



# NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2017 National Bar Association’s “40 Under 40” Award Recipients Announced

The National Bar Association (“NBA”) has announced the 2017 recipients of its “40 Under 40 Nation’s Best Advocates” awards. The awards recognize the nation’s top lawyers under the age 40 who exemplify a broad range of high achievement in the legal field, including in advocacy, innovation, vision, leadership and overall legal and community involvement.

“As one of the preeminent bar associations in the world, the NBA has an obligation to ensure that our communities are informed of their rights, and placed in the best position to receive justice when challenged. Each of our 40 Under 40 award recipients possesses remarkable intellect and a professional drive that enhances the future of our profession. On behalf of an organization with a magnificent history of great leaders, I am proud to give the 2017 inductees the recognition they deserve as they will no doubt continue to make the legal field and our communities a better place for all,” said Kevin Judd, president of the National Bar Association.

According to Aubrey “Nick” Pittman, Chair of the 40 Under 40 Awards, “the selection panel, which included former NBA presidents and other NBA leaders, undertook the demanding task of reviewing a substantial list of outstanding nominees from across the globe and narrowing the list to the 40 individuals who will receive the prestigious award. It wasn’t an easy job considering the breadth of talent in the pool.” **The recipients will be honored at the National Bar Association’s renowned 40 Under 40 Awards Gala on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, during the NBA’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in Toronto, Canada.**

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The final selections represent a cross-section of legal professionals, including lawyers from big, medium and small firms, solo and industry practitioners, government lawyers, judges, academicians, corporate counsels, young elected officials, and various other lawyers, all of whom are using their juris doctor degree in innovative and community impacting ways. During the Black-tie Awards Gala, recipients of the Nation's Best Advocate of the Year and the Excellence in Leadership, Service, Activism, and Innovation awards will also be announced.

**2017 NBA Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40**

1. **Tamara Benefield**, Partner, Law Offices of Tamara Benefield
2. **Jovan Blacknell**, Principal Attorney, Law Office of J. Blacknell
3. **Jacqueline Brooks**, Partner, Saul Ewing LLP
4. **Cinnamon Butler**, Division Chief, U.S. Dept of Agriculture - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
5. **Lesley Horton Campbell**, Associate General Counsel, Tiffany & Co.
6. **Brandon Cox**, Associate, Tucker Ellis LLP
7. **Miesha Darrough**, Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney - Southern District of Florida
8. **Rodney Diggs**, Partner, Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt
9. **Leander Dolphin**, Partner, Shipman & Goodman, LLP
10. **Miguel Dominguez**, Attorney, Morgan & Morgan
11. **Patricia Donkor**, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division
12. **Nailah Gordon-Deciciego**, Associate, Joanna Gordon Law Firm P.C.
13. **Ashlei Gradney**, Attorney, Kastl Law, P.C.
14. **Meredith Graves**, Senior Analyst, U.S. Government Accountability Office
15. **Chasity Sharp Grice**, Partner, Peppel, Gomes & MacIntosh, P.C.
16. **Stephen Hall**, Senior Litigation Associate, Holland & Knight
17. **Nathaniel Hargress**, Senior Counsel, Business & Legal Affairs, Viacom Media Networks
18. **Robert Harmon**, Deputy General Counsel and Director, Tesla Motors, Inc.
19. **Keabii Henderson**, Chief Judge, Cayce Municipal Court, City of Cayce, South Carolina
20. **Shammara Henderson**, Assistant U.S. Attorney, United States Attorney's Office - District of New Mexico

21. **Lawanda Hodges**, Managing Attorney, The Law Firm of Lawanda Hodges, LLC
22. **Carla Laroche**, Law Fellow, Criminal Justice Reform, Southern Poverty Law Center
23. **Latrice Lee**, Associate, Polsinelli
24. **Rachel Lindsay**, Associate, Cooper Scully
25. **Tyesha Miley**, Attorney, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
26. **Shawnte Mitchell**, V.P., General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, Aptevo Therapeutics Inc.
27. **Mariam Moktar**, Associate, Lenczner Slaght
28. **Lillie Nkenchor**, Corporate VP, Advanced Planning Group, New York Life Insurance Co.
29. **Bambo Obaro**, Associate, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
30. **Aaron Ogletree**, Attorney, Arbitrator and Mediator, Law Office of Aaron Ogletree
31. **Mandisa "Mandy" Price**, Senior Associate, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
32. **Ebony Rivon**, Managing Partner, Rivon Law Firm, PLLC
33. **Jason Roberts**, Shareholder, Rubin, Fortunato & Harbison, P.C.
34. **Nexus Sea**, Associate, Baker Hostetler
35. **Stacey Sublett**, Associate, Beveridge & Diamond, PC
36. **Natalie Walker**, Partner, Webster & Fredrickson, PLLC
37. **Lovely Warren**, Mayor, City of Rochester, NY
38. **Julie Wenah**, Counsel, Airbnb
39. **Lacreasha Wilkerson**, Assistant Attorney General, Louisiana Dept. of Justice
40. **Lance Woods**, Associate, Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP

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#### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION**

The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. It represents the interests of more than 65,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students. The NBA is organized around 23 substantive law sections, 9 divisions, 12 regions and 84 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world. For more information, visit: [www.nationalbar.org](http://www.nationalbar.org)