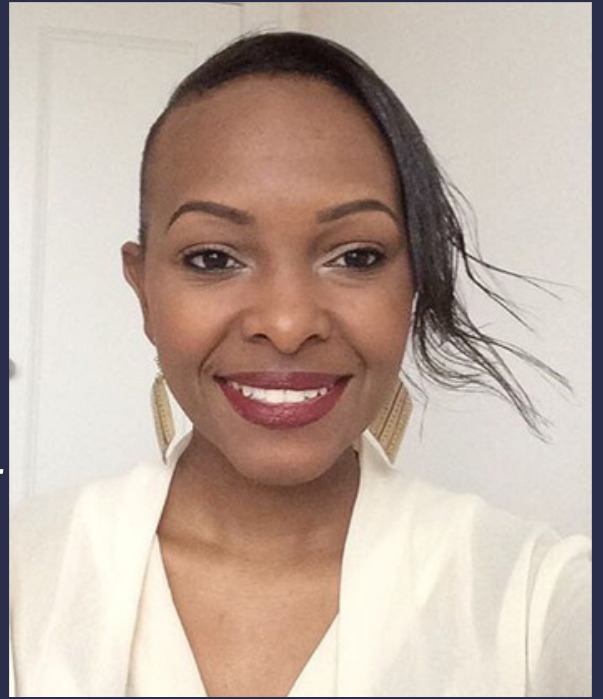
Ashley completed her undergraduate degree in English at Emory University. Post-graduation from Emory she completed her Master's in Health Advocacy at Sarah Lawrence College. After completing her Master's program, Ashley worked in the field of aging on both policy oriented issues, and directly with Medicare beneficiaries.

This August, Ashley will begin a year-long judicial clerkship.

Thank you to both of my parents, my fiancé, my family and friends that have supported me in my law school journey!

Joanita Gakami

Joanita Gakami's journey to Seton Hall Law began in a remote Kenyan village and included stops at Cape Cod Community College and Smith College. A daughter of the Maasai, Joanita is the first woman in her village to attain a law degree and study abroad. Less than 20 percent of Maasai women in Kenya are enrolled in school.



Typically, Maasai girls are forced to undergo female genital mutilation between the ages of 11 to 13 and soon afterward married to a man chosen by their fathers in exchange for cattle and cash. They are never allowed to divorce, except in the most egregious cases of physical abuse, and will never be allowed to marry again. The Maasai do not educate girls because of a belief that the biological family does not benefit from educating a daughter, since the girl becomes a member of her husband's family when she marries, and they will reap the benefits. Joanita hopes to dispel this myth. While at Smith she founded a girls' Learning and Mentorship Center in her village. The center provides Maasai girls with the academic tools and support they need to improve their livelihoods as well as empower those around them.

A village girl who came to the U.S. with a dream to study the law, she thanks all the incredible women who have supported her journey so far. Donning Joanita will be Professor Paula Franzese.

Lauren Jones



Lauren Jones grew up in East Orange, New Jersey, with lifelong dreams of being a lawyer. With those dreams, she attended St. John's University, Queens, NY, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies, minoring in Business Administration. During her time at St. John's, she participated in the Ronald H. Brown Law School Preparatory Program, which prepares students of color for the challenges of law school and for the law school application process. As a Ron Brown Scholar, Lauren interned for the Honorable Manuel Mendez in New York County and the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. After completing her undergraduate studies, Lauren matriculated to Seton Hall Law. During her time at Seton Hall, Lauren worked in various areas of the law. She has done policy work at the New Jersey Law Revision Commission, served in the Trusts and Estates Department of Chiesa, Shahinian, and Giantomasi, P.C., and participated in the Center for Social Justice's Equal Justice Clinic advocating for prison reform. She also served as Secretary and Vice-President of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). In August, Lauren will begin working as a judicial clerk for the Honorable John Hely in Union County Superior Court.

Lauren would like to thank her parents, Nancy and Brad, for their unconditional love, support, and motivation. Without them, none of this would have been possible.

Logaina Omer

Logaina (Gina) Omer is a January 2018 graduate, who recently passed the February 2018 NJ Bar Exam. She will be pursuing a career in corporate law, with a focus on compliance and privacy.

Throughout her years at Seton Hall Law, she was the recipient of the W.E. Garland Memorial Scholarship, successfully completed the Healthcare Compliance Certification Program, and was co-president of the Black Law Student Association.

Gina is a first-generation child of Egyptian immigrants and credits her success entirely to the support of her family.



She wants to thank her brother, Ahmed, for being the most supportive roommate during her years in law school; her sister, Esraa, for always being a phone call away to help her through her struggles; her youngest sister, Nouran, for being the funniest, most down-to-earth person who brightened up her days; and her grandma, Anna, for her constant and devoted prayers.

Most importantly, Gina would like to send a special message to her parents: "Mom, Dad - you have both been my constant motivation to be the best I can be. You always told me to do whatever it was that made me happy, and having that support meant more to me than you'll ever know. I love you both so very much for being the light that guided me on my journey thus far. This degree is just as much yours as it is mine because everything I am today, I am because of you."

Anthony Osei



Anthony Osei was born in Ghana and moved to Florida as a child, where he graduated cum laude, from Florida State University with a double major in Criminology and Political Science. At Seton Hall Law, Anthony was elected senator for the Student Bar Association (SBA) where he chaired a committee

that was instrumental in revamping the SBA election procedures.

Additionally, Anthony served two terms on the Northeast Regional Board of the National Black Law Students Association. Prior to graduating, Anthony co-authored the Bloomfield Racial Profiling Report which was published by the Law School's Center for Policy and Research. Anthony also represented pro se litigants in employment discrimination matters in both the Southern District of New York and the District of New Jersey. Anthony was awarded a 2017 Peggy Browning Fellowship for his commitment to advancing workers' rights. Anthony was one of 80 law students selected nationwide, with over 350 applicants competing for the honor. The New Jersey Legislature recognized Anthony for this achievement by presenting him with a joint legislative resolution. Anthony accepted a post-graduate position as a Labor Relations Hearing Officer for the Department of Hearings and Investigations at the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro-North Railroad). Anthony joins a team of three hearing officers who are responsible for hearing and adjudicating approximately 800 disciplinary cases a year, covering 17 unions, and over 6,500 employees.

Anthony thanks his mom Felicia, his aunts Juliana & Kate, and all of his family and friends for their love and support.

Capri Reid

Capri Reid was born in the Bronx, New York and moved to Queens, where she graduated from St. Johns University. At Seton Hall Law she was the treasurer of BLSA and the Health Law Forum. Capri was awarded the 2016 Johnson & Johnson Corporate Compliance fellowship, where she assisted the compliance and legal departments with overseeing the healthcare and anti-corruption program. Capri served as Chair of the Honor Council overseeing a committee of 8 members, that provided a confidential reporting and hearing process for students suspected of violating the law school's Honor Code. She was also a member of the Interscholastic Mock Trial Board. Notably, Capri was a regional finalist in the American Association for Justice mock trial competition. Capri was a research fellow for the Center for Policy and Research where she co-authored a report titled "the Racial Profiling Project," detailing discriminatory practices within the Bloomfield Police Department. She also served as a student advocate in the juvenile justice clinic where she represented juvenile defendants in Newark. In May 2018, Capri completed an internship with Judge Patty Shwartz in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit where she worked on criminal, health fraud, employment discrimination, and bankruptcy federal appellate cases. Capri accepted a post-graduate position as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County, where she will prosecute criminal offenses in a jurisdiction governing over 1.4 million people.



She thanks her Mom Cheryl, her Dad Anthony, and her sister Whitney for their love and support.

Fadja Tassy

Fadja Tassy attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she received a B.S. in Legal Studies with a minor in Philosophy. As an undergraduate student, Tassy served as president of the Mock Trial Association and participated in the Pre-Law Institute, an intensive law school preparatory and



and Honors program. Fadja's passion to become a lawyer was influenced by her first-hand experiences and desire to empower victims of domestic abuse and at-risk youth. During her time at Seton Hall Law, she served as a research fellow and conducted a study on racial profiling in traffic stops. As part of her work in the Equal Justice Clinic, she conducted trainings to advise at-risk youth of their legal rights and duties, and to mitigate their potential contact with the criminal justice system. Additionally, Fadja served as student representative and vice-president of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), co-chair of the Esther Empowerment Society, senator for the Student Bar Association, and chair of the Diversity Committee. She also served as a member of the Interscholastic Mock Trial Board, where she advanced to the semi-final rounds in three trial advocacy competitions. Fadja's prospective practice areas are family law and criminal justice reform. In September, she will clerk for the Honorable Anne Marie Bramnick of the Superior Court of New Jersey—Family Division.

Fadja would like to thank the family, friends, faculty, deans, and administrators who have helped her throughout her law school career and BLSA for providing a supportive network and platform for diversity and inclusion.

Congrats!

THURGOOD MARSHALL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION TEAM

Seton Hall BLSA would like to congratulate and thank the TMMTC team for its hard work and dedication, leading to a first place award in the Northeast BLSA Competition.

Special thanks to Coach Maurice Sayeh for his continued support in this endeavor!



2018-2019 BLSA Executive Board

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*Congratulations & Good
Luck!*

A SPECIAL FAREWELL NOTE:

I want to preface this message by first thanking the faculty and staff that have helped BLSA become so successful this year. To Professor Solangel Maldonado for all of her support, constructive criticism, and the time she has contributed to BLSA in addition to all of her other professional obligations. To Dean Cascarano for allowing me to barge



in her office at any moment so she could help me straighten out my thoughts and plan successful events at the law school and keep my life on track in general. To Asst. Professor Najarian Peters and Executive Director Deborah Edwards for helping BLSA grow and reach its full potential, even outside of school events. To Dean Boozang for her continued support of the organization and her help in expanding BLSA's success outside of the law school. To Mr. Julien Neals, your presence alone is beyond appreciated, and we cannot thank you enough for being here today to enlighten our graduates as they enter the workforce. And to my right-hand partner in success, and my VP Lauren Jones. You have helped me tremendously in ways you cannot imagine, even if it was just answering my text messages at 2AM.

This has been the best year of my law school career. I have gained extraordinary friendships, unforgettable experiences, and with the support of my amazing executive board, we were able to set a new bar for Seton Hall BLSA. Going into my last semester at the law school, it will be hard to separate myself from this amazing organization, but I hope to be--and am excited to be--able to follow in the footsteps of my constituents, and with God's grace and mercy I will be an invitee next year. And for that I am very thankful.

Congratulations to the new executive board. I entrust you with "my baby," and it is now your "baby", and I hope you treat this organization as such, and you nurture it to grow with each event, meeting, outing, convention, etc.

Congratulations to the graduates and their families. I am so proud of the lawyers you have become and I am blessed to have crossed your paths. This day is about you, tomorrow's ceremony is about you, but that degree is something special you will share with your family until the end of your careers. So to the families, I congratulate you as well, You have made it through three, or four, years of the 3 B's - budgets, books, and boo-hoos!

Good luck to you all on your future endeavors! Let's Celebrate!

- Stace.

BLSA President 2017-2018

Thank you for coming!

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the invitees, law school staff and faculty for celebrating with our graduates. Congratulations again, graduates!

**2017-2018 BLSA
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

