



We are delighted to announce the establishment of Stanford Law School's Black Alumni Association (SLS BAA). This new Association is the result of discussions I've had with SLS Black alumni over the past few months about ways the Law School can better support current and former students of color. We realize that there is more to do and in our small meetings, and more broadly in the Town Hall held in November, I discussed many of the concerns raised. We are committed to making SLS a more inclusive and equitable institution. We hope the SLS BAA will foster greater engagement with Black alumni and to help create and deliver programs and opportunities to inspire and unite us.

Jenny S. Martinez

Richard E. Lang Professor of Law and Dean of Stanford Law School

Dear Fellow Black Alums:

Over the past few months, several of us have met regularly with Dean Martinez and members of her team to discuss issues of equity and inclusion at the law school. SLS BAA was born out of these discussions and specifically the desire of several Black alums to establish a more permanent and organized way for Black alumni to engage with the law school and each other. In doing so, we hope to build upon previous efforts (such as in 2004) to create an association for SLS Black alums.

The Association's mission is to (i) build **greater community** among SLS Black alumni; (ii) to **engage, support, and mentor** current and prospective Black students; and (iii) to support SLS in addressing issues and concerns related to **racial diversity, equity, and inclusion**. This organization was created in collaboration with the SLS External Relations team members, who enthusiastically support us and our mission.

Our inaugural leadership team is made up of four officers and five advisory board members. For more details about us, see the new [SLS Black Alumni Association webpage](#). Over the next few months, we will be hosting virtual events for alumni; providing opportunities to mentor current students and recent graduates; and engaging with the law school on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. We also plan to have committees on alumni programming, mentoring, faculty hiring, and other topics as needed.

We hope you will engage with SLS BAA by:

- Joining the Association and [complete a brief survey](#) to let us know your areas of interest (events, topics, mentoring, committees, etc.). ***Association membership is not automatic, but is free!*** By officially joining, you are opting-in to being a part of the Association. We hope that you will join and encourage your classmates to join so we can increase connection and community among SLS Black alums.

- Joining the [SLS BAA Virtual Launch Party](#) on **Thursday, February 25th from 12pm-1pm PT**. This is a chance to meet the inaugural leadership team, reconnect with classmates, and meet other Black alumni.

With our best wishes for the new year,

Lianne Labossiere Worden, JD '09
President

Jessica Verran-Lingard, JD/MBA '15
Vice President – Alumni Engagement

Bolanle Olupona, JD '09
Vice President – Racial Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives

Alexandria Gilbert, JD/MA '18
Vice President – Student Engagement

Marsha Simms, JD '77
Advisory Board Member

Cassandra Knight, BA '91, JD '94
Advisory Board Member

Chris Chambers Goodman, JD '91
Advisory Board Member

Irene Oritseweyinmi Joe, JD '06
Advisory Board Member

Casey Cooper, JD '93
Advisory Board Member

Stay Connected:

[SLS Black Community LinkedIn group](#) | [SLS BAA Facebook Group](#) | [SLS Black Alumni Association webpage](#) | [Email SLSBAA](#)