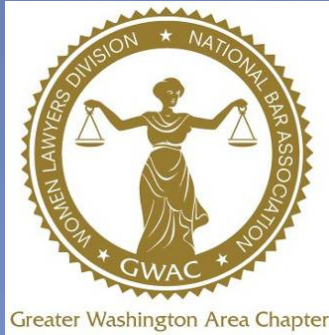


GWAC

Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division,
National Bar Association



2022-2023 Bar Year
NBA Affiliate Memo

Our Time is Now!!

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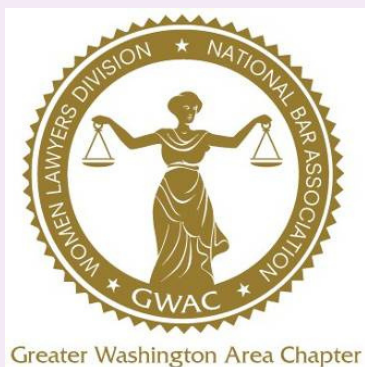


About Us

The Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division, National Bar Association (GWAC) is a network of African-American women attorneys dedicated to the professional development of its members. We are committed to improving the quality of life in the Greater Washington D.C. area through a variety of activities, including educational programs and community service projects.



*The Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division,
National Bar Association (GWAC)*

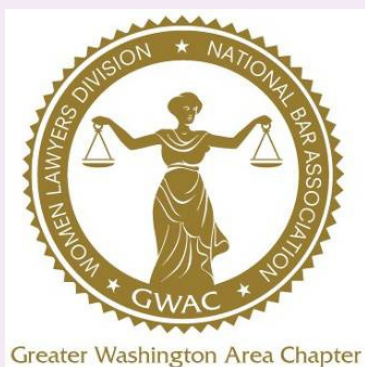


Our Vision

In recognition of the recent accomplishments of Black women lawyers including newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the theme for the 2022-2023 bar year is, “Our Time is Now!” This is a rallying call for Black women to own their power, build strong pipelines to leadership for Black women in the law, stand as leaders and strategic partners in our community, and continue recognizing members that are doing phenomenal work. This year we focused on providing our members with professional development programs, opportunities to network, and space for self care.

These past few years have been particularly challenging for us all and the past bar year was no different. However, this past bar year we have been finding new ways to gather safely and re-engage our members who struggled during the pandemic. This year we hosted our first in-person General Body Retreat and in-person Charlotte E. Ray Award Ceremony since 2020. Programs are hosted in-person where we can do so safely, and we take advantage of the lessons we learned during the pandemic to host virtual programs where necessary. In September, we transitioned to a new website and membership management platform which provides a more user-friendly experience for our members and makes tracking member engagement easier. Overall, we are navigating our new normal and finding new ways to attract and retain our members!

*The Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division,
National Bar Association (GWAC)*



Our Leadership

President, Bayliss Fiddiman

President-Elect, Keela Seales

Immediate Past President, Renee Mims

Treasurer, Natasha Hudgins

Recording Secretary, Patricia-Joy Mpasi

Corresponding Secretary, Kimberlee Gee

Financial Secretary, Ebonee Johnson

Historian, Daraja Carroll

Judicial Liaison, The Honorable Tanya Jones Bosier

Judicial and Executive Appointments Chair, Dr. Tracey G. Jackson

Membership Chair, Racquell Perry

Law Firm & Corporate Counsel Chair, LaFonda Willis

Charlotte E. Ray Chair, Jeanine Howard

Student Affairs Chair, Lucille Blackburn

Dinner Series Chair, Erinn Martin

Program Planning Chair, Yvonne Burnley

Impact of GWAC

In 2024, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of GWAC's founding. For almost 50 years, GWAC has served as a resource for Black women attorneys, law students, and people who are interested in pursuing legal careers. In addition to providing professional development resources, employment listings, and opportunities to network, we use our platform to promote the achievements of our members so that they can gain recognition within the broader legal community. We host a few signature events throughout the year such as the Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Networking and Awards Reception and the Charlotte E. Ray Award Ceremony to uplift outstanding members of our community and recognize their hard work. We also publicly recognize our members' various career achievements in our weekly newsletter to promote a sense of community and support. Through these efforts, GWAC remains dedicated to serving and uplifting our membership to increase retention of Black women in the legal profession



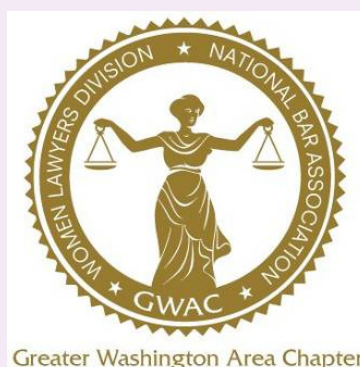
Mission



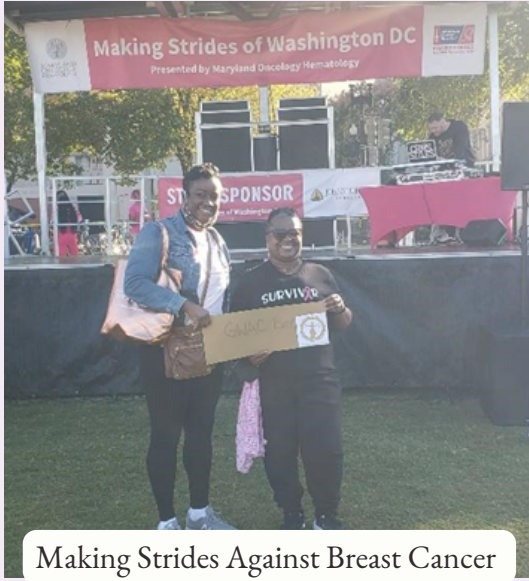
Community



Legacy



Community Engagement & Investment



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Oct 22, 2022

In October, we celebrated Breast Cancer Awareness Month by participating in the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: Washington, DC Walk.” We also had a special guest speaker at our October General Body Meeting to address how breast cancer affects Black women differently, and the importance of clinical trials for our community. We provided a variety of opportunities for members to volunteer this year virtually and in-person. We collected donation items for N Street Village during our General Body Retreat and donated Christmas gifts to residents of Potomac Gardens public housing complex. This year we also volunteered with the Capitol Area Food Bank, Food & Friends, and Promise Place Shelter.

True to our mission of improving the quality of life of our members and the DC community, we continue to educate our membership, and provide opportunities to volunteer throughout the District. We recognized Black Women’s Equal Pay Day in September with a discussion to share our experiences and resources to ensure that we advocate for fair compensation.



Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Day of Service

November 12, 2022



Volunteer Event: Promise Place Shelter

Jan. 16, 2023



Volunteer Event: Food & Friends

Jan. 16, 2023

Membership Outreach



Fireside Chat with GWAC Oct. 29, 2022

GWAC members took advantage of opportunities to gather safely during the pandemic for networking and self care. On October 29, 2022 members were hosted at the home of GWAC Judicial Liaison: Judge Tanya Jones Bosier. We enjoyed roasted marshmallows and fall treats while discussing interests, goals, and plans over the next few years.

GWAC's Holiday Social provides an opportunity for members to gather and celebrate the holiday season. This year we met at The Yard House DC for happy hour to celebrate the end of 2022 and welcome the new year.



GWAC Holiday Social Dec. 16, 2022



Black History Month Dinner and Discussion Feb. 28, 2023

To celebrate Black History Month this year, we went to Po Boy Jim on H Street for a dinner and discussion. Attendees were encouraged to watch the newly released "1619 Project," on *Hulu* as well as the recent documentary on Zora Neale Hurston entitled, "Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space."

Membership Outreach cont.



Black Women's Equal Pay Day Happy Hour Discussion
Sept. 21, 2022

To celebrate Women's History Month, GWAC collaborated with the Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association for happy hour and trivia about historical women at Shaw's Tavern. We collectively celebrated Women's History Month and collected donations for Dress for Success DC.

September 21, 2022 marked how far Black women needed to work in the new year to be paid what non-Hispanic white men were paid at the end of 2021. To recognize this day, GWAC members attended a happy hour discussion where we addressed our experiences with the wage gap and shared strategies to secure equal pay.



Women's History Month: Trivia Night March 23, 2023



GWAC's Annual Vision Board Brunch Jan. 28, 2023

GWAC's Annual Vision Board Brunch is a membership favorite. Members enjoy brunch and networking while creating vision boards with goals for the upcoming year. This year the brunch was hosted at Oohs and Aahs on Georgia Avenue, and GWAC members left with established goals for the upcoming year.

Signature Programs



Charlotte E. Ray Award Ceremony

GWAC hosted its 35th Annual Charlotte E. Ray Award Ceremony on February 23, 2023. This event presents an opportunity to recognize someone in the DC legal community who embodies the spirit of the first Black woman who was licensed to practice law—Charlotte E. Ray. This year we honored Bridget Bailey Lipscomb, Assistant Director of the United States Department of Justice in the Civil Division Environmental Torts Office. This event was hosted by Morgan Lewis.

GWAC Dinner Series

GWAC's Dinner series provides opportunities for members to engage and network with Washington DC's most prominent women attorneys and community leaders. This year's series included Kimberly Humphrey, Legal Director of Federal Courts at the Alliance for Justice and Kirra Jarratt, Chief Executive Officer of the DC Bar Foundation. Kirra Jarratt is also a GWAC Past President, and GWAC Charlotte E. Ray Award recipient.

GWAC DINNER SERIES EVENT
Featuring

Kimberly Humphrey

APRIL 27, 2023 | 6:30PM
Lydia's on H
1427 H St NE
Washington, DC 20002

Kimberly is the Legal Director of Federal Courts at the Alliance for Justice. She is a federal and state public policy expert with more than 15 years of experience. Please join us for a dinner discussion to learn more about Kimberly and her career pathways.

GWAC DINNER SERIES EVENT
Featuring

Kirra Jarratt

MAY 12, 2023 | 6:30PM
Busboys & Poets Takoma
235 Carroll St NW
Washington, DC 20012

GWAC Past President Kirra Jarratt is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the DC Bar Foundation. She has over 20 years of service and investment within the District community. Please join us for a dinner discussion to learn more about Kirra and her career pathways.

Signature Programs cont.



Barbara E. Whiting - Wright Networks and Awards Reception

Named after GWAC's first President and co-founder, this event is an opportunity to recognize outstanding Black woman lawyers in the DC legal community. The Rising Star Award recognizes junior attorneys making a name for themselves. The Trailblazer Award recognizes established attorneys whose career accomplishments inspire others. This year we recognized Chanell Autrey and GWAC Past President Carla Jordan-Detamore as Rising Star Awardees, and Nicole Cober and Robin Nunn as Trailblazer Awardees.



GWAC hosted its annual Judicial Reception on May 31, 2023 at the National Women's Law Center. This Reception recognizes and celebrates women judges in D.C. GWAC acknowledged members of the local judiciary for their commitment to justice, community service, and upholding the embodiment of GWAC's mission and purpose. Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO of the National Women's Law Center gave remarks. Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby and Chief Judge Anite Josey-Herring were featured keynote speakers and they addressed the importance of diversity in the judiciary.

2023 Annual Judicial Reception



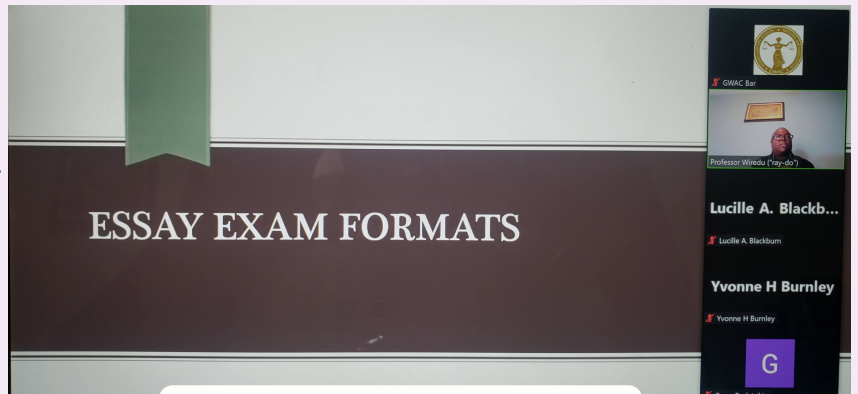
Student Engagement



National HBCU Pre-Law Summit Sept. 15-17, 2022

The National HBCU Pre-law Summit was hosted at the University of DC in September. Undergraduates and others interested in law school came to DC from across the country to learn more about the law school application process and how to excel in law school. GWAC members volunteered in various capacities, including attending the "Pinning Ceremony" for future lawyers. GWAC President, Bayliss Fiddiman, also welcomed attendees to the District of Columbia with a speech at the opening session.

GWAC Law Student Affairs Chair, Lucille Blackburn, hosted an exam prep session for law students. Professor Joni Wiredu from American University Washington College of Law, presented tips and best practices to law students for their upcoming exams. GWAC gifted Starbucks gift cards to students who attended the session.



Law School Exam Prep Nov.19, 2022



Speed Networking for Law Students Apr. 29, 2023

On April 29th, GWAC hosted a speed networking event for law students at HalfSmoke on Florida Avenue. Law student refreshments were covered and they were encouraged to make connections with lawyers.

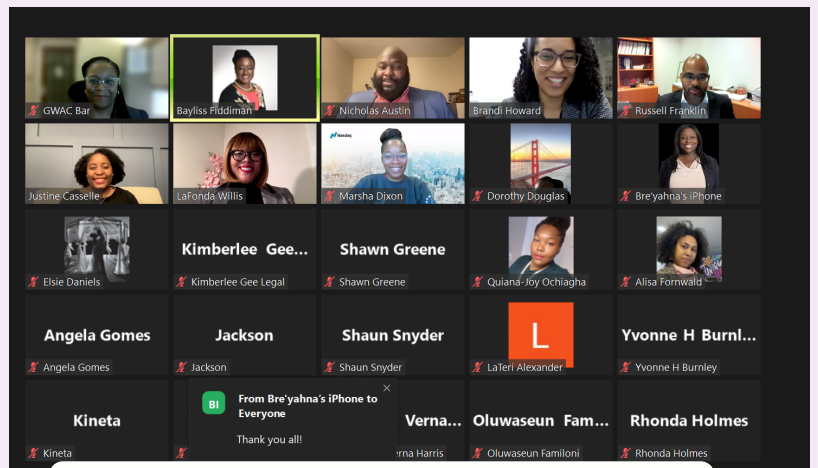
Collaborations



Sisters in the Law: A Celebration of the 1st Black Female
Scotus Judge Oct. 2, 2022

Women lawyers from across the country gathered in Washington, DC to support the first Black female Justice on the United States Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. This event was hosted by Morgan and Morgan PLLC and co-sponsored by the National Bar Association, Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, GWAC, and Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys.

GWAC, the Washington Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia had an evening conversation about Promoting Women and Black Americans in Big and Corporate Law. Although the representation of women and Black Americans varies across the different industries that make up the financial services workforce, it is no secret that women and Black Americans lag far behind their non-minority counterparts, especially at the highest levels of the corporate ladder. The discussion focused on how we can promote and accelerate the inclusion of these two groups in law firms and corporations to create opportunity, equity, and successful outcomes for all.



Promoting Women and Black Americans in Big and
Corporate Law November 30, 2022



National Summit of Black Women Lawyers
Mar. 30 - Apr. 1, 2023

GWAC members traveled to Chicago, IL to attend the National Summit of Black Women Lawyers. This event occurs every five years and features Black women lawyers from across the country. At the Summit GWAC members networked with other members of Black women lawyers associations. Speakers at this Summit included Valerie Jarrett, Deborah Enix-Ross, and Judge J. Michelle Childs amongst many others.

Member Spotlights



Congratulations to GWAC Past President Michelle C. Thomas! She was recently featured on the Real Housewives of the Potomac providing legal advice to one of the cast members. Great job Michelle!



Congratulations to GWAC member Alana Brown on being selected as a 2022 Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian. This honor is given to 11 locals who make the DC region a better place.



Congratulations to GWAC Past President Janea Hawkins on receiving an alumni spotlight feature for the American Bar Association's Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

Member Spotlights cont.



Congratulations to Bridget Bailey-Lipscomb on receiving the Honorable Annice Wagner Pioneer Award from The Bar Association of the District of Columbia. This award was presented during their 150th Anniversary Annual Gala, and it recognizes individuals who have provided significant contributions to the advancement of others in the legal profession through taking risks. Congratulations Bridget!



Youshea Berry is currently the Deputy Assistant General Counsel at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). She recently completed a 15-month detail assignment at the National Security Council (NSC) at the White House where she has served as the Director for Global Development and Strategic Planning in the Directorate for Development, Global Health and Humanitarian Response. Youshea's leadership and coordination of interagency and White House efforts elevated the U.S. response to global food insecurity with the United Nations (UN) and G7/G20.



Congratulations to Judge Helena Heath on being appointed by President Biden to be a leader in the Department of Justice. Judge Heath will serve as Director of the Office of Justice Programs' Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Office (SMART Office). Her appointment is effective Monday, January 30, 2023. She brings 33 years of public service legal experience to the position, and served on the bench for 16 years. Congratulations Judge Heath!

GWAC's Work with the GWAC Foundation



WE'VE GOT POPCORN

Please support the GWAC Foundation's **Double Good** popcorn fundraiser!!

The Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division, National Bar Association (GWAC) is a network of African-American women attorneys dedicated to the professional development of its members. We are committed to improving the quality of life in the Greater Washington D.C. area through a variety of activities, including educational programs and community service projects. In 1993, GWAC established a charitable arm – GWAC Foundation, Inc. ("the Foundation"). The Foundation received its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service in 1995.

The Foundation has worked diligently to provide annual book and bar prep scholarships to students in our community. In order to continue to provide this resource, we need support from you. There are a variety of ways you can support.

- Support our **Double Good** popcorn campaign [October 10 - 14, 2022](#) by clicking [here](#) and spreading the word.
- Donate to us directly by clicking [here](#).

In 1993, GWAC established a charitable arm - the GWAC Foundation, Inc. ("the Foundation"). The Foundation received its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service in 1995. That same year, GWAC provided the Foundation with its original endowment, which it has more than tripled in the past five years. The work of the Foundation is performed entirely by volunteers with no paid staff. The Foundation awards book scholarships, bar exam stipends, and legal internship stipends to minority women law students to assist in their pursuit to complete their legal education.

This year the GWAC Foundation hosted a Double Good popcorn fundraising campaign to raise money for book scholarships. The Foundation also hosted a campaign called, "AWoman's Work," to raise money for scholarships and increase support to Black women owned businesses in the greater Washington D.C. area. A portion of the proceeds from each sale went to the Foundation.

Join GWAC Foundation, Inc. as we celebrate

A WOMAN'S WORK

March 19, 2023 through April 2, 2023

A woman's work is never done! Join us as we celebrate Women's History Month from March 19 to April 2, 2023 to help support Black women-owned businesses. Shop with our select business partners and help provide scholarships to Black women law students and alumnae.



- ▶ Support Black Women
- ▶ Provide Scholarships for Law Students and Alumnae
- ▶ Support Black-Owned Businesses



GWAC Foundation Scholarship Winners

- Imani Brooks (American University, Washington College of Law, 2nd year law student) - Spring 2022 GWAC Book Scholarship Recipient
- Sydney Chapman (University of Chicago Law School, 1st year law student) - Spring 2022 GWAC Book Scholarship Recipient
- Stephanie Jean-Louis - (American University, Washington College of Law, 2nd year law student) Fall 2022 GWAC Book Scholarship Recipient
- Keniece Gray (Georgetown University Law Center, 3rd year law student) - Spring 2023 GWAC Book Scholarship Recipient
- Jamesha Caldwell (Penn State Dickenson Law) -Legal Intern Placement Program (LIPP) Recipient. Placed in the Office of Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett



Imani Brooks



Sydney Chapman



Stephanie Jean-Louis



Keniece Gray



Jamesha Caldwell

GWAC 2022-2023 Bar Year Recap

July 2022

18: Legislative Advocacy 101

24 - 29: 97th Annual National Bar Association Convention

August 2022

13: GWAC Board of Directors Retreat

23: 8th Annual Women's Equality Day Celebration with the DC Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives

27: GWAC General Body Retreat

September 2022

10: GWAC Past Presidents' Tea

15 - 17: National HBCU Pre-Law Summit

18: View and Chew: The Woman King

21: Black Women's Equal Pay Day Happy Hour Discussion

October 2022

2: Sisters in the Law: A Celebration of the 1st Black Female SCOTUS Justice

10 - 14: Double Good popcorn fundraiser to raise money for law student scholarships

19: GWAC General Body Meeting: special guest Ricki Fairley, the CEO and Co-Founder of Touch, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance

22: Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

29: Fireside Chat with GWAC

November 2022

12: Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Day of Service

19: Law School Exam Prep

29: Pathways to Leadership: Inspiration from Women in Power

30: Promoting Women and Black Americans in Big and Corporate Law

December 2022

2: On the Menu with the WBA: Lawyering While Parenting: The Real Reasons It's Such a Challenge, and How to Make it Easier

8: It's Giving Season! What Does that Mean for your Taxes?

15: Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Networking and Awards Reception

16: GWAC Holiday Happy Hour Social

17: Potomac Gardens Christmas Party

GWAC 2022-2023 Bar Year Recap

January 2023

- 16: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Volunteer Event: Promise Place Shelter
- 16: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Volunteer Event: Food & Friends
- 18: GWAC General Body Meeting: Membership Check-In "How are You Doing"
- 28: GWAC's Annual Vision Board Brunch

February 2023

- 2/1 - 4/18: Hybrid Parents' Tax Credit and Family Law Clinic
- 16: Conversation with Judge J. Michelle Childs and Judge Florence Y. Pan at HUSL
- 21: GWAC's 35th Annual Charlotte E. Ray Award Ceremony
- 28: Black History Month Dinner and Discussion: the 1619 Project and Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space

March 2023

- 9: Legal Pathways Forum: How Judges of Color Ensure Justice and Equality
- 15: GWAC's March General Body Meeting: Special Guests - DC Bar Pro Bono Center and NBA Vice President of Membership, Ashley Upkins
- 19 - 4/2: GWAC Foundation's "A Woman's Work" Campaign to raise money for law student scholarships
- 23: Women's History Month: Trivia Night
- 24: The Evolution of Client Intake: Successful Secrets to Double Your Conversion Rates
- 25: Judicial Clerkship/Internship Q&A
- 30: Paying it Forward: Organizations Offering Training and Opportunities for Attorneys Interested in Accepting Pro-Bono Criminal Cases
- 30 - 4/1: National Summit of Black Women Lawyers

April 2023

- 26: Dinner Series Event: Kimberly Humphrey
- 29: Speed Networking for Law Students

May 2023

- 1 -31: Food From the Bar Campaign
- 10: Mid-Career Clerkships: Benefits, Challenges, and Process
- 12: Dinner Series Event: Kirra Jarratt
- 31: Annual Judicial Reception

June 2023

- 3: Bar Prep Information Session
- 7: Getting on Boards: Navigating Your Service
- 14: GWAC's General Body Meeting and Annual Elections
- 16: Black Professionals Mixer and Game Night

Upcoming Events: June 2023



you are invited to attend

*GWAC's
End of the Year
Celebratory Reception*

Sponsored by McGuireWoods LLP

June 23 2023

Friday 06.30 PM
888 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006



***GWAC's Annual
Installation Ceremony***

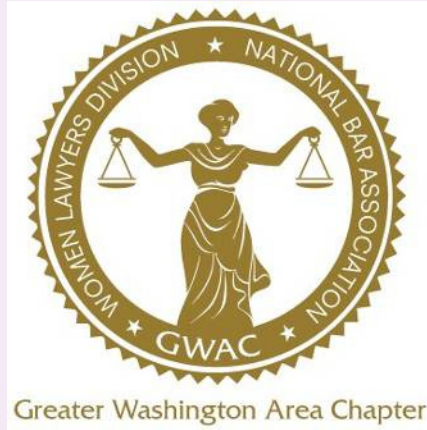
***June 26, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.***

D.C. Court of Appeals
Ceremonial Courtroom
450 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001



Organizational Partners, Collaborators, and Firm Sponsors

- Asian Pacific Bar Association of DC
- Bar Prep Champs
- Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.
- Capital Area Food Bank
- DC Bar
- Filipino Bar Association
- Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys
- Georgia Association of Women Lawyers
- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association
- Hispanic Bar Association of DC
- Justis Connection
- McGuireWoods LLP
- Morgan Lewis
- Mothers Outreach Network
- National Black MBA Association: Washington, DC Metro Chapter
- National Society of Black Engineers Washington, DC Metro Area Chapter
- National Women's Law Center
- N Street Village
- South Asian Bar Association of DC
- Washington Bar Association
- Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division
- Women's Bar Association of DC



Connect with us!

<https://gwacbar.org>

P.O. Box 77254. Washington, DC 20013-7254

