

*37th Annual Awards &
Scholarship Dinner*

*Celebration of Women
The Evolution of our Leaders*

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

November 9, 2013



You are a leader.

You dare to lead when others follow. You make a true difference in the lives of those you touch. You light the way by your shining example. For your steady guidance, we salute you.

Union Bank is proud to sponsor the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association's 37th Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner.

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Earl B. Gilliam



Earl B. Gilliam received his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State College in 1953 and his Juris Doctor degree from Hastings College of Law in San Francisco in 1957. That same year he began his legal career as a deputy district attorney in the San Diego District Attorney Office.

In 1961, he went into private practice and continued in that capacity for two years before becoming a San Diego Municipal Court judge in 1963. He subsequently became the first African American to serve as a San Diego County Superior Court judge in 1975. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of California. In 1993, he attained senior status at the United States District Court. Judge Gilliam was the first African American U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

In addition to serving as a judicial officer, Judge Gilliam also worked as a law professor at Western State College of Law, an instructor in Urban and Rural Studies at the University of California at San Diego and as a guest lecturer at the United States International University.

Due to his many contributions to the legal community and community at large, Judge Gilliam was honored with more than a dozen awards during his legal career, including, but not limited to, the following: San Diego Chamber of Commerce Young Man of the Year (1965); San Diego Citizen of the Year (1973 and 1994); San Diego Good Guy Award (1974); Boy's Club of San Diego Golden Man of the Year (1981); San Diego Trial Lawyers Association Trial Judge of the Year (1981); and a place on the San Diego High School Wall of Honor (1994).

Judge Gilliam's community and civic activities included participation in the following organizations: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Founding Member); Founder and Organizer, Black Jewish Dialogue; Chairman, Legal Committee of the NAACP; Board of Directors and Vice President YMCA; and Advisory Committees for the Board of Education on Equal Education. Additionally, Judge Gilliam served as a member of the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including the following: Villa View Hospital Foundation; San Diego Kind Corporation; Burn Institute; San Diego State University Alumni Association; Salvation Army; YMCA; Urban League; Navy League; the Burn Institute of San Diego; and 200th Anniversary of the City of San Diego. Judge Gilliam was also awarded the National Bar Association's Wiley A. Branton Award (1997) and the California Association of Black Lawyers' Judicial Pioneer Award (1998). Judge Gilliam was also inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame, which honors lawyers who have been licensed to practice for forty years or more and have made a significant contribution to the cause of justice.

In 1982, the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County (initially founded in 1976) changed its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association in honor of Judge Gilliam. Today, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association represents the interests of African American lawyers, judges, law professors and students throughout San Diego County and strives to honor Judge Gilliam's legacy of community service.

In Their Own Words

"Honoring inspirational women - members and friends of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association"

The two women who have, and still, inspire me, are Vickie Turner and Janice Brown. These women had the self confidence and courage to start their own law firms and build them into successful enterprises. They are role models for women and men alike.

Douglas A. Oden Esq.

My mother, Mrs. Bennye Kate Seraile, a 2nd generation educator, has inspired many with her story of breaking the educational color barrier in Oceanside, California. In 1956, she became the first African-American to sign a teaching contract in the Oceanside School District, breaking the color barrier. She has been the inspiration for my commitment to the profession of education and the inspiration for so many others.

**Dr. Helen V. Griffith,
Executive Director, e3 Civic High**

Judge Elizabeth A. Riggs (Ret), has been an inspiration to me personally and professionally. She raised three extraordinary sons while pursuing a successful legal career. Known for being fair to all who appeared before her, she also took time mentor young attorneys and to offer encouragement and support. I stand on the shoulders of the Honorable Elizabeth A. Riggs and am eternally grateful for her legacy of excellence.

The Honorable Randa Trapp, San Diego Superior Court

There are two women that have inspired me in my legal career. First, ironically is a deputy public defender, Lei-chala Wilson. Early in my career Lei-chala welcomed me into the bar association and encouraged me to join several others including the California Black Lawyers Association, Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, State Bar of California Criminal Law Section and the National Bar Association. I have met so many wonderful people and accomplished so many great community projects because of her commitment and passion for San Diego. The second woman is the Honorable Valleria Johnson. She's been an incredible mentor and friend, pushing, dragging and inspiring me to keep moving forward professionally and personally.

**Deputy District Attorney
Sherry Thompson-Taylor. Esq.**

I am inspired by Eva J. Paterson (Equal Justice Society - EJS), Barbara Arnwine (Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law - LCCR) and Connie Rice (The Advancement Project) for working on legal issues that have an impact on our community. These are three women who take no prisoners, and smile while they are doing it, as they advance civil rights for all. I look up to all three women and hope one day I can be like them.

**Lei-Chala I. Wilson, Esq.
EBGBA Past President, 1998 ,2006, 2007**

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Letters of Collaboration

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



**INTERIM MAYOR
TODD GLORIA**

November 9, 2013

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
P.O. Box 124655
San Diego, CA 92112


Dear Members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association,

I am honored to join you for your annual dinner with the theme "Celebration of Women." This is very fitting for today's time, as we are surrounded by many strong women who carry the torch for all of us.

I commend the Earl B Gilliam Bar Association and its commitment to community service. You are prized and respected individuals who have so much to offer our community, and I encourage you to continue your dedication. Through my years of public service, I have seen the value of collaboration, and I encourage your participation in civic dialogues to ensure the viewpoints and experiences of all San Diegans are reflected in our progress.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the City of San Diego.

Sincerely,


TODD GLORIA
Interim Mayor

Letters of Collaboration



JAN I. GOLDSMITH
SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY

October 28, 2013

Dear Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Members:

I am excited to participate in your 37th Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner. Your organization's strong history of service to the legal community and to the larger San Diego community is a cornerstone of the organization about which every member can be proud. Reflecting on the very difficult decisions that lawyers must make to juggle personal lives, urgent client matters and service to the community, I am certain that San Diego is better off having your organization as an active part of our region.

Of the many challenges facing my office, from budget cuts to difficult decisions about cases to evaluating laws that help shape the future of San Diego, I am pleased that we continue to have a strong Code Enforcement Unit despite significant budget cuts. Our Code Enforcement Unit is a cornerstone of the City of San Diego's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life of all its residents. The Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) is an essential component of our strategy to enhance the lives of residents and enable them to enjoy the fruits of hard work that typifies San Diegans. DART provides a clear means so that our city can get rid of drug dens and public nuisances that infect communities and compromise quality of life.

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and its members have a tremendous opportunity to help our DART team and neighbors in our communities by providing legal services in fields as diverse as probate, immigration and real estate law to help property owners better understand their legal obligations. There are also important opportunities to help everyday San Diegans understand what vital information our office and the San Diego Police Department needs to enforce the laws that get rid of trash-filled, dangerous nuisances and enable hard-working citizens, retirees and our children to enjoy the community. My Deputy City Attorney, Gabriela Brannan, is available to attend neighborhood meetings, to speak with Earl B. Gilliam Bar attorneys or in other ways that can help our shared goal of making sure every San Diego community is safe and inviting for residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan I. Goldsmith", written over a large, stylized flourish that loops around the name.

JAN I. GOLDSMITH
City Attorney

JG:cbs

Letters of Collaboration



JAN I. GOLDSMITH
SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY

October 28, 2013

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan I. Goldsmith", written over a large, stylized flourish that loops around the text below.

JAN I. GOLDSMITH
City Attorney

JG:cbs

Letters of Collaboration



November 9, 2013

Dear Members and Friends of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association:

It is my honor to welcome you to the 37th Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner "*Celebrating Women: The Evolution of Our Leadership*". Tonight's theme is significant and I am proud to be a part of the evolution. I am proud to serve not only as the first African American woman elected to the San Diego City Council, but also the first woman to represent the Fourth District.

Since its inception in 1976, the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association (EBGBA) has been dedicated to advancing African Americans in the legal profession, promoting and advocating the interest of the African American community, and preserving its culture, heritage and diversity. EBGBA has provided scholarships for law students, mentorship opportunities for students and new attorneys, continuing legal education for more experienced lawyers, and services to the public. It is with great pride that I commend the hard work and success of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association's many members who have served and gone on to tremendous success in law and in life.

I look forward to collaborating with the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association to advance our community, provide quality access to the legal system, education and other essential community leadership roles.

I congratulate you on your successes this year and thank you for your service and dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Cole

Myrtle Cole
Councilmember, Fourth District
San Diego City Council

Letters of Collaboration



Board of Directors of the Earl B Gilliam Bar Association
c/o Earl B Gilliam Bar Association
PO Box 124655
San Diego, CA 92112-4655

Dear Members of the Board of Directors

The Urban Collaboration Project is a community building support and advocacy organization located in San Diego, California. Founded in 2012. The Project works with stakeholders in low-income communities, community-based organizations, private and public entities to expand services for residents, increase "Civil" civic engagement, increase safety, and improve community health.

Thus far we have the following neighborhoods and organizations participating: Emerald Hills, Oak Park, Webster, Lincoln Park, El Rey Mobile Park, NW Valencia Park, Southcrest, Mountain View, Skyline Hills, Mt. Hope, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, San Diego City Attorney, SDPD, DART, San Ysidro Health Care, Family Health Center, Black Health Association, Meals for Hunger, City Council D4, UCSD Health, SAY San Diego, San Diego Gang Commission.

The services we offer will increase community capacities to conduct outreach and organizing; improve and expand programs and services through the use of data and advocacy; and engage in planning and implementing community improvement. Each component/Service of the organization will include but not limited to Safety, Civil Civic Engagement, Health and Wellness for the community, Neighborhood Outreach,.

Major projects thus far have included;
50% crime reduction in a historically crime-ridden area, (NW Valencia Park)
Community Mural which highlights healthy living and children.
Working with property owners to improve a traditional crime ridden shopping Center
5K Health awareness run and family walk.
On-going extensive graffiti removal efforts and creation of Neighborhood Watch groups
Effective City, Health and Social Services information sharing with Neighborhoods

Our community has many needs for which the legal expertise and connections of your membership would be tremendously helpful. Whether it is using legal processes to shut down drug dens or linking our communities with strong lawyers, or other collaborative projects, we would greatly appreciate the chance to work more closely with your organization.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Pollard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Pollard, Executive Director
Urban Collaboration Project

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association was originally established in 1976 as the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County ("ABASDC"). In 1982, under the presidency of Daniel Weber, ABASDC formally changed its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association ("EBGBA") in recognition of the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam, the first African-American United States District Court judge for the Southern District of California. Judge Gilliam was also the first African-American to serve as a San Diego County Superior Court judge.

Today, EBGBA represents the interests of African-American attorneys, judges, law professors and students in the county of San Diego. The non-profit organization's mission statement articulates its commitment to "defending the legal and human rights of African-Americans; eliminating the root causes of poverty, powerlessness and racism; preserving the high standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession; and promoting the professional and personal interests of individual members."

The EBGBA organization includes individuals who are, or have been, judges, professors, and officers of the National Bar Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the California Association of Black Lawyers, the San Diego County Bar Association and the Lawyers Club of San Diego. Many continue to serve in leadership positions on boards and committees of the State Bar of California and other organizations. EBGBA, through its members, makes positive contribution to the community of San Diego by operating a Neighborhood Law School, organizing public forums and seminars, hosting annual Juneteenth Celebrations, and other activities.

In addition to its activities in the community, EBGBA is committed to encouraging law student achievement by awarding scholarships, establishing mentor-mentee programs, and hosting annual law student mixers. EBGBA seeks to facilitate the success of law students and invites them to join the organization as student members.



The History of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ATTORNEYS of San Diego County

755 Union Street, Suite 302 • San Diego, California 92101

Executive Committee

President
Napoleon A. Jones
231-8281

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232-4252 ext. 1780

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Beatrice W. Kemp
231-7755

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Clarence Irving
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231-1326

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263-2269

Legal Education
Joseph K. Davis
263-2489

Legal Aid
Roy Landers
452-9655

Public Relations
Clarence Irving
263-2196

Employment
Curtis Morrison
231-1326

Membership
Daniel Weber
231-1326

March 28, 1977

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

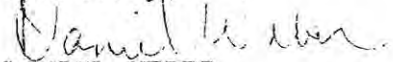
Dear Sir:

Recently, we organized the Bar Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County. Our Association was organized because we were and are concerned with, among other things, the fair, impartial and proper administration of justice. We believe that justice can only be fairly, impartially and properly administered when those who dispense justice reflect the communities they serve. We do not believe that the Courts in the Fourth Appellate District properly reflect the communities they serve. There are very, very few Black and women judges in this district.

Recently, it has come to our attention that there are, or will be very soon, vacancies on the Fourth District Court of Appeal and the San Diego Municipal Court. We recommend for your consideration Superior Court Judge Earl B. Gilliam for appointment to the Fourth District Court of Appeal. We also recommend the appointments of Attorneys Napoleon A. Jones, Jr., and Clifton D. Blevins to the San Diego Municipal Court.

If we can be of any further assistance in this matter, do not hesitate to contact us. Also, we are looking forward to working with you on other matters of concern to the people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


DANIEL WEBER,
Court Committee Chairman
2845 Imperial Ave., S.D., CA 92102
(714) 293-5081

c.c: J. Anthony Kline
Dr. Carlotta Herman Mellon

The History of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ATTORNEYS of San Diego County

755 Union Street • San Diego, California 92101

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Napoleon A. Jones
236-9381

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Detroit Richardson
232-8252 ext. 1785

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Roy Londers
452-9655

Public Relations

Clarence Irving
263-2196

Employment

Curtis Morrison
231-1326

Membership

Daniel Weber

26

Dear Counsellor:

The Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County cordially invites you to join the county's only black bar association.

ABASDC hopes to equip its members with some of the practical tools, educational programs and some informative publications needed for the successful practice of law.

We have, among others, a public relations committee and a court committee. We will take public positions on court appointments, appointment for United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, legal specialization, and other issues confronting the black community and our profession. In these critical times, we need your help.

For years, we did not have a professional organization in San Diego County which addressed itself to the specific needs of Black lawyers, Black law students and the community. Therefore, we were provided with little, if any, benefits. The members of ABASDC realize the value of organization. Additionally, we realize the value of our efforts for the community, for better representation in the judiciary, and for the proper administration of the the court system. Hopefully, as a member of ABASDC, you will receive benefits too numerous to mention, and more than worth the membership dues.

When you become a member of the Association of Black Attorneys of San Diego County, you make not only a contribution to your profession, but further the cause of the administration of justice as an instrument of truth and justice for the community.

ABASDC will be an action bar. For the benefit of your clients and your own satisfaction, join the other members of ABASDC by completing the enclosed application. We look forward to your joining us in a mutually rewarding affiliation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Weber
Membership Chairperson

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

Past Presidents

Honorable Elizabeth Riggs

Honorable Napoleon Jones, Jr.*

Delroy Richardson*

Honorable Joseph K. Davis

Otis Jones

Dennis Dawson

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Tina M. Fryar

Doc Anthony Anderson III

Antoinette Middleton

Valoree Wortham

Christian Scott

Udoka Nwanna

* Deceased

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

*extends our abiding gratitude to our cherished
Life Members*

A. King Aminpour
Janice Brown
Dave Carothers
Dennis Dawson
Hon. Raymond Edwards (ret)
Tina Fryar
Hon John Houston
Hon. Sharon Majors-Lewis
Hon Dwayne Moring
Rebecca Prater
Patricia Robinson
Kelly Rand
Hon Roderick Shelton
Hon Randa Trapp
Vickie Turner
Lei-Chala Wilson

*If we've omitted you, please accept our apologies and help us correct our error.

Please contact ebgassociation@gmail.com for corrections

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Dr. Helen Griffith

Mistress of Ceremonies



Dr. Helen Griffith is the Executive Director of e³ Civic High School, the high school that recently opened in the new downtown library. Dr. Griffith's career in education spans nearly 18 years. During her career she has specialized in the coaching and mentoring experiences of transformational principals in urban schools. In 2007, she served as vice principal of the newly constructed Lincoln High, joining an administrative team tasked with opening four small schools on one campus. Her experience also includes serving as lead teacher, facilitator, and later, dean of students of a new small school at the Crawford High Educational Complex - CHAMPs Community Health and Medical Practices.

As executive director, Griffith's primary responsibilities will be the efficient, day-to-day management of the school with an emphasis on student instruction and well-being. Prior to joining e³ Civic High, Dr. Griffith served as the founding principal of Millennial Tech Middle School from 2008. During her tenure, the school was designated a "high performing middle school," achieving a 40-point growth in student achievement gains in the 2010-2011 academic year. "This new school is an innovative educational partnership and under her leadership, will be a rewarding endeavor for everyone involved - particularly the students." "I am honored and excited to join this new venture in education and look forward to recruiting a faculty of talented, committed educators," said Dr. Griffith. "Together, we will make e³ Civic High a successful and special place for learning, friendship and the exchange of ideas." She added, "Our core principles of personalized learning, engaging curriculum and high standards for all will provide an invaluable experience for our students."

The mission of e³ Civic High is to engage the students of urban San Diego in a successful high school experience by providing a meaningful college and career preparatory education focused on a broad spectrum of 21st century literacy.

"Dr. Griffith is an excellent educator and administrator who brings great experience, academic insight and energy to Downtown Charter High (now called e³ Civic High)," said Bill Kowba, superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District. "This new school is an innovative educational partnership and under her leadership, will be a rewarding endeavor for everyone involved — particularly the students."

Among many professional honors, Dr. Griffith received the 2010-11 Educator of the Year award from the California League of Middle Schools — Region 9, the 2010 Outstanding Educator of the Year award from Lambda Kappa Mu and Pi Delta Kappa's 2007 award for Outstanding African-American Educator of the Year. In addition, Dr. Griffith was selected as one of San Diego's 50 People to Watch in 2013 by San Diego Magazine and recently featured as an outstanding UCSD alumnus in their spring edition of The Triton magazine.

Dr. Griffith is a wife and the mother of three children. She received her Doctorate of Education from San Diego State University in Educational Leadership, a Master's in Educational Technology, and the Administrative Services Credential from the same institution with honors. Dr. Griffith holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California, San Diego.

District Attorney Jackie Lacey

Keynote Speaker

District Attorney Jackie Lacey has spent most of her professional life as a prosecutor, manager and executive in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

On Dec. 3, 2012, she was sworn in as District Attorney. Ms. Lacey oversees roughly 1,000 lawyers, nearly 300 investigators and about 800 support staff employees. She is the first woman and first African-American to serve as Los Angeles County District Attorney since the office was created in 1850.

A Los Angeles native and graduate of the University of Southern California Law School, Ms. Lacey joined the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation in 1986 as a deputy district attorney. She worked her way through the ranks as a front-line prosecutor.

While serving as a deputy district attorney, she prosecuted hundreds of serious criminal cases. Ms. Lacey won national attention for her successful prosecution of the county's first race-based hate crime murder. Ms. Lacey was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice in May 2000 for prosecuting this case and for participating on the Law Enforcement Coordinating

Committee. Also, Ms. Lacey twice was selected as Deputy District Attorney of the Month by her peers.

Starting in late 2000, Ms. Lacey took on management and executive roles in the District Attorney's Office. Her duties included reviewing nearly every major case the office prosecuted, serving on the office's special circumstance committee that reviews death-penalty eligible cases and making high-level policy decisions affecting the pursuit of justice and the management of the office.

In 2011, she was named chief deputy district attorney and was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the office. She also considered federal, state and local legislation to determine the impact on the county's criminal justice system.

Ms. Lacey has overseen the development of several groundbreaking crime-fighting initiatives within the office. They include the nation's first Animal Cruelty Prosecution Program, the Graffiti Prosecution Program and the Project Safe Neighborhoods Gun Prosecution Program.

She was key in the creation of alternative sentencing courts to deal with specific nonviolent offenders. These include the Los Angeles County Veterans Court, the Los Angeles County Women's Reentry Court and the Los Angeles County Co-Occurring Disorders Court. For her leadership in the office, Ms. Lacey was named one of the Top 100 Women Litigators by the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal in 2009.

Ms. Lacey is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine and Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. She and her husband, David, have two adult children.



Udoka Nwanna

Message From the President



As the saying goes, “Time flies when you’re having fun.” I will say that my year at the helm of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association has flown by. It seems like just yesterday that I was taking my oath at the 36th Annual dinner. Upon taking the oath to lead this great organization, I did not imagine how fulfilling it would be.

In beginning my year as President, I set out to accomplish three goals: 1) increase collaboration with other legal organizations in order to increase networking; 2) increase mentorship of law students; and 3) increase presence in the community through pro bono events. In an effort to reach these goals, we collaborated on several events this year with the following organizations: La Raza Lawyers Association,

Iranian American Bar Association, SD Chinese Attorneys Association, Korean America Bar Association-SD, Filipino American Lawyers of SD, San Diego County Bar Association and Lawyers Club of San Diego. In addition, we put on multiple professional development events for law students and participated in several pro bono events in the City Heights and Southeast San Diego communities. I am truly beyond happy at our ability to reach and exceed my goals. In addition to these goals, we were able to implement monthly social gatherings for our members that helped to bring a sense of cohesiveness to our organization by drawing in new members and invigorating old members.

This year, we will be continuing our tradition of focusing on raising money for students. I am pleased to announce that at last year’s dinner, we were able to raise approximately \$19,000 for our scholarship fund this year. As such, we will be giving out \$13,000 in scholarships at this dinner, and will be reserving the balance for two bar study scholarships for deserving 3Ls, to be awarded in the Spring.

I wish to thank the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and its members for their support during my term. Without this, we would not have been able to accomplish all that we did this year.

As the year draws to a close and we head into 2014, remember to live in the present, enjoy every moment like it is your last and continue to push toward what is beyond the horizon.

Stay blessed,
Udoka

Omar T. Passons

President-Elect



Omar Passons is Senior Counsel at Stutz Artiano Shinoff & Holtz, focusing on construction and land use with an emphasis on public agency related matters. Prior to joining Stutz Artiano, Mr. Passons worked as a Deputy Attorney for the State of California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), where his practice ranged from heavy construction highway projects to inverse condemnation and defending against premises liability claims. He received his law degree from George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Passons worked for five years in program evaluation, during which he evaluated the success of neighborhood and community health programs under the Government Performance and Results Act. He received his Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Arizona in 2000.

A San Diego native, Mr. Passons attended O'Farrell School of Creative and Performing Arts, where he unknowingly received his first training as a trial attorney in acting class. Mr. Passons is also a foodie and craft beer enthusiast, and he values making choices that ensure

every worker in the supply chain — from the farmer to the truck driver to the dishwasher to the server — earns a fair wage that respects the dignity of their work. He is a committed advocate for better, safer neighborhoods across San Diego. Omar and his wife Erin live in North Park, where they enjoy walking to great restaurants, craft breweries and cultural events.

In his own words:

We are an organization dedicated to the dual aims of creating opportunities for our members to succeed in the San Diego community and providing greater advocacy and access to the legal system for members of San Diego's African-American and African communities. As we look into the future and how best to achieve these objectives, it is important to spend some time looking into our organization's past. Understanding our past helps keep us mindful of the spirit that created the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and the principles on which the organization was founded. That understanding also sets us up to best leverage the gains African-American lawyers, judges, business people and elected officials have made in carrying out our mission.

We are fortunate to have a talented group of dedicated, successful legal professionals as well as a large and growing group of young, creative, talented attorney and law student members. Bringing the skills of these groups together - and respecting the experiences and abilities of all our members - is a key to our continued success in the San Diego community.

Together we will strengthen our commitment to each other, to our law students and to helping our members succeed. Just as no ship is led solely by its captain, our organization will not be led by just one individual but by our collective will to improve our community. We will strive to be an organization that focuses on the collective success of all our members. We are becoming an organization that is driven by our role as leaders in this community overtime. We are in this together, and as we head into 2014 and beyond, our charge as an organization is to ensure that members of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association--all members--know that our fates are connected and a gain for one member is a gain for all members. We have the good fortune that education, self-sacrifice and a bit of luck has brought us, and as we move forward, our role in supporting our community in San Diego will be at the core of what we do.

Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

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Omar Passons
President-Elect

Christian Scott
Immediate Past President

Tilisha Martin
Secretary

Charles Bell Jr.
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Directors / Chairs

Daphne Fields - Membership

Jamahl Kersey - Social activities

Shaka Johnson - Law Student Liaison

Randolph Reliford - Law Student Liaison

James Simmons - Scholarship Committee Chair

Program

Introductory Performance

“Don’t count me out” and “Flawed American Male”

Gill Sotu

Welcome

Dr. Helen Griffith
Mistress of Ceremonies

Invocation

Pastor J. Lee Hill
Christian Fellowship Congregational Church

Lift Ev’ry Voice & Sing

A video by The Balm in Gilead

Special Recognitions

Udoka Nwanna
President 2012 - 2013

“Celebrating Women Starts with
Respecting Women”

City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

Dinner

“Where we’ve been: An oral history.”

Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber
& Hon. Randa Trapp

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Hon. Randa Trapp
Judge SD Superior Court

Keynote Address

District Attorney Jackie Lacey

Program

Presentation of Scholarships

Earl B. Gilliam

Kathryn Payne

Judicial

Lourine Twyman

Omar Passons

President 2013 - 2014

L. Racquel Raymond - USD

Bradley Muldrow - USD

Shannon Laoye - TJSJ

Ashley Turner - CWSL

Vernon Evans - USD

Samantha McPherson - CWSL

Presentation of Awards

Corporate Diversity Award

Frederick Douglass Community Service

Distinguished Service to EBGBA

Udoka Nwanna

President 2012 - 2013

Mintz Levin

Shaka Johnson

Tilisha Martin

President's Epilogue

Udoka Nwanna

President 2012 - 2013

Installation of Officers

Honorable Roderick Shelton

Incoming Message

"Helping others off the lonely island"

Omar Passons

President 2013 - 2014

Closing Performance

"Cosby" and "True Story"

Gill Sotu

Scholarship Award Recipients

Vernon Evans



Vernon Evans was raised in Oceanside and his path to law school was not an entirely smooth one. Vernon went east to Ohio State to begin his college studies, but things did not work out as he spent his time on just about everything but his studies.

After leaving Ohio, Vernon eventually made it back to California and sat down to do some serious soul-searching. "I made myself a list of goals. Number one was to enroll in community college and make straight A's. I almost achieved that goal, but I did get a B+ in statistics." Next goal on the list was graduating from a four-year college, and Vernon was able to put a check next to that goal when he received his BA from the University of California, Berkeley.

Next on the list was law school. Vernon completed his first year at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and received high grades. He transferred to the University of San Diego at the beginning of his second year. While at USD Vernon was able to maintain his grades and in addition to making a successful academic transition to USD, Vernon and his partner Brad Muldrow competed in the Black Law Students Western Regional Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition, taking First-Runners Up and received an award for best respondents brief; they went on to represent USD in the national competition in Atlanta.

Vernon is interested in both corporate and criminal law. In spring 2013, he had an internship in the legal Department of Sony Electronics. He was able to work with many talented attorneys including Shaka Johnson and India Jewell who both made lasting impressions on him. In the summer of 2013, Vernon had the opportunity to extern with the Honorable John A. Houston, a United States District Judge in the Southern District. "Working with Judge Houston was by far the best experience of law school and maybe even my life. Judge Houston

is a great man, and when one gets the opportunity to work with such a magnanimous person it changes them". Vernon's career has not even started yet but he is happy with how far he's come, even though he was a long way to go.

Shannon Laoye

Shannon Laoye was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. She graduated from San Jose State University in 2005 with a major in Sociology and a minor in Criminology. She later went back to SJSU and received her MBA in 2008. Since college, Shannon has worked for three fortune 500 companies, developed a five year business plan for a non-profit youth center and started a small, family-owned rental property business. It wasn't until 2011 that she decided to pursue a degree in the legal field and become an advocate for social change. She is now in her second year at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where she is Secretary of the Public Interest Law Foundation and a Staff Associate on the TJSJ Law Review. Since enrolling in law school, she has interned with the California Innocence Project as well as the Juvenile Delinquency Division of the Primary Public Defender's office. Although Shannon has not chosen a specific field of law to focus on, she has decided to use her legal education to make a life-changing impact on at-risk youth, under-represented minorities, and the impoverished.



Samantha McPherson

Samantha Shine McPherson is a second year law student at California Western School of Law. When she was a year and a half, her father was accidentally shot, which led to San Diego Police Department to piece together a set of crimes. Samantha and her family learned that her father, a San Diego Police Officer, was a serial rapist who attacked women on local San Diego beaches. At four years old, Samantha's mother remarried. Unfortunately, she was the victim of molestation at the hands of her step-father from age eight to eleven. Samantha finally gained the courage to share with her mother what had happened just prior to entering her senior year of high school. Her experiences with both of her father's gave Samantha a sense of strength that is difficult to describe, but something she can contribute to this world. Samantha says life is not fair, nor is it easy, but through her own efforts she can achieve greatness.

Samantha describes herself as diverse, not only by the color of her skin, but also through her life experiences. She is committed to making a difference in San Diego and using her past experiences as motivation to succeed. This year, Samantha serves as President of California Western's Black Law Students Association (BLSA). She is excited to continue encouraging first year students and provide them with the support they need. Additionally, Samantha serves with her husband on the Development and Advisory Board for a non-profit organization, Reach One Teach One (ROTO). ROTO focuses its efforts in "Southeast" San Diego to "reduce violence, promote unity, and improve the quality of life in our communities, to encourage education, and to assist in creating economic opportunities for youth and young adults". Samantha is committed to making a difference in San Diego and using her past experiences as motivation to succeed.



Scholarship Award Recipients

Bradley Muldrow

Bradley Jordan Muldrow is a first generation law student from Buffalo, NY. He is currently a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law, and intends to become a civil litigator.

As a second year law student at the University of San Diego School of Law, Brad served as the Academic Affairs Chair for USD's Black Law Students Association, and competed in the Western Regional Black Law Students Association's Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition. Brad and his moot court partner won the award for "Best Respondent Brief," and Brad won the award for "Best Oral Advocate." In addition, Brad was awarded a 2013 University of San Diego Advocates for Children and Education (ACE) Award for his work as an education liaison with USD's ACE program.

This year, Brad serves as Co-President of USD's Black Law Students Association, and interns for the Honorable Judge Ronald S. Prager. He is also one of the newest members of the J. Clifford Wallace Inn of Court.

Brad's involvement in the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association has provided him with invaluable academic and professional experiences. He looks forward to beginning his legal career in San Diego.



L. Racquel Raymond

L. Racquel Raymond, a Georgia native, served in the United States Navy for 8 years. The U.S. Navy awarded Racquel with a Naval Reserve Officer Training (NROTC) Scholarship to attend college at the University of San Diego. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry, Racquel obtained her paralegal certification from the University of San Diego. While working as a patent prosecution paralegal, she discovered a love of intellectual property law. Her position as Regional Manager for Patent and Trademark Support further motivated her to go to law school. Racquel is now a third year law student at the University of San Diego School of Law and is pursuing an Intellectual Property (IP) specialty. Racquel has worked for over a year as an IP litigation law clerk where she had the privilege of drafting two issues on appeal to the Ninth Circuit. Racquel has already received a summer associate offer in the Patent Prosecution and Transactions group of one of the largest IP practices in the country and she is excited to continue progressing in her career. Racquel actively serves her community in various organizations, including Jack and Jill of America, Inc. She is the co-President of USD's Black Law Student Association and a member of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. Racquel spends her free time in San Elijo Hills, CA raising three wonderful girls.



Ashley Turner

Ashley Turner is a third year student at California Western School of Law with a planned graduation date of Spring 2014. She was born in Culver City, CA and grew up in Chino Hills, CA. Before coming to law school, Ashley attended the University of California, Irvine and became the first in her family to receive a Bachelor's Degree. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in African-American Studies and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science with a Specialization in Multicultural Studies. While in law school, Ashley has served as President for the Black Law Student Association and is currently an Associate Writer for the California Western Law Review and International Law Journal. After graduation, Ashley intends to practice Education Law and pursue Education Policy.



Mintz Levin

Corporate Diversity Award

About Mintz Levin

Mintz Levin is a full-service, general practice law firm with offices in major economic centers throughout the United States as well as London. The firm was started in Boston by two young Jewish lawyers in 1933 who knew what it felt like to be excluded, and they established a practice where they and others could practice law in a welcoming environment.

The heart of the firm is our founding partners' guiding principle of providing excellent legal services in an atmosphere of mutual respect, dignity, and tolerance. This has been the foundation of the firm since it opened its doors in 1933.

The firm's commitment to diversity is a natural outgrowth of the founding partners' struggle to carve out a more inclusive professional path — and our firm's history explains our dedication to celebrating the differences that create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere in which to practice law.

Our attorneys and staff may come from many ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds, but when it comes to pursuing success for our clients and ourselves, we are cut from the same cloth. We know overcoming challenges, both legal and professional, takes dedication and support from our colleagues.

The firm strives to support diverse attorneys, and a few years ago initiated a formal program, the Sponsor & Retention Program, to help diverse attorneys succeed by assigning to each attorney of color a "partner of influence" who is committed to leveling the playing field for diverse attorneys through career support and guidance, introductions to other partners, and direct one-on-one individualized support. Mintz Levin also supports the firm's Minority Attorneys Interest Group, ("MIATTY"), a group of networked partner and associate attorneys of color within the firm who support each other and receive financial support from the firm for professional development and networking programs. This fall, MIATTY brought all of its members together in the firm's Washington, DC office to learn about each other's practices, hear an outside speaker, and to network with the Washington, DC attorneys and invited guests.

In addition to supporting lawyers of color at the firm, Mintz Levin is very active in local legal communities, including San Diego. In addition to being an active supporter of the Diversity Fellowship program, the firm is also actively involved in the South Asian Bar Association, La Raza Lawyers, the Lawyers Club, Athena, and the Korean Bar Association, and is a benefactor of the diversity groups at both University of San Diego and Thomas Jefferson Law School.

Gratitude to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association

We are grateful to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association for recognizing Mintz Levin's diversity efforts in San Diego County. The firm is particularly proud of this honor because the mission of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association — defending the legal and human rights of all citizens, promoting the administration of justice, eradicating the root causes of racism, promoting the professional and personal interest of its individual members, and preserving high standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession — is completely aligned with Mintz Levin's culture, diversity mission, and business point of view. It is through the efforts of associations such as yours in partnership with firms like ours that we make tangible progress in advancing these missions.



MINTZ LEVIN
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC

Shaka Johnson

Frederick Douglass Community Service Award



Shaka Johnson was born and raised in San Diego, and currently serves as a Senior Attorney at Sony Electronics Inc. At Sony, Shaka is the lead attorney in the U.S. for the post-sales support and promotions group as well as the corporate procurement group, while also managing litigation and product safety matters nationwide for his company. Prior to his arrival at Sony, Shaka served as Corporate Counsel at SANYO North America Corporation (2009-2011) and Gateway, Inc. (2006-2009). As Corporate Counsel at these various companies Shaka has handled numerous corporate legal matters, including management of contracts, litigation management, product development and marketing, employment, corporate communications, and several other general corporate advising and compliance matters throughout North America. Prior to beginning his Corporate Counsel

career, Shaka was a litigation attorney at Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP in San Diego for three years (2003-2006). Shaka earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Sonoma State University in 2000, and went on to earn his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2003. During his in-house legal career, Shaka has successfully performed in various roles. He has negotiated multi-million dollar contracts including Solar contracts in Canada, extended service plan agreements in the U.S., and call center agreements both nationally and internationally to name a few. He has also helped his companies in bringing various products to market, and on more than one occasion has successfully led negotiations with 3rd party companies in both friendly and adversarial settings. In addition, Shaka has successfully defended his companies at trial on several occasions, both as first chair at trial as well as in the management of outside counsel.

Although Shaka finds his career fulfilling and challenging, and is proud of his legal achievements with his companies, he is equally proud (if not more so) of his efforts to be active in the community. His commitment to the community has been constant over the years, and Shaka is currently an active member of numerous organizations performing professional and community oriented volunteer work, including service as a mentor to law students and high school students, an active supporter of the SDCBA/ACC-SD Diversity Fellowship Program, a Director on the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association and the ACC-San Diego Board of Directors, and a member of the Jackie Robinson YMCA Board of Managers, Association of Corporate Counsel Pro Bono Committee, the USD School of Law Alumni Board — Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Corporate Pro Bono Multijurisdictional Pro Bono Task Force, and as Chair of the Sony Electronics Pro Bono Committee.

Shaka is married to his wife Kandus, and has no children (yet).

Tilisha Martin

*President's Award for Distinguished Service
to Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association*



Tilisha Martin is the Supervising Attorney of the Minors Counsel Office for Dependency Legal Group of San Diego (DLG), a California non-profit public benefit corporation. She received her Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law, her Master of Social Work from San Diego State University and her Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley. Ms. Martin is a certified child welfare law specialist and is currently completing a Master's Degree in Justice Management from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ms. Martin is adjunct faculty at California Western School of Law and has previously taught as a lecturer in the graduate and undergraduate social work programs at San Diego State University.

Ms. Martin currently serves on the following committees:

- American Bar Association Youth At-Risk Commission — Advisory Member
- California Western School of Law Alumni Board of Directors — Scholarship Chair
- Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association — Board Member/Secretary
- Lawyers Club of San Diego — Diverse Women's Committee
- National Association of Family and Juvenile Court Judges — General Member

Ms. Martin is admitted to practice law in the State of California and was recently admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Congratulations

2013-2014 Board Members

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Malcolm Roberts - Business Growth Liaison

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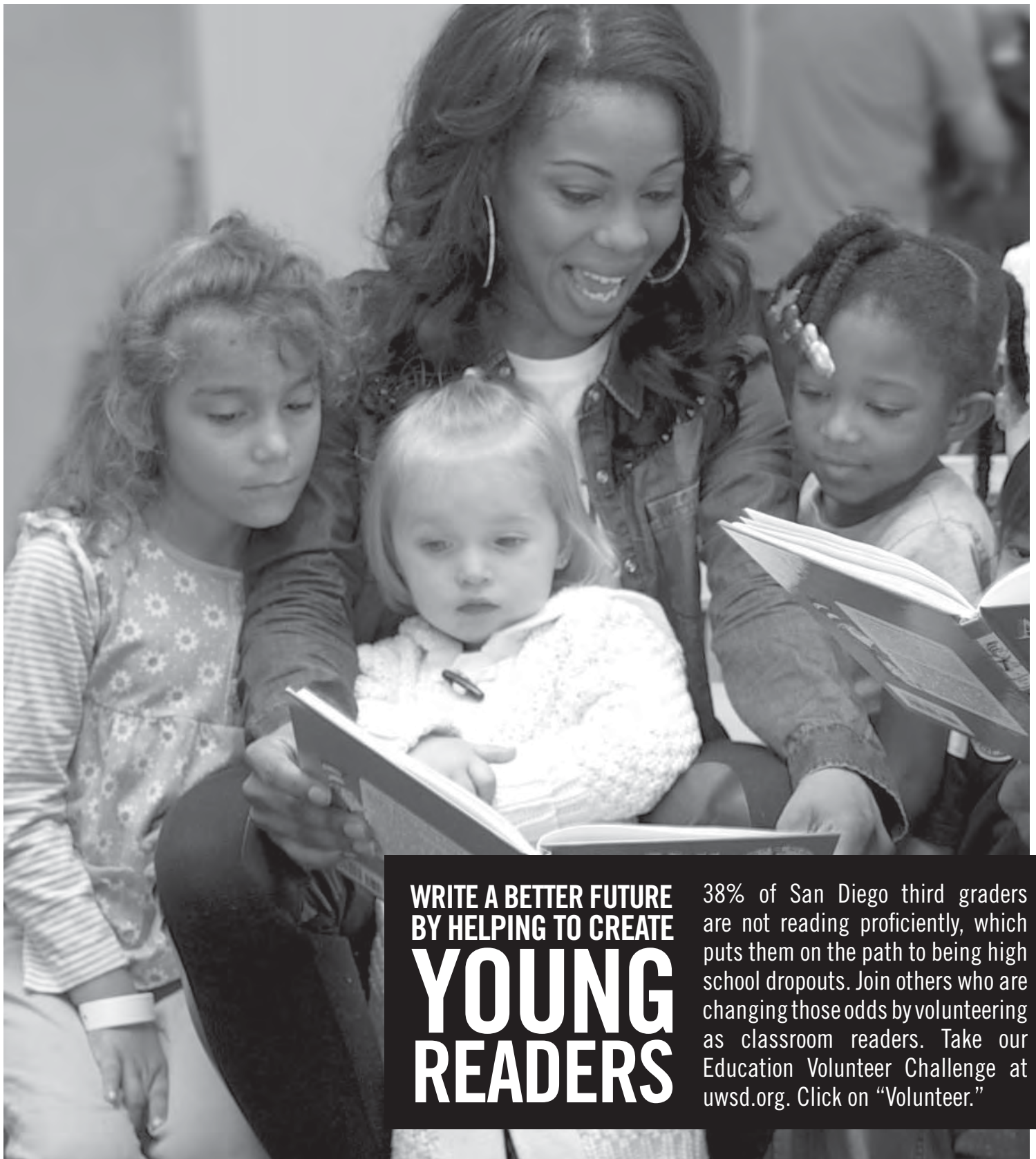




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