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EMORY | LAW

Black Law Students Association



In memoriam

On July 17, U.S. Rep. John Lewis 14H left this world to join his friends, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy. The image of them walking with arms linked during the Selma-to-Montgomery March is a vivid moment in American history and memory. For many reasons, not least that Lewis was a living link to the beginning of the civil rights movement, his death is a blow.

In 2014, Lewis was Emory Law's diploma ceremony speaker. He recalled when he met his first lawyer in 1958. It was attorney Fred Gray, who picked him up at the bus station in Montgomery, Alabama. They drove to Abernathy's church to see Dr. King. Gray was integral to the movement and once said his goal in practicing law was to "destroy everything segregated."

"If it hadn't been for lawyers, I don't know what would have happened to America," Lewis told the Class of 2014. "Under the rule of law we have witnessed what I like to call a nonviolent revolution in America—a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas. Our country is a better country and we are a better people

because of the law. So go out there and do your best to seek justice. And never ever turn back, never ever give up. But keep the faith and continue to work for what is right, for what is fair, and for what is just.”

May he rest in peace.

You may watch his remarks [here](#) (starting at 22:48).

We also encourage you to see “John Lewis: Good Trouble,” a film produced by Emory alumnus Ben Arnon 98C, which was released earlier this month. For each \$12 stream of the film purchased through [Eventive](#), \$5 will be donated to the John Lewis Chair in Civil Rights and Social Justice at Emory Law.

BLSA Scholarship Announcement

We, the Black law alumni, started a fund to endow a new scholarship for admitted Black Students who need additional financial assistance to turn their dreams of attending Emory Law into a reality.

We have raised approximately half the funding necessary to endow the new Black Law Students Association Scholarship. We need your help to meet our matching gift by August 31.

Acceptance to law school is only part of the battle for Black students. Finances often become the deciding factor. Currently, the cost of one year of law school at Emory (with living expenses) is more than \$75,000. That cost, combined with the demands of being a full-time student, creates economic hurdles that often prevent students from attending Emory Law.

The number of Black students who apply and are accepted to Emory Law remains consistent. Yet the number of Black students, specifically Black men, who actually attend remains disproportionately low. Most years less than 10 percent of the class is comprised of Black students among a class of 250.

We want to see Black students who have been accepted choose to attend because of the financial support and community we can provide. Your generous contribution to this endowment will help us tackle systemic disparity in higher education.

GIVE NOW

Why I Give



Sutton is president-elect of BLSA's Alumni Advisory Board. As senior counsel at Chick-fil-a, Sutton manages all new restaurant development in Midwest and Southwest. He is also founder and chair of the legal department's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He says he could not have attended Emory Law without the scholarship he received. That's why he's given to endow the new BLSA 1L scholarship.

"To whom much is given much is required," he says. "My Emory education has afforded me numerous opportunities and it is my pleasure to give back and be a benefit to others who are starting out on this same journey. I encourage my Emory classmates, friends and colleagues to support this worthy cause and give back as well."

Ways to Engage



Demonstrate Sankofa for our students

Sankofa derives from the Akan people's words: SAN (return), KO (go), FA (look, seek and take). It symbolizes the Akan people's quest for knowledge, based on critical examination, and intelligent and patient investigation. Last year, the BLSA Alumni Advisory Board launched its inaugural Sankofa ceremony for graduating BLSA students. Due to COVID-19, we could not meet in person, but we will not let that stop us from supporting the newest members of our BLSA alumni community. Follow the link below to share words of wisdom to accompany the special commemorative Sankofa pin we will send to Class of 2020 BLSA graduates.

[CONTINUE ►](#)



BLSA LinkedIn Group

Stay connected to BLSA through our new LinkedIn group. Learn about BLSA initiatives, interact with each other and current students, and strengthen our community by joining Emory BLSA – Alumni and Students on LinkedIn.

[JOIN GROUP](#)

Faculty News



An-Na'im among Carnegie's 2020 'Great Immigrants'

Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im is on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual list of 'Great Immigrants' which is announced each July 4. The 2020 list honors 38 naturalized citizens who have enriched and strengthened our nation and democracy through their contributions and actions.

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