

9-15-2022

Notre Dame Black Law Students Association

Black Law Students Association

Notre Dame Law School

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Black Law Students Association and Notre Dame Law School, "Notre Dame Black Law Students Association" (2022). *BLSA Videos*. 2.

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Notre Dame Black Law Students Association

September 25, 2022

Location: Notre Dame Law School, Eck Hall of Law

Speakers in order of appearance: Honorable Roland W. Chamblee Jr., '07; G. Marcus Cole, Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law; Monica Bell, Former BLSA President and Third-year Notre Dame Law student; Tristan Mullen, First-year Notre Dame Law student.

The Notre Dame Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was established in 1972 with a mission to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and influence the community positively.

English (auto-generated)

0:02

when i first arrived at law school i

0:04

essentially knew no one the environment

0:06

was intimidating rumor had it that your

0:08

first year of law school was the year

0:10

everyone flunked out also provided me

0:13

with the lifeboat to make it through

0:14

that first semester and that first year

0:19

the black law students association is

0:21

one of the oldest student groups here at

0:23

notre dame law school it not only has

0:26

programming for black law students but

0:28

it gets support from all the other

0:30

students and it serves as a focal point
0:33
for student activities
0:35
it's not just a professional community
0:37
it's not just a law school club it's a
0:39
community and an organization that
0:41
supports you
0:43
beyond just professionally
0:48
there is a real value in having
0:50
camaraderie and having community
0:52
especially when you're a minority
0:53
student at a predominantly white
0:56
institution something that already makes
0:58
me feel full of pride just being
1:00
associated with indy law because it
1:02
shows that the law school has had a
1:04
commitment over 50 years to making sure
1:06
that minority and underrepresented
1:08
students have a place they can call
1:10
their own law school is difficult and if
1:13
you want it to be bolsa can be your
1:14
first line of defense against that it
1:16
can be the first group that you go to
1:18

when you have these issues it can be the
1:20
group that you vent to that you cry to
1:22
that you laugh with
1:24
we now have the largest contingent of
1:27
members of balsa in the history of notre
1:29
dame law school and as balsa grows you
1:32
can see the growth of the law school
1:34
around them it's been a wonderful
1:36
experience to see the way in which our
1:38
current balsa members enrich the
1:40
community here one of the reasons that i
1:42
came to notre dame law school to start
1:44
with was the network that it has
1:47
i found that to really just come at a
1:49
whole nother level in the black law
1:51
students association there are people
1:52
with my dream job that i speak to on a
1:54
weekly basis i want to see you
1:56
accomplish everything that you set your
1:58
heart to accomplish
2:00
the main thing i'm excited about
2:02
starting at indy law is just the
2:04

different opportunities that are
2:05
available for incoming students law
2:07
review moot court the exoneration clinic
2:10
those are things that i look forward to
2:12
trying to get involved with while at
2:13
indy law i think black students should
2:16
come to notre dame law school because it
2:18
will offer them an outstanding legal
2:20
education
2:21
i think that they will
2:23
experience particularly with balsa an
2:26
organization or a family that will
2:27
support them and hold them accountable
2:29
you form a relationship with this
2:31
organization for life and it will invest
2:33
in you just as much as you invest in it
2:39
[Music]
English (auto-generated)
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