**From:** Kelly Legier
**To:** Kelly Legier;
**Subject:** Region V Winter Newsletter
**Date:** Friday, January 08, 2010 1:52:31 PM

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**From:** Eboni Townsend [mailto:cfsimms@nationalbar.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Eboni Townsend
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2010 12:06 PM
**Subject:** Region V Winter Newsletter

National Bar Association

# Region V (Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and the Canal Zone) "Standing on Shoulders, Keeping the Promise"

**January 2010**

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## Message from the Regional Director

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Bar Year of the **National Bar Association**! My name is **Carlos Moore**and I have the honor of serving as your **Regional Director** this year. Thanks for entrusting me to lead such an esteemed Region; I will endeavor to keep that trust as we carry out an ambitious agenda for the bar year. **NBA President Mavis Thompson**has selected as our theme for the year *"Standing on Shoulders, Keeping the Promise"*. In the spirit of the theme, let us never forget the bridges that have brought us over as we look to brighter days ahead. As for the second part of this year's theme, we must ever be mindful of community service in the more general sense. As we all climb the ladder of success in law firms, corporate America or in various other endeavors let's remember to reach back and uplift others. We are all standing on the shoulders of our elders who reached back to lift us up to where we are now. Let's do the same for those coming after us. We have a promise to keep.

**Region V** continues to work with the **Diversity and Outreach Coordinator** of the Louisiana State Bar Association, **Kelly Legier**, and President of the Louisiana State Bar Association, **Kim Boyle**, to encourage attendance and participation in the Louisiana State Bar Association. On November 3, 2009, the LSBA partnered with the **Louis A. Martinet - Baton**

- National Bar Association
- Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society
- Greater Lafayette Louis A. Martinet Legal Association
- Greater Baton Rouge Louis A. Martinet Legal Society
- Houston Lawyers Association
- African American Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Texas
- JL Turner Legal Association
- Magnolia Bar Association

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**Rouge** and the Baton Rouge Bar Association to host a **Free Mini Diversity Conclave** in Baton Rouge for an audience of almost 140 lawyers and judges. The Diversity Conclave was held at the Sheraton Baton Rouge Convention Center Hotel. The goal of the Diversity Conclave was to initiate a dialogue with respect to diversity in the legal profession. President **Kim Boyle** delivered a powerful closing, challenging corporations and law firms to seek a diversified workplace.

On November 21, 2009, **Region V** hosted its **Affiliate/Roundtable Meeting**in Jackson, Mississippi. Regional Director, **Carlos Moore**, addressed affiliate chapter presidents' concerns in the level of national participation and involvement with affiliate chapters. Discussions were held regarding upcoming Region V activities that included: **Bayou Classic Kick-Off Reception** (New Orleans, LA - November 27, 2009), **BLSA 39th Annual Regional Convention** (Baton Rouge, LA - January 14-17, 2010), **NBA All-Star Weekend Sports CLE and Reception** (Dallas, TX - February 12-14, 2010), **Music Festivalooza** (New Orleans, LA - July 2-3, 2010), and the **Regional MLK Drum Major for Justice Competition** (Memphis, TN - May 1, 2010).

Regional Director, **Carlos Moore**, will be participating in the **Rocky Mountain/ Southern Region Frederick Douglas Moot Court and Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competitions** on January 15-16, 2010. Carlos Moore will also give greetings on behalf of the NBA at the banquet Saturday, January 16, 2010. More judges are still needed so contact Carlos at moorelawoffice@bellsouth.net if interested.

**Region V** has two candidates that are running for **National Bar Association** President at the **85th Annual Convention & Exhibits** in New Orleans, Louisiana, **Karl Conner** (Louisiana) and **Sonya Hoskins** (Texas). Please be sure to show your support for Region V candidates.

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We hope all Region V members continue to be actively involved in Region V activities. Your continued participation is greatly appreciated.

## Region V Activities

The NBA hosted its **Kick-Off Reception** for the **85th Annual Convention & Exhibits** on November 27, 2009, at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans, La. The reception occurred during **Bayou Classic**weekend, one of the most celebrated sporting events between Grambling University and Southern University, two Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals. **NBA President Mavis Thompson**, provided greetings to a standing room only crowd filled with Lawyers, Judges, Law Students and members of the business community. President Thompson shared information regarding past activities of the NBA and upcoming events. **Sharon Bridges**, Vice President of Membership, served as chair for this event. The planning committee included **Karl Connor**, Vice President-Region & Affiliates, **Sharonda Williams** (Co-Chair 2010 NBA Annual Convention), **Cherrelle Sims** (Co- Chair 2010 Annual Convention), **Carol Guess**, **Eboni Townsend** (Region V Deputy Director) and **Monique Edwards**.

**Region V** held its **Annual Meeting** and **Roundtable Discussion** on November 21, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi in connection with the Magnolia Bar Association Fall CLE. Those in attendance were Regional Director, **Carlos Moore**, Vice President of Membership, **Sharon Bridges**, Secretary, **Audrey Moorehead**, J.L. Turner Legal Association President, **Art Anthony**, Bert Jennings, John Hall, Al Rhodes, and Arlene Knighten; via telephone: Martinet Baton Rouge President, **Alejandro Perkins**, Region V Deputy Director, **Eboni Townsend**, Danielle Hargrove, Sonya Hoskins and NBA Vice President of Regions & Affiliates, **Karl Conner**.

**NBA 2010 Annual Convention** Co-Chairs, **Sharonda Williams** and **Cherrell Simms**, continue their efforts in securing

sponsors and vendors for the **85th Annual Convention and Exhibits**. They are seeking volunteers for various activities and programs. Please contact Sharonda Williams at swilliams@shergarner.com or Cherrell Simms at csimms@gjtbs.com.

## Affiliate Chapters

### Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Greater Baton Rouge Chapter

The **Baton Rouge Martinet** hosted several programs last fall. In August 2009, Martinet assisted the Leo S. Butler Community Center in hosting their annual **Back-To-School Children's Health Fair**. The purpose of this health fair was to promote family and community awareness about healthy living, including everything from health screening to haircuts. In addition to providing valuable information, the fair also provided children with necessary school supplies. Baton Rouge Martinet donated 40 book bags filled with school supplies.

In October 2009, **Baton Rouge Martinet** along with **Judge Wilson Fields** of the 19th Judicial District Court and the law firm of **McGlynn, Glisson, and Mouton Law Firm**, hosted a reception at the Buzz Café in downtown Baton Rouge. The reception was held for students participating in the Southern University Law Center's 2009 Pre-Law Program. Over 50 incoming 1L's attended this event. The event allowed Pre-Law Program participants to meet many of the current Martinet Society members and pose questions ranging from first year law school expectations to the actual practice of law after graduation and bar passage.

During the month of October, **Baton Rouge Martinet's Educational Outreach Committee** visited Istrouma High School to speak with 11th and 12th grade Constitutional Law students. The attorneys discussed First Amendment rights and courtroom experiences. Participants included, Tedrick Knightshead, Ethel Clay Pierson, Latoya Roberson, **Eboni Townsend**, Christopher Hebert and

Kathy Wright.

During the month of December, **Baton Rouge Martinet** hosted its Third **Annual Toy Drive/Christmas Party** on December 14, 2009 at Sullivan's Steakhouse - Ringside. On December 18, 2009, **Baton Rouge Martinet** hosted its **Annual End of the Year CLE** at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The CLE consisted of one hour of ethics and one hour of professionalism. On December 19, 2009, the **Martinet Foundation** collaborated with Councilwoman Tara Wicker and Louisiana Representative Pat Smith in hosting the South Baton Rouge Christmas Parade. Members of Martinet donated Christmas gifts to the children in the South Baton Rouge community.

### J.L. Turner Legal Association

**JL Turner Legal Association** hosted its **57th Anniversary Scholarship Gala** on October 24, 2009 at the Sheraton Downtown in Dallas, Texas.

**JL Turner** sponsored the Investiture of Chief Justice Carolyn Wright. Justice Wright is the first African American to be Chief of the 5th District Court of Appeals. She was sworn in by the first African American Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, the Honorable Wallace Jefferson.

On December 17, 2009, **JL Turner** hosted its **2009 Holiday Christmas Party** at the W Hotel in Downtown Dallas. The Christmas party was co- sponsored by U. S. Legal Support.

**Karen McCloud** was sworn in as the **2010 President** of the JL Turner. Karen is a litigation attorney that has served as president of the Dallas Women Lawyers Association and the award winning Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

## Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Greater New Orleans Chapter

The **New Orleans Martinet** had a busy six months. In October 2009, **New Orleans Martinet** hosted its **Annual Scholarship Gala** for deserving law students at Dooky Chase Restaurant. This year, two recipients were selected for the scholarships: a law student from LSU and a law student from Southern University Law Center.

**LSBA President Kim Boyle** was presented with a plaque, recognizing her accomplishments and contributions to the profession. Also, Attorney Derrick Edwards was presented with a President's Award of Merit for his contribution to the profession. Mr. Edwards was injured and became a quadriplegic while playing high school football, but has since earned several degrees, including his Juris Doctor degree. Currently, Mr. Edwards is a practicing attorney with the firm of Usry & Weeks in New Orleans.

In December, **New Orleans Martinet** held a **CLE Seminar** worth 6.75 hours of credit, including professionalism and ethics. Topics included Effective Jury Voir Dire Post Katrina, Recent Developments in Attorney Discipline (Ethics), Louisiana Advertising Rules: Practical Applications (Ethics), Persuading with PowerPoint (Law Office Practice), Workers Compensation, and a discussion on Professionalism: a View from the Bench by Hon. June Berry Darensburg, Hon. Rosemary Ledet, Hon. Ivan L. R. Lemelle, moderated by Jim Garner, Esq.

**New Orleans Martinet** hosted its **Annual Christmas Party** in mid December. This year, New Orleans Martinet decided to donate a portion of the funds raised to benefit **Second Harvest Food Bank**. The event was held at the George & Leah McKenna Museum of African American Art and was a great success.

Also in December, as **Martinet President** and **Local Chairman of the 2010 NBI**

**Golf & Tennis Tournament**, **Warren McKenna** hosted the National Committee for a weekend of site selection and other matters in preparation for the event to be held in conjunction with the 2010 NBA Convention.

The Committee attended the Christmas Party and viewed English Turn Golf Club, Lakewood Country Club and the Tournament Players Club of Louisiana. The Committee also met with the local chair of the First Tee, Hon. Karen Roby, to coordinate a youth education component of the tournament. After reviewing the sites, the Committee voted to return to English Turn, the site of the tournament when the NBA Convention was previously in New Orleans.

### Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Lafayette Chapter

On September 5, 2009, the **Lafayette Martinet** joined with the **Baton Rouge Martinet** to host its first **Joint CLE**. The CLE took place the weekend of the Southern University vs. University of Louisiana Lafayette football game. The CLE featured panelist: Dr. Marvin Clifton, Neurosurgeon and Dr. Quentin Briscoe, Chiropractor, spoke on such topics that included personal injury claims and tort claims. In attendance were Deputy Director, **Eboni Townsend**, Baton Rouge Martinet President, **Alejandro Perkins**.

### Magnolia Bar Association

The **Magnolia Bar Association** hosted its **Fall CLE** on Friday, November 20, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi. The CLE was approved for six hours of CLE credit including one hour of Ethics. A Legislative Black Caucus breakfast was held Friday morning. Panelist spoke on various topics such as security claims issues, criminal trial practice and defense liability cases. A reception sponsored by the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Program was held Friday evening.

**Stephanie Boyd** serves as the current president of the **San Antonio Black Lawyers Association** (SABLA). This is her third year of service as president of SABLA. Ms. Boyd and the **San Antonio Black Lawyer's Association** (SABLA) are committed to the continuation of the **Street Law Program** that began in 2001 with the students at Sam Houston High School.

**Street Law** originated with law students at Georgetown University who developed an experimental curriculum to teach practical legal aspects to high school children in the District of Columbia. Street Law gained rapid popularity and matured from a local program into a national and international entity. Today Street Law Inc. thrives in numerous cities in the US and in more than 30 countries around the world.

**Lisa Tatum, SABLA President** 1994, and member **Demetrius Bivins** were instrumental in securing the participation of the teachers and incorporating the program into the required government class taught at Sam Houston High School. With Lisa Tatum's direction, SABLA began a funding campaign composed of grants, corporate and personal donations to secure the proceeds necessary to purchase the unique program textbooks: Street Law: A Course in Practical Law. These textbooks, published by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill now in its 8th edition, played an important role in adding law to the high school curricula.

**Street Law** curriculum covers topics such as: why we have laws, individual rights, dispute resolution, police and arrest, comparing adult and juvenile criminal procedures, negotiation strategies, youth advocacy, landlord/tenant relations, lemon laws, marriage, divorce, paternity and child support.

**Street Law** teaches high school students the law in plain simple terms by using examples that students can relate to. Role playing is used to keep the students

engaged SABLA began partnering law students of diverse backgrounds with SABLA attorney's. The addition of law students helped maintain the program's consistency in case the attorney was unexpectedly delayed in court. Often actual cases would be used to stimulate discussion and analysis of liberal and conservative opinions.

SABLA plans to expand the **Street Law** program in the future to include other schools and additional vulnerable segments of the community such as the elderly and homeless. If you would like to volunteer please contact the SABLA.

## National Black Law Students Association

### Rocky Mountain/Southern Region

The **Rockey Mountain/Southern Region** is hosting its **39th Annual Regional Convention** in Baton Rouge, Louisiana January 14-17, 2010 at the Sheraton Convention Center, Downtown Baton Rouge. During the annual convention the **Frederick Douglas Moot Court** and **Thurdgood Marshall Mock Trial**, two notable competitions will be held January 14-15, 2010. More judges are needed for the competitions. Please contact Karen Nazaire at karen.nazaire@gmail.com for more information.

## Members on the Move

### Malcolm Harrison

On the same day the U.S. District Court set a sentencing date for former Hinds County Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter, the governor appointed his successor. Breaking from what's been his customary practice in judicial appointments, Governor Haley Barbour named an African American - Hinds County Attorney **Malcolm Harrison** - to serve out DeLaughter's term, which ends Jan. 3, 2011.

Mr. Harrison, 40, is a former president of the **Magnolia Bar Association**. Harrison is committed to working hard for the

people of Hinds County and returning judicial fairness to all citizens. Mr. Harrison brings extensive criminal and civil experience to the Circuit Court bench from his distinguished service as a prosecutor and as a lawyer in private practice. The appointment comes after the Magnolia Bar, a group of black lawyers, questioned the lack of diversity in Barbour's appointments of judges.

## Region V Upcoming Events

**Region V** in conjunction with the **NBA Membership Committee** and **J.L. Turner Legal Association** are hosting the **NBA All- Star Weekend Sports Law CLE**, February 12-14, 2010 in Dallas, Texas at the Marriott Suites. A welcome reception will be held Friday eveing from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Belo Mansion, downtown Dallas. The CLE will be held at the Marriott Suites from 8:30 - 12:00 pm. Continental breakfast will be served. The Hospitality Suite will be available late Friday evening. A Sunday Brunch will be held either at Harwood 609 or Brooklyn Jazz Café from 11:30am until 2:00pm.

Please reserve your room at the Marriott Suites (Reservations: 1-800-228-9290 or 1-214-905-0050, reserve room by January 31, 2010, Group name: "NBA". CLE Registration: Early bird registration is $75.00 if postmarked by December 31, 2009 to Carlos Moore. Regular registration is $100.00 from January 1-31, 2010. Late registration is $125.00. For more information, please contact: Carlos Moore, Region V Director, 1-662-227-9940 or moorelawoffice@bellsouth.net.

The **Louisiana Judicial Council** and **Region V** are co-sponsoring a **Joint CLE** February 19 - 21, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, in Monroe, Louisiana. The CLE is organized as a double track CLE with a set of seminars offered for lawyers and a separate set of seminars offered for judges. The **Lawyer's Tract** is scheduled for Friday, February 19.

The registration fee is $150.00. Room reservations can be made at the Holiday

Inn Conference Center, (318) 387-5100, please ask for the La. Judicial Council rate. For more information on the Lawyer's Tract, please contact **Arlene Knigten** at (225) 342-4484 .

**Region V** will host its annual **MLK Drum Major for Justice Competition** May 1, 2010 in the Memphis Metro Area. More details to follow.

The **Fourth Annual Music Festifalooza** will be July 2-3, 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Louisiana State Bar Center during the **Essence Music Festival**. The CLE will be approved for credit hours in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. More detais to follow.

The **85th Annual Convention & Exhibits** is August 9-13, 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Marriott in Downtown New Orleans. For registration information, please visit www.NationalBar.org.

## National Bar Association

### Upcoming Events

January 27-31, 2010, **NBA Judicial Council & Board of Governors Mid-Winter Meeting**, Hilton Hawaiian Village, *Honolulu, HI*

February 25-27, 2010, **NBA 23rd Annual Corporate Counsel Conference**, The Loews Coronado Bay Resort*, Coronado Bay, CA*

March 2010, **NBA Day on the Hill, NBA 3rd Annual Labor & Employment Law, Continuing Legal Education Conference***, Atlanta, GA*

March 16-20, 2010, **NBA Small Firm / Solo Practitioners' Division 15th Annual Conference**, International Plaza Bonita Resort, *Panama City, Panama*

April 7-10, 2010, **NBA 30th Annual Mid-Year Conference & Gertrude E. Rush Award Dinner**, The Renaissance St. Louis Grand & Suites, *St. Louis, MO*

May 6-10, 2010, **NBA Healthcare Law Summit**, Location TBD, *Washington, DC*

May 2010, **NBA Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC) Meeting**, Location TBD, *Washington, DC*

May 31, 2010, **NBA Women Lawyers Division Annual Supreme Court Swearing-In Ceremony**, *Washington, DC*

June 2010, **NBA International Affiliate Chapter Meeting** , Location TBD, *Ghana and Senegal*

August 7-14, 2010, **NBA 85th Annual Convention & Exhibits**, The Marriott New Orleans *, New Orleans, LA*

**Promotion Name**

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**Membership News** Is it time to renew your membership? Visit the NBA website to renew your membership or join at www.NationalBar.org. For more information on member benefits, please contact **Vice President of Membership**, **Sharon Bridges** at sbridges@brunini.com.

Carlos Moore
NBA Region V, Regional Director

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