



2021 - 2022 National Bar Association Brag Memo

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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)



Greater Washington Area Chapter

Our Vision

The theme for this bar year is "Living, our Mission, Empowering our Community, and Building our Legacy." With this is in mind, GWAC focused on adding to the caliber of its programming in line with GWAC's mission of supporting African-American women attorneys and improving the quality of life in the D.C. area. GWAC planned to this by actively and intentionally engaging in opportunities to collaborate with our D.C. community partners to establish meaningful connections to create a sustaining and positive impact.

This bar year, GWAC focused on the following areas:

- Membership: increasing membership through heightened visibility, retaining membership, hosting more skills-based programming, and assessing and creating additional member benefits;
- Mentorship: identifying ways to create a mentorship pipeline program for law student members and new lawyers;
- Legislative Footprint: seeking out opportunities to engage both locally and nationally with legislation and advocacy efforts that align with GWAC's mission;
- Elevation to Legislation: preparing and propelling African-American women attorneys to serve in local and national legislative offices; and
- Self-Care: providing spaces and programming that address the overall well-being of GWAC members in a way that is intentional and multifaceted.

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

President, Renee Mims



Greater Washington Area Chapter

()ur Leadership

President-Elect, Bayliss Fiddiman Immediate Past President, Erinn D. Martin Treasurer, Natasha Hudgins Recording Secretary, Keela Seales Corresponding Secretary and Judicial and Executive Appointments Chair, Dr. Tracey G. Jackson Historian, Alicia McNeal Judicial Liaison, The Honorable Tanya Jones Bosier Community Outreach Chair, Knia Tanner Membership Chair, Patricia-Joy Mpasi Law Firm & Corporate Counsel Chair, Bianca Pinnock Employment & Professional Development Chair, Cadene Russell Brooks Charlotte E. Ray Chair, Jeanine Howard Student Affairs Chair, Lucille Blackburn Legislative Affairs Chair, Kiara Anthony

Impact of GWAC

During the 2021-2022, while still navigating a global pandemic, GWAC has provided a safe space for its members to continue growing professionally and personally by offering programming and extending opportunities for career enrichment, law school success, and community involvement. GWAC returned to traditional programming while introducing new concepts and ideas. Partnership with community, bar, and civic organization was another cornerstone to GWAC's success this past year. Captured here is a snapshot of GWAC's impact over the bar year.



Mission



Community



Legacy



Greater Washington Area Chapter

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Community Engagement & Investment



SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 6:00 - 7:30 PM ET VIA ZOOM



GWAC believes it is vital that minority bar associations create space to engage in the conversation around reimaging policing in this country. During this bar year, GWAC partnered with the Hispanic Bar Association of DC to host a virtual program to host an informative discussion on recent calls to reimagine the criminal legal system and immigration in the context of abolition.

GWAC believes that our vote is our voice and that engaging in the right to vote is essential. During National Voter Registration Week, GWAC volunteered with several local civic organizations and the Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division to register local high school students to vote in the upcoming primaries in the District of Columbia.





In honor of GWAC's founding president, Barbara E. Whiting-Wright, GWAC hosted its Inaugural Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Founder's Day of Service. During this day of service, GWAC members worked in the garden of the DC Bilingual Public Charter School in Northeast Washington, DC, which serves as peaceful haven for the its students.

Membership Outreach



Despite the continued COVID-19 pandemic, GWAC focused on fostering sisterhood and maximizing membership engagement virtually and in person. During this fiscal year, GWAC hosted a weekly discussion with the Young Lawyers Division of the Washington Bar Association to discuss the Black culture phenomenon *Insecure*. GWAC also hosted a virtual view and chew of the movie *My Name Is Pauli Murray*, a documentary that chronicles the life and influence of non-binary Black attorney, artist and activist, Pauli Murray, who influenced legal giants such as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

GWAC promoted self-care and purposeful career planning through its annual virtual vision board party. In celebration of March being Women's History Month, the Washington Bar Association and GWAC hosted a virtual High Tea with Chief Judge Anita Josey-Herring of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. During the tea, GWAC members had an opportunity to sip tea, show their style, and learn more about Chief Judge Josey-Herring's career path, time on the bench, responsibilities as a Chief Judge, best practices when appearing in Superior Court, and her plans for the future of the Court.





For GWAC, the health and well-being of its members are just as crucial as their professional growth. With this focus, GWAC hosted its annual networking Holiday Brunch. This year the brunch was co-hosted with the Young Lawyers Division of the Washington Bar Association and the National Medical Association. GWAC also hosted its post-holiday brunch virtual fitness session, where members were encouraged to participate in a virtual HIIT/Cardio workout.

Career Pathways



GWAC recognizes and celebrates the importance of representation in all areas of the law, including in the judiciary. Throughout this bar year, GWAC hosted a series of programs discussing the experience from the bench, creating pathways to the bench, and opportunities for judicial clerkships and internships. The historic appointment and confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States further highlighted the importance of representation in the judiciary.



Over this past fiscal year, GWAC has hosted a variety of programs focused on creating pathways for career growth, development, and transition. Programs included but were not limited to transitions into academia, stepping into family law, becoming a prosecutor, and starting an appellate practice. In addition to programming on establishing pathways in the legal field, GWAC also hosted a series of programs geared to preparing for and successfully passing the bar exam.

Signature Programs



Charlotte E. Ray Award Ceremony

GWAC hosted its 34th Annual Charlotte E. Ray Awardwhere we honored and celebrated GWAC Past President Norma Brown Hutcheson. Since 1989, the GWAC and the GWAC Foundation have recognized an outstanding African-American woman from the local bar in honor of Charlotte E. Ray, the first woman admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and the first African-American woman certified as a lawyer in the United States. In keeping with the mission of GWAC and the trailblazing spirit of Charlotte E. Ray, awardees demonstrate a strong commitment to community involvement, mentorship, advocacy, and excellence in the Metropolitan Washington community.

GWAC Dinner Series

GWAC's Dinner series provides opportunies to its members to engage and network with Washington DC's most prominent women attorneys and community leaders. This year's series included Magistrate Judge Robin M. Meriweather of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Author and Professor Kristin Nicole Henning of Georgetown University Law Center and Rage of Innocence, DC Councilmember Christina Henderson, and General counsel for the National Endowment for the Arts, India Pinkney, who was the first Black to hold the position and the first U.S. attorney in the Legal Bureau of the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organization.

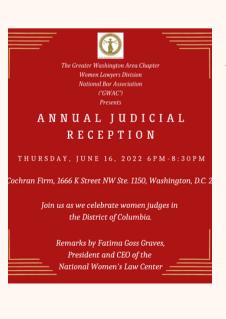


Signature Programs cont.



Barbara E. Whiting Wright Networks and Awards Reception

2021 Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Networking and Awards Reception honors black women attorneys who are making positive impacts in the Washington DC legs community, This year's award Trailblazer was given to: Kemba Hendrix, DEIA Advisor with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. This year's Rising Star Awards were given to Ashlei Ferguson, Corporate Counsel at Microsoft (Corporate, External and Legal Affairs Group); and Rising Star: Victoria Clark, Attorney Advisor at the Federal Aviation Administration. GWAC also awarded its inaugural Beacon Award to Lucrecia "Lu" Johnson, Managing Attorney & Founder of LPJ Legal PLLC and Jamille Fields Allsbrook, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Population Affairs at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services . The Beacon Award recognized an attorney whose work was shining a light on a particular area of law or concern in an area of law.



Annual Judicial Reception

GWAC hosted its annual Judicial Reception on June 16th at the Cochrane Firm recognize and celebrate women judges in D.C. We 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 was our featured keynote speaker to address the importance of diversity in the judiciary,

Celebrating Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's Historic Supreme Court Nomination and Confirmation



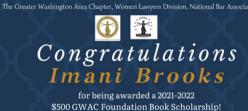
The Importance of a Black Woman Jurist on SCOTUS

This year, the world witnessed the nomination and confirmation of the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States, the highest court in the land. In recognition of this momentous occasion, GWAC collaborated with the Office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia, to celebrate this victory and have a dialogue about the impact of having a Black woman on the Supreme Court. This was an open forum for both the legal community and the District community. This event also held in cosponsorship with the Women's Bar Association of DC. GWAC also hosted a trivia night and served as a core partner for a rally in support of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. This rally was spearheaded by the National Women's Law Center Action Fund

GWAC's Work with the GWAC <u>Foundation</u>



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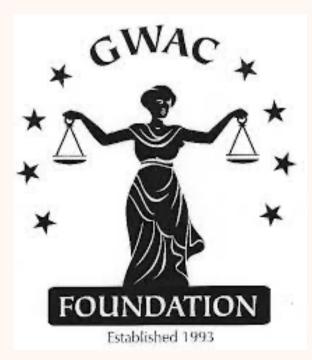




Ms. Imani Brooks is a second year law student at American University Washington College of Law. She is a Law Student Policy Intern for the NAAC Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Ms. Brooks will be pursing her interests in appellate law and labor and employment law as a 2022 summer associate at Woods Rogers, PLC. On campus, Ms. Brooks serves on the Black Students Law Association E-board and the If When How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice E-Board. In the DC community, Ms. Brooks teaches constitutional law at Ballou High School and is a member of the Federal City Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She received her B.A. from Emory University in International Studies.

Book Scholarships

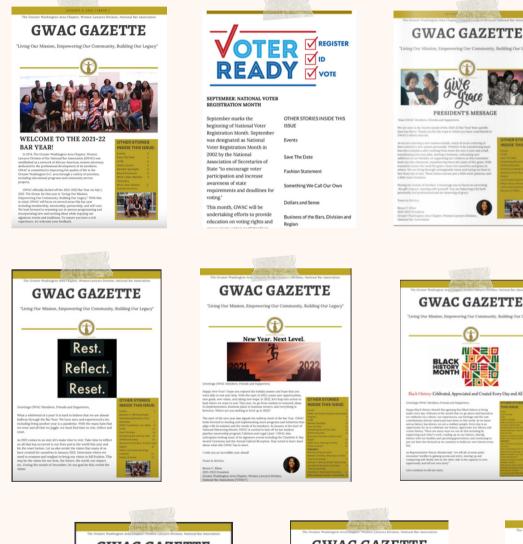
In 1993, GWAC established a charitable arm - the GWAC Foundation, Inc. ("the Foundation"). The Foundation received its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service in 1995. That same year, GWAC provided the Foundation with its original endowment, which it has more than tripled in the past five years. The work of the Foundation is performed entirely by volunteers with no paid staff. The Foundation awarded two \$500 book scholarships two deserving law students to alleviate some of the financial pressures of pursing a law degree.



GWAC Gazette Monthly Newsletter

GWAC issued 10 montly newsletters informing members of upcoming programing, fundraising and fellowship opportunities.

Click each image to view newsletter





GWAC GAZETTE







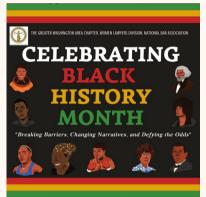
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Social Media Campaigns

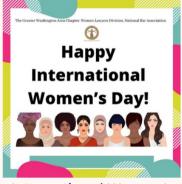
GWAC engaged with its membership through *Ten (10)* different social media campaigns. These campaigns resulted in almost 500 total daily impressions.



GWAC #WCW Campaign

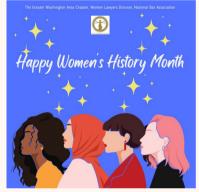


Black History Month



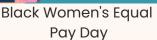
International Women's Day





Women's History Month







A Woman's Work



Kwanzaa



Caribbean Heritage Month

GWAC 2021-2022 Bar Year Recap

July 2021

27 - Diversifying the Fight for Justice: Women of Color Appellate Litigators Panel
31 - Inaugural Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Founder's Day of Service

August 2021

21 - GWAC General Body Retreat

September 2021

21 - A conversation on Reimagining Systems of Law Enforcement (with the Hispanic Bar Association of DC)

25 - National Bar Association Region XII Cookout

28 - GWAC High School Voter Registration Drive

October 2021

1 - Virtual View & Chew: My Name is Pauli Murray

12-26 - Parents' Tax Workshop and Clinic (with Mother's Outreach Network, Office of Tax and Revenue, and Crowell and Moring)

26 - The ABC's of Becoming an Administrative Law Judge

November 2021

3 - Serving Clients in Crisis (with the Washington Council of Lawyers)

8 - Adopting While Black: Joys, Challenges & Legal Complexities, Part I: Adoption Education and Overview

17 - GWAC General Body Meeting: "Financially Preparing for the Holiday Season: How Not to Break the Bank

23 - Adopting While Black: Joys, Challenges & Legal Complexities, Part 2: Obstacles and Preparation

30 - Adopting While Black: Joys, Challenges & Legal Complexities, Part 3: Addressing Trauma

December 2021

2 - Women in Politics: What Does It Take? (with the Women's Bar Association of DC)

5 - GWAC Holiday Brunch (with the National Medical

Association DC Young Physicians Committee, and The Washington Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division)

6 - Post-Holiday Virtual Fitness Session

7 - Adopting While Black: Joys, Challenges & Legal Complexities, Part 4: Adoption and Policy Reform

11 - Forging Your Career Path: You Made the Decision to Enter the Field of Law...Now What?

15 - The 2021 Barbara E. Whiting-Wright Networking and Awards Reception

21 - Jingle with GWAC

16-27 - DC Mutual Aid Holiday Donations in Partnership with Mothers Outreach Network and Ionia Whipper Home

GWAC 2021-2022 Bar Year Recap

January

19 - GWAC General Body Meeting: Self-Care Vision Board Party

25 - The ABCs to Becoming an Administrative Law Judge at the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings

17 - The 34th Annual Charlotte E. Ray Awards Ceremony Honoring GWAC Past President Norma Brown Hutcheson

February

24 - So, You Want to Be a Magistrate Judge?

28 - GWAC launched its Law Student Pipeline Mentorship Program, "Life Lines and Legal Lines"

March

3 - Understanding the Senate SCOTUS Confirmation Process (with the South Asian Bar Association of DC, the Capital Area Muslim Bar Association, the Asian Pacific Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of DC, the Women's Bar Association of DC, and the Iranian American Bar Association

9 - GWAC Dinner Series featuring DC Councilmember Christina Henderson

12 - Virtual High Tea with Chief Judge Anita Josey-Herring (with the Washington Bar Association)

16 - GWAC Spring General Body Meeting and Program: DC Refers

21 - Rally in Celebration of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson (Core Partner alongside lead organizers the National Women's Law Center Action Fund, Black Women's Roundtable, and She Will Rise, along with many other Black women-led organizations)

22 - Career Transitions: Practitioner Turned Professor

24 - Women in Law: Views From Both Sides of the Bench (with Thursday Network)

25 - Q2 Money Management Reset with Rho Thomas

29 - How a Black Woman Jurist Will Impact The Supreme Court & Our Country: A Conversation with Women Lawyers and the D.C. Community (with the Office of DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and the Women's Bar Association of DC)

31 - Honoring The Legacy of Justice Stephen Breyer (with the South Asian Bar Association of DC and several other affinity bars)

GWAC 2021-2022 Bar Year Recap

April

- 16 Judicial Clerkship & Internship Panel
- 23 Bar Prep Information Session
- 27 GWAC Dinner Series featuring Judge Robin M. Meriweather
- 30 GWAC 5K Your Pace, Your Place Race/Walk

May

- 1-27 Cereal Wars Supporting Food From The Bar
- 1-31 GWAC Food From The Bar Bingo

5 - Attorney General Democratic Primary Candidate Forum (with the Washington Council of Lawyers)

9-13 - Step Out Hunger

9 - GWAC Dinner Series featuring Author and Professor Kristin Nicole Henning

11 - Pathways to Practice

13 - Crypto Goes Escrow (with American Bar Association's Real Estate, Condemnation & Trust Litigation Committee, and National Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division)

21 NBA Region XII Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Oral Advocacy Competition 19 - SCOTUS Trivia Night

June

13 - Crafting Your Financial Transition Plan with Jessica Medina

15 - GWAC End of Year General Body Meeting and Annual Elections

16 - Annual Judicial Reception

Upcoming

June

21 - Supreme Happy Hour Celebrating the Appointment and Confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court

22 - GWAC Dinner Series featuring India Pinkney, General Counsel at the National Endowment for the Arts

- 24 End of Bar Year Celebratory Reception and Toast to the Class of 2022
- 27 Caribbean Heritage Month Mixer
- 29 2022-23 GWAC Annual Installation Ceremony

Barbara E Whiting-Wright — 7/28/36 - 11/7/19 — GWAC Founding President

INLOVING MEMORY

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Greater Washington Area Chapter

Connect with us!

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