



43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention & Celebration Preliminary Materials February 2-6, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor

Frequently Asked Questions...

What is the purpose of the MABLSA Convention and Celebration?

The MABLSA Regional Convention is an opportunity for intellectual growth and networking. You will have stimulating conversations with people who are passionate about the law and positively impacting their communities. You will meet and network with prominent legal professionals who have a vested interest in your success. Most importantly, you will build life-long relationships with NBLSA members that will benefit you and your career for years to come.

There are many ways to become an active participant in the MABLSA Convention.

Some are listed below:

The Competitor:

The Competitor arrives to the MABLSA Convention ready to battle! There are two competitions: The Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition and The Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. Preparation for either of these competitions will provide The Competitor with excellent training in brief writing, oral argument and trial advocacy.

For information regarding the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, please contact Sheila Isong at mablsamootcourtcompetition@gmail.com.

For information regarding the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition, please contact Anthony Ho at mablsamocktrialcompetition@gmail.com.

The Delegate:

The Delegate comes to the MABLSA Convention ready for business! One of the purposes behind Regional Convention is to handle the business of MABLSA, to make substantive changes as needed and to increase the effectiveness of our organization. The Delegate acts as a



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liaison between his or her respective BLSA chapter and the Mid-Atlantic region to express their views and advocate for change where needed.

The Networkers:

The Networkers makes their presence known throughout the Convention! You will see them at plenary, the workshops, the luncheons, the receptions and, of course, the social hours!

You will hear their opinions at the workshops and you might even get the chance to bid on them at the Date Auction!

**Regardless of the role you choose to play, you will have an amazing time at the
43rd Annual MABLSA Regional Convention!**

How do I register?

You can register for the MABLSA Regional Convention by copying and pasting the following link in your web browser: <http://a3.acteva.com/orderbooking/bookEvent/A306048>

How do I book my hotel?

You can reserve your room for the Hyatt Regency at our special booking site by copying and pasting the following link in your web browser:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2549088&utm_source=298&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3312297

What are the Convention registration fees?

Active NBLSA Member Registration Rates:

Early Registration (August 13 – October 15): \$120.00

Regular Registration (October 16 – January 1): \$155.00



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Late Registration (January 2 – February 1): \$175.00

On-Site Registration (February 2 – 6): \$200.00

Coaches and Competitors Registration Rates:

Early Registration (August 13 – October 15): \$90.00

Regular Registration (October 16 – January 1): \$100.00

College Student Division (CSD) Member Registration Rates:

Early Registration (August 13 – October 15): \$40.00

Regular Registration (October 16 – January 1): \$50.00

Late Registration (January 2 – February 1): \$60.00

On-Site Registration (February 2 – February 6): \$75.00

Inactive NBLSA Member Registration Rates:

Early Registration (August 13 – October 15): \$200.00

Regular Registration (October 16 – January 1): \$225.00

Late Registration (January 2 – February 1): \$250.00

On-Site Registration (February 2 – February 6): \$275.00

What does the Convention Registration fee include?

The Convention Registration fee includes access to all of the Convention events, including workshops, receptions, luncheons, community service, the Date Auction, the Legacy of MABLSA Reception, the Boat Cruise on the Inner Harbor, the Awards Gala and the After Glow.



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CSD Member Registration includes access to all of the MABLSA Regional Convention events, with the exception of the Boat Cruise on the Inner Harbor. If a CSD member would like to attend, they can purchase an individual ticket online at the Convention registration site and MUST show I.D. before boarding. CSD Members who would like to attend the After Glow may be required to show I.D. before entering.

Anyone who is interested in joining MABLSA on the Boat Cruise on the Inner Harbor, who is not registered for Convention, may purchase an individual ticket online at the Convention registration site between now and January 15, 2011. The ticket is \$50.00.

Anyone who is interested in joining MABLSA at the Awards Gala, who is not registered for Convention, may purchase an individual ticket online at the Convention registration site. The ticket is \$50.00.

How do I volunteer for Convention?

On Thursday, February 3, 2011, MABLSA will be giving back to the community! If you would like to participate, simply choose that option as you register for Convention. Details will be coming soon! For more information regarding our 2010-2011 community service initiatives, please contact Bethany Young at mablsacommunityservice@gmail.com.

You can also become a member of the Convention Challenge Committee, by becoming your school's Regional Convention Liaison (RCL). The RCLs will act as liaisons between their BLSA chapters and the Regional Convention Coordinator. RCLs ensure that schools are kept aware of Convention plans and their desires and needs for Convention are expressed. RCLs are active in the implementation of Convention events and also receive benefits for their time and dedication to MABLSA! For more information regarding the Convention Challenge Committee, please contact Brenda Wise at mablsaregionalconvention@gmail.com.



**43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention & Celebration Preliminary Materials
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What if I am a 2010-2011 National or Regional BLSA Board member?

If you are a National or Regional Board member who would like to attend the MABLSA Regional Convention, please contact Starr Brookins at mid-atlantic@nblsa.org for information regarding your registration.

What if I am past MABLSA/NBLSA Regional Board member?

If you are a past National or Regional Board member who would like to attend the MABLSA Regional Convention, please contact Starr Brookins at mid-atlantic@nblsa.org for information regarding your registration.

What if I still have questions?

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out:

Brenda Wise

Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention Coordinator

mablsaregionalconvention@gmail.com

-OR-

Starr Brookins

Mid-Atlantic Regional Chair

mid-atlantic@nblsa.org

202-681-BLSA

-OR-

Visit our website at www.nblsa.org/mablsa/



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Tentative Schedule of Events*

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Registration for Competitors & Early Arrivals

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Explore Baltimore

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Mock Trial & Moot Court Competitors Meeting/Q&A Session

Thursday, February 3, 2011

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM: Registration & Exhibits

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM: Mock Trial & Moot Court Judges' Orientation Breakfast

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Mock Trial & Moot Court Competition

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Career Expo – A Twist on Table Talk

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Community Outreach & Empowerment

9:00 AM – 10:00 PM: Chapter of the Year Interviews

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Luncheon

2:00 pm – 2:30 PM: First-Time MABLSA Convention Attendees Orientation



**43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention & Celebration Preliminary Materials
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Tentative Schedule of Events, cont.:

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM: Delegates Meeting

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Chapter Leaders Council Meeting

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Candidates Meeting

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Welcome to Baltimore Reception!

Mayor of Baltimore Invited to attend

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM: Charity Date Auction – *Come bid on your favorite MABLSA Board Members and Baltimore community members. Proceeds will go to a phenomenal cause!*

10:00 PM – 2:00 AM: Host Affiliate Welcome After Glow

Friday, February 4, 2011

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM: Registration & Exhibits

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM: Mock Trial & Moot Court Judges' Orientation Breakfast

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Mock Trial & Moot Court Competition

9:00 AM – 10:00 PM: Chapter of the Year Interviews

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Plenary Session #1 – *Required for delegates and registered/competing chapters*

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Workshop #1



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Tentative Schedule of Events, cont.:

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Luncheon

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Billy Murphy, Esquire

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Workshop #2

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Plenary Session # 2 - *Required for delegates and registered/competing chapters*

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Workshop #3

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM: Legacy of MABLSA Reception & Inaugural MABLSA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Featuring Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Wanda K. Heard

9:00 PM – 1:00 AM: MABLSA Moonlight Boat Cruise

Saturday, February 5, 2011

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Registration & Exhibits

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM: Mock Trial & Moot Court Judges' Orientation Breakfast

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Plenary Session # 3 - *Required for delegates and registered/competing chapters*

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM: Workshop #4

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM: Workshop #5

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Luncheon

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Congressman Cummings



43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention & Celebration Preliminary Materials February 2-6, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor

Tentative Schedule of Events, cont.:

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Workshop #6

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: MABLSA Banquet Reception & Chapter of the Year Honorarium

7:00 PM – 9:30 PM: MABLSA 43rd Annual Convention Awards Celebration & Gala. (Black tie)

10:00 PM – Until: MABLSA After Glow & 2012 Convention Kick-Off Party!

Sunday, February 6, 2011

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Inspirational Non-Denominational Prayer Breakfast

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM: MABLSA Transition Meeting

Featured 2011 MABLSA Convention Workshops & Panels:

○ **Is the American Criminal Justice System the New Jim Crow?**

Over half of the people in prison belong to racial and ethnic minorities. According to The Sentencing Project 1 in every 8 Black Males in their twenties are incarcerated on any given day. These statistics and the reality behind them have devastating impacts on the Black community. Are these statistics the result of growing crime in the Black community or of severe discriminatory practices in the American criminal justice system?

○ **Diversity: A Kaleidoscopic View of the Legal Profession**

The legal world is progressing by including a greater number of people that encompass a diverse set of issues, viewpoints, goals and experiences. This workshop will focus on the change agents that are a part of this growing movement towards true diversity. True diversity is not limited by sex or race but includes all facets of society which differentiate and define us as a culture. Today we will hear from speakers that will inform us on their experiences as diversity agents as well as hear about emerging legal issues that are changing the face of the legal profession.



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Featured 2011 MABLSA Convention Workshops & Panels, cont.:

○ **Immigration to the Institution of Marriage: Politics & the Legal Community**

It comes as no surprise that some of the most controversial political issues are inextricably linked with the law. Come hear your Professors, Peers, and Panelists discuss some of today's most pressing political issues and how they will affect the black law student and the black legal professional. Issues to be discussed include: health care, illegal immigration, same sex marriage, education, the war on terrorism, energy, the economy, and more.

○ **A Hip Hop Theory of Justice**

Join us for a candid discussion on "the concept of justice, the role of hip-hop in American culture, and the power that everyday people have to shape and influence their environment." Paul Butler's book entitled, "Let's Get Free: A Hip Hop Theory of Justice," calls for the individual to "work the system (since the system isn't working) through the completely legal practice of jury nullification in cases involving nonviolent drug offenses."

○ **Diversifying your J.D.**

Law school is not just for wannabe lawyers anymore...but what does that mean for today's law student? A variety of opportunities can now provide for a vastly different law school experience than students had even just a few years ago. And with these revolutionized legal minds, students are now prepared to excel in a variety of different fields and roles. This session will blend informational presentations and interactive exchanges in teaching the contemporary law student about the best practices for becoming the worldly law student with a world of job opportunities after graduation.

○ **This Doesn't Make Cent\$ - Navigating the Windy Road to Financial Sanity & Stability**

Are you worried about managing your finances once you've graduated from law school? Do you think about credit, student loans, consolidations, and employment benefits and think, "this just doesn't make 'cent\$'?" This workshop will provide information about (1) loan repayment assistance programs, (2) a crash course in loan repayment, (3) a need-to-know about credit, (4) tools to evaluate the impact of your economic choices, (5) debt, and (6) employment benefits.



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COLLEGE STUDENTS DIVISION EXCLUSIVE

- **Are you up for the challenge? A crash course on the Logic Games section of the LSAT**

Join us for an interactive session that will edify your intellectual palate. Learn tips, techniques and tricks to master the logic games section of the LSAT!

We look forward to meeting you in Baltimore!



Your 2010-2011 Mid-Atlantic Black Law Students Association Executive Board