Greetings Members, Friends & Supporters,

The Charles Houston Bar Association is truly having an exciting year, and we’re only half way through. Our board has been active, our membership has been engaged, and our venerable judiciary has taken every opportunity to support the association and its activities. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with all you some of the exciting things that we’ve done so far this year. First I would like to highlight some of the more successful events that have marked the first half of this year.

In February, the Charles Houston Bar Association held its Annual Soul Food Potluck, at the home of Lifetime Member, Bob Harris. We want to thank Mr. Harris and his wife for graciously hosting us this year. The event was well attended, it was a tremendous amount of fun, and a great way to kickoff the year.

This May, CHBA held its first Annual Judicial Reception, to honor our African-American judiciary. We were overwhelmed by the amount of support that we received from our judicial members, many of which are pictured below. They are truly deserving of our recognition for their accomplishments and the leadership that they have shown throughout their careers. We considered this event to be a wild success. This is something that we will look forward to doing every year, and would encourage each of you to mark your calendars; you won’t want to miss it again.

Finally, we are especially proud of this Spring’s two-part panel discussion, “Journey to the Judiciary.” Several members of our judiciary, including Hon. Sandra Brown Armstrong, Hon. Martin Jenkins, Hon. Gail Bereola, Hon. Brenda Harbin-Forte, Hon. Trina Thompson, Hon. Charles Smiley, and Comm. Drew Steckler, gathered on two separate occasions to discuss their personal paths to the bench, offer guidance on the process, and to provide inspiration and encouragement. We cannot thank these members enough, particularly Judge Jenkins and Judge Bereola, who each hosted a panel discussion in their homes.

The Charles Houston Bar Association continues to host a number free legal clinics within the community, work with other organizations on the issue of K-12 education and college preparation, and support our community of college and law school students looking for guidance and mentorship in the legal profession. Be on the look out for more opportunities to get involved. I thank you for your commitment to CHBA and your continued support.

Sincerely,

Venus D. Johnson
President, Charles Houston Bar Association
For further information about how you can get involved please contact Cathy Ongiri at (510) 459-8806 or by email at cathyongiri@charleshoustonbar.org.

The success of this program depends on the volunteers within CHBA's membership. We ask that you share your knowledge with the community by coming out for the upcoming Family Law Clinic on September 15, 2012 at Allen Temple Baptist Church from 10:30 am- 12:30 pm.

The Charles Houston Bar Association would like to recognize and welcome the following new 2012 “Lifetime” Members:

Joyce Hicks – Executive Director at Office of Citizen Complaints, City & County of San Francisco

Marvin Anderson – Attorney at AT&T

Kelly Michelle Metters – Attorney at Law Offices of Kelly Michelle Metters

The Charles Houston Bar Association, an affiliate of the National Bar Association represents the interests of African American lawyers, judges and law students throughout Northern California.

To become a member, please contact our Membership Chair, Andrew Houston, at membership@charleshoustonbar.org.

Contact Cometria Cooper at younglawyers@charleshoustonbar.org to sign up.

Mentorship Opportunities

Mentorship is integral to the future of the legal profession. During these tough economic times, there are few opportunities for young African-American attorneys to gain experience, young lawyers often look to CHBA for mentors who can offer advice and guidance – their need is great.

Why Mentorship? Mentorship steps in where law school left off – it fills in the gaps on the interpersonal dynamics of working with others to represent your client effectively and it provides more practical guidance on how to get things done. Mentors give you real advice on how to deal with difficult opposing counsel or the best way to get your probate ex-parte before a judge. Mentors have a wealth of knowledge about things to consider when we face those ethical dilemmas that never came up in our Professional Responsibility lecture and our judgment is put to the test. Mentorships foster an inquiry and an appreciation for the practice, not just "the law."

Why Should I Be A Mentor? These lessons and shared experiences are what keep the professionalism in the practice, but they aren’t taught in any law school class – they are learned and experienced. And who is better to teach them than a seasoned attorney, one who has been practicing long enough and is smart enough to know that the practice is not what happens in the classroom, but what happens in real life. If you have made it through your first few years of practice successfully, you truly have a unique insight that most people don’t have, especially if you are an African-American attorney. Can you imagine the impact your testimony would have on a young attorney or an aspiring attorney?

With the job market as tight as it is, everyone has the same basic skills. A young attorney with an active mentor would truly be able to set themselves apart. Your involvement with their professional development will direct the path in which the upcoming professionals take. This is your opportunity to help develop the type of professionals you want the practice to employ. Whether they are seeking a firm job, government or non-profit work, or even decide to hang their own shingle, they will stand out and shine because of the insight and wisdom gained from their mentorship with an amazing attorney.

How Can I Get Involved in CHBA’s Mentorship Program? CHBA is committed to connecting young attorneys with successful attorneys who are willing to share and be honest about the practice. We host Speed Networking Events targeted at connecting young and seasoned attorneys. We connect our amazing and dynamic seasoned attorneys with motivated law students. It really doesn’t take up too much time. A few meetings at lunch and CHBA events, and a few phone calls or emails throughout the year is all that is required.

If you want to be a mentor or a mentee, please email younglawyers@charleshoustonbar.org.

CHBA in the Community

A Glimpse at CHBA’s Upcoming Legal Services Programs

The Charles Houston Bar Association’s Legal Services committee provides free legal information and resources to the community. This has been a busy year for our Legal Services programs as we continue to grow and to find ways to reach more people. This year we held several direct consultation clinics, including clinics on Debt Collection and Housing Rights. CHBA also presented workshops to community groups on the topic of Estate Planning, and how the law affects the aging population. To reach a larger population of the community we attended job and health fairs, where we distributed legal information pamphlets to raise awareness and to increase access to justice in our communities.

Upcoming Events:

Interested in Issues Affecting Senior Citizens? On August 11, 2012 CHBA will provide an Estate Planning Presentation followed by direct consultations from 1:00-3:00 pm located at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church of Berkeley located at 3301 King Street, in Berkeley.

Need a checkup on your legal health? Come stop by the CHBA booth at the upcoming Allen Temple Health Fair on August 18, 2012 located at 8501 International Avenue in Oakland from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm

Need Family Law Assistance? The Family Law Clinic will be held on September 15, 2012 at Allen Temple Baptist Church from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

The success of this program depends on the volunteers within CHBA’s membership. We ask that you share your knowledge with the community by coming out for an hour to present on a specific subject of law. These volunteer opportunities provide a chance to network, develop professionally, highlight your own legal expertise, diversify your experience and gain a renewed sense of commitment to social justice.

For further information about how you can get involved please contact Cathy Ongiri at (510) 459-8806 or by email at legalservices@charleshoustonbar.org.
Feature Interview:
“A Conversation with Oakland City Attorney, Barbara Parker”

By Zachary Knox

Bio: BARBARA PARKER is an award-winning trail-blazer and lifelong legal advocate for civil rights, women’s empowerment, and children’s issues. In the 1970’s, Barbara was one of the very few African American women admitted to Harvard Law School – but some male classmates informed her that she “took a space that should have been held by a man.” These disparities, her parents’ experience growing up as sharecroppers in the rural, segregated South, Barbara’s exposure to this brutality, and her parents’ struggles as union workers, ignited Barbara’s determination to break barriers and fight against double standards, glass ceilings, and injustices of all kinds. Since her graduation from Harvard Law School more than three decades ago, Barbara has used the law as a tool to champion underrepresented communities, create opportunities, and fight for equal rights for all regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or economic status. THE CHARLES HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION IS PLEASED TO ENDORSE BARBARA PARKER’S CANDIDACY FOR OAKLAND CITY ATTORNEY IN THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER ELECTION.

Q: You’ve been in the Oakland City Attorney’s chair for a year now, but can you give my readers some background on your career path?

A: It’s been a full year since I was appointed Oakland City Attorney, but I’ve been in this office for the last 21 years; more than 10 years of which I was Chief Assistant City Attorney, second in command. After graduating from Harvard Law in 1975, I began my legal career as an Associate Attorney at Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro (now Pillsbury Winthrop). I’ve worked in the private sector for two major corporations, Kaiser Hospitals and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., and at every level of government, including more than 5 years as an Assistant US Attorney.

Q: What brought you back to Oakland?

A: I moved to the Bay Area after law school, because I love the weather, the diversity and the culture. Initially I moved to Berkeley, but then bought my first home in Oakland. Although I was raised in Seattle, I was very familiar with Oakland. I went summers here with my uncles, and worked in San Francisco after my first year of law school. I’ve been able to make a difference here. I’m heavily involved with an organization called the Black Adoption Placement & Research Center. They focus on finding permanent homes for black children, particularly older children who are harder to place. I adopted my daughter through their agency, and now I’m their President.

Q: Children’s issues are clearly something you’re passionate about. How does that passion translate to your work in this office?

A: Public safety, particularly the protection of children, is a priority my office has focused on. Gun violence and sex trafficking are two public safety concerns that are disproportionately impacting our youth. Although we don’t work directly with the district attorney’s office, this office can still do much to help abate the problem.

Q: What were some of actions your office has taken on public safety, and were you able to reach any positive results?

A: We targeted several nuisance liquor stores and knew prostitution motels, which were contributing to an environment that attracts violence and the sex trade. Through a variety of civil trial and injunctive actions, we’ve been able to close two of the most notorious hotels that catered to prostitution and child sex trafficking. We’re also working on an ordinance that imposes a $1,000 civil penalty for crimes committed with illegal firearms.

Q: Is there anywhere else you think your office can make a difference on the issue of public safety?

A: I believe the decriminalization of medicinal cannabis is a critical issue for public safety. I support California’s medicinal marijuana law, and I think the City of Oakland has developed the systems and infrastructure to regulate this industry and bring it into the light. The federal crack down on dispensaries is instead forcing this industry back into an unregulated black market, which results in a direct increase in street crime. Providing patients safe, regulated access can reduce this risk.

Q: You mentioned that public safety was a priority for your office; what other priorities have you set?

A: Two other main priorities for me are the independent administration of this office, and citizen’s civil rights.

Q: Let’s start with the independence of your office, because I didn’t normally imagine that would be an issue?

A: As attorneys representing the municipality, we advise city leaders, administrators and agencies; we work with city officials everyday, but technically we are here to represent the citizens interests. I view the role of this office is to provide independent legal counsel and maintain accountability with city officials, all without sway to political influence. Although the City Attorney is an elected position, I see myself as a public servant, not a politician. I’ve been a public servant for over 25 years.

Q: I understand that your office released a memo earlier this Spring regarding city council member accountability that got some attention?

A: Our non-interference memo? That ruffled a few feathers, but we were in the right. It’s our job to hold the council accountable for following its own rules, and sometimes we need to give a friendly reminder. Not everyone may have liked it, but that’s also the advantage of being in an elected position; they can’t just get rid of me when I force them to follow the rules.

Q: What sort of civil rights issues has your office focused on?

A: We crafted and have defended Oakland’s “Bubble Ordinance,” to protect patient access to reproductive health clinics, free from harassment. This was a pioneering ordinance in California. It was challenged in court, and recently upheld on appeal as constitutionally valid on its face; the court asked the city to make minor changes to the implementation policy, to ensure the ordinance was applied impartially. We’ve championed Oakland’s anti-predatory lending ordinance, and anti-foreclosure ordinances. For example, one ordinance authorizes fines up $1,000 per day for bank-owned blighted properties; we’ve collected over $130,000 from Wells Fargo Bank already.

Q: I’m hearing the same level of passion from you when we discussed children’s issues earlier. Would you say that your desire to serve the community motivated you to get into legal practice?

A: Absolutely. My entire career I’ve sought to champion equality and opportunity for underrepresented communities. I was motivated by my experiences growing up, and by the experiences and teachings of my parents.

Q: Tell me about that?

A: I was born in Seattle, Washington, shortly after my parents emigrated from the south. My mom was a sharecropper and my father was a poor farmer. I was the second of four children. Upon arriving in Seattle, my father became a merchant marine, and my mother was homemaker and hotel maid; they both joined labor unions, which allowed them to provide health, dental and vision benefits for the family. Growing up, I saw them handle race discrimination and anti-labor bigotry. I also had my own experiences with discrimination growing up in the Pacific Northwest, and then again as one of the few African-American females to attend law school in the ’70s.

Q: And now you’re in a position where you can make a difference?

A: Exactly.

Q: What are some of the most rewarding things about municipal practice?

A: The City Attorney’s Office is an incredibly diverse workplace, where we handle a wide range of issues. It’s really an environment where everyone can focus on the task at hand. The beauty of it is how close we are to the issue that impact people’s lives. We deal with matters that touch everyone, and our actions can have an immediate impact.

Q: Have there been any significant changes that you’ve made since taking over the office?

A: We initiated an RFQ process to efficiently manage the city’s outsourced legal work, and to assure that everyone interested in providing legal services has the opportunity to present a proposal. Our staff has lost 19 attorneys since 2003, so there is no getting around outsourcing work, but our new process, bringing in more work in-house and tightening oversight of outside counsel, have been incredibly effective. Our outside legal costs are down approximately 40%, and we’ve reduced payouts and settlements by nearly 50%. I’ve also created an “innovation” team, tasked in coming up with creative strategies to protect the interests of our city, our businesses, and our residents.

Continued on Page 6
CHBA Members on the Move

Are you a member with something new and exciting to share? Send the info to membership@charleshoustonbar.org to be included in the “Members on the Move” section!

Raymond C. Marshall, Esq
Bingham McCutchen
San Francisco, CA

RAYMOND C. MARSHALL PRESENTED THE “2012 JUDGE LEARNED HAND AWARD”

Ray is a Bay Area attorney who is highly respected by his peers and was selected in recognition of his participation in civil rights defense, most recently arguing against Proposition 8’s legality, and civic contributions on the boards of the United Negro College Fund, Alta Bates Hospital Foundation and other non-profits.

Venus D. Johnson, Esq
Alameda County District Attorney’s Office
Oakland, CA

CHBA PRESIDENT, VENUS JOHNSON, SELECTED BY THE RECORDER AS ONE OF “50 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA ON THE FAST TRACK”

Johnson serves on the Sexual Assault Unit, a four-person team that handles the county’s most sensitive and serious child sexual assault cases. Over the past six years, she has put on more than 50 preliminary hearings and tried multiple felony cases to verdict, including a special circumstance murder case, as well as robbery, rape, residential burglary and assault with a firearm cases. Misdemeanor cases she’s tried to verdict include those involving child abuse, domestic violence, prostitution, driving under the influence, stalking and possession of stolen property. Johnson co-founded the Oakland family child-care center, Betty’s Children’s Academy, where she remains on the board. She is currently the president of the Charles Houston Bar Association, which represents the African-American legal community throughout Northern California.

Chanee Franklin, Esq
City of Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
Berkeley, CA

GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN APPOINTS CHBA COMMUNITY SERVICES CHAIR, CHANEE FRANKLIN, TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING COMMISSION

Chanee Franklin is a staff attorney for the City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Program. Prior to entering the public sector, Ms. Franklin served as an associate in the Cooley Godward Kronish Litigation department. She joined the firm in 2006 focusing on complex business disputes, and general business litigation. She represented companies in unfair competition, antitrust, and breach of contract cases. Prior to joining Cooley, Ms. Franklin worked as a trial attorney at the Eviction Defense Center (EDC) in Oakland, representing low-income tenants in eviction proceedings. While at the EDC, Ms. Franklin negotiated, settled, and tried more than 50 unlawful detainer cases. Ms. Franklin is currently on the Board of the Charles Houston Bar Association and served as a commissioner under Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums on the Oakland Residential Rent and Relocation Board. Ms. Franklin is a member of the State Bar of California.

Cometria Cooper, Esq
Burton Employment Law
Oakland, CA

THE CALIFORNIA STATE BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPOINTS CHBA’S YOUNG LAWYER’S CHAIR, COMETRIA COOPER, TO THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

Cometria Cooper is an associate attorney with Burton Employment Law. She primarily practices in the areas of employment discrimination and compliance. In addition, Ms. Cooper is the general counsel for the Oakland NAACP, and a member of the Earl Warren Inns of Court. As the Young Lawyers Chair for the Charles Houston Bar Association, she is committed to assisting young lawyers and law students transition into legal practice. Ms. Cooper was recently appointed by CA State Bar Board of Governors to the Committee of Bar Examiners, where she will be sharing her experiences as a recent entrant into the California State Bar.

Catherine Ongiri, Esq
Alameda County Department of Child Support Services
Pleasanton, CA

THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION HONORS CHBA LEGAL SERVICES CHAIR, CATHY ONGIRI, AS ONE OF THE NATION’S BEST ADVOCATES: “TOP 40 UNDER 40”

Catherine Ongiri is an attorney with the Alameda County Department of Child Support Services in California. Prior to joining the Alameda County Department of Child Support Services, Ms. Ongiri was a Family Law Facilitator for the Contra Costa County Superior Court. She currently serves as the Legal Services Chair for the Charles Houston Bar Association. Ms. Ongiri is very active in her community and assists the Alameda County Office of Education with the Mock Trial Program for high school students. She organizes and facilitates free legal clinics for underrepresented communities. Ms. Ongiri has maintained her focus on underserved communities in the United States as well as other countries.

Eric S. Casher, Esq
Meyers Nave
Oakland, CA

CHBA GENERAL COUNSEL, ERIC S. CASHER, NAMED NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SUPER LAWYERS’ RISING STAR OF 2012

Eric Casher is experienced in sophisticated construction issues and various forms of complex litigation. He represents municipalities and other public agencies in a variety of areas including complex construction disputes, code compliance issues, public contracting and election laws. The National Bar Association named Eric to the 2011 “Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40” list.
Job Announcements

Land Use Litigator/Oakland

Meyers Nave, is currently seeking an associate with 3-5 years of land use litigation experience for its Oakland office. Candidates for consideration must have substantial experience litigating land use issues (e.g CEQA, NEPA, Coastal Act, Zoning, Land use Planning and development entitlements). Excellent research and writing skills, and superior public speaking ability, are required. We are an EOE and offer a competitive salary and congenial working environment. For immediate consideration, qualified applicants may mail, fax or email a cover letter, resume, references and litigation writing sample to: HR Director – Meyers Nave, 555 12th Street #1500, Oakland, CA 94607, Fax 510-444-1108 or email: meyersjobs@meyersnave.com.

San Francisco District Attorney’s Office

Assistant District Attorney

The San Francisco District Attorney has adopted an approach designed to make San Francisco the safest large city in America by implementing innovative and efficient solutions to protect its citizens. To that end, the office seeks experienced, energetic lawyers with the highest integrity, sound judgment, and sensitivity to diverse communities to apply for the position of Assistant District Attorney.

Under direction of managing attorney staff, ADA’s are assigned to a variety of units responsible for prosecuting jury and non-jury cases in Superior Court in the City & County of San Francisco. Depending on assignment, ADA’s may work in an area of horizontal or vertical prosecution and are expected to work toward meeting office goals of a commitment to achieving justice for our city’s most vulnerable residents, holding offenders accountable, protecting victims, and offering innovative options toward breaking the cycle of crime. Unique programs of the office include addressing truancy in the school system, creating neighborhood initiatives, and reducing hate crimes.

Applicants must have current, active status with the California State Bar and must pass a background clearance if considered for hire. Desirable qualifications include fluency in a foreign language, exposure to diverse communities and prior criminal law experience.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to:

Evette Taylor-Monachino
Human Resources Manager
San Francisco District Attorney
850 Bryant Street, Suite 322
San Francisco, CA 94122
Evette.Monachino@sfgov.org

California Bar Foundation
Program Director - San Francisco

The California Bar Foundation is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization affiliated with the State Bar of California. Dedicated to building a better justice system for all Californians, we champion full and equal access to the justice system, invest in the next generation of California’s lawyers, educate Californians about their rights and responsibilities under the law, and promote philanthropy throughout the legal community. We are funded primarily through the voluntary contributions of California lawyers, law firms, and other supporters, and we award grants to California organizations conducting innovative law-related projects and scholarships to outstanding California law students headed for careers in public interest law or who come from communities under-represented in the membership of the State Bar. The Foundation is at an exciting point in its development, with a new Executive Director, engaged Board of Directors and rich opportunities for enhanced fundraising, new partnerships with the State Bar, and programmatic growth.

The Foundation seeks an experienced, collaborative and highly motivated Program Director to manage the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Foundation’s grant and scholarship programs. The ideal candidate is a highly organized, articulate, collegial individual who can effectively multitask, has experience as a legal services attorney, doing pro bono work as a private bar attorney, and/or in nonprofit program management, and is dedicated to the Foundation’s mission. Because the Foundation staff is small, it is critical that the Program Director be flexible and willing to support all aspects of the Foundation’s work, including those outside the program management function. This is a full-time exempt position, based in San Francisco, and requires a small amount of travel (mainly within California). The Program Director reports to the Executive Director.

San Francisco Superior Court
Volunteer Attorneys Needed

The San Francisco Superior Court is overhauling its mandatory settlement conference (MSC) system to allow Judges to focus on conducting trials rather than devoting limited court time to holding settlement conferences due to the budget crisis. In an effort to utilize the vast experience within the San Francisco bar, the Court is launching a widespread effort to recruit attorneys who have practiced at least 10 years to volunteer for the MSC program. The Court is seeking attorneys with substantial settlement experience. A judicial committee will review the applications in June and July selecting 80-100 volunteer attorneys for the MSC panel.

The MSC panel application can be accessed at www.sfsuperiorcourt.org. Due to this late announcement, please disregard the stated June 22nd submission deadline in the application as the Court will be extending the deadline into July. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jenifer B. Alcantara, Esq.
Alternative Dispute Resolution Administrator
400 McAllister Street, Rm. 314
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514
(415) 551-3970 - direct
(415) 551-3701 - fax
jalcantara@sflec.org

Upcoming CHBA Events

July 28th, 2012

CHBA Annual Membership BBQ
- Time: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Location: Home of Hon. Gail Bereola

August 1st, 2012

CHBA Executive Board Meeting
- Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- Location: Orrick Law Firm – San Francisco, CA

August 11th, 2012

CHBA Community Law Clinic: “Elder Law”
- Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Location: Progressive Missionary Baptist Church – Berkeley, CA

August 18th, 2012

CHBA Community Law Clinic: “General Law”
- Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Location: Allen Temple Baptist Church Health Fair – Oakland, CA

September 5th, 2012

CHBA Executive Board Meeting
- Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- Location: Merrill Lynch Office – Oakland, CA

September 7th, 2012

CHBA’s Celebration of the Arts: “Art Murmur” (Art Walk)
- Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Location: Uptown District – Oakland, CA

September 15th, 2012

CHBA Community Law Clinic: “Family Law”
- Time: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Location: Allen Temple Baptist Church – Oakland, CA

September 20th, 2012

CHBA Advancing Diversity Event: “A Slice of Diversity”
- Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Location: The Waterfront Hotel – Oakland, CA

September 22nd, 2012

CHBA Social Events: “Speakeasy Pub Crawl”
- Time: Beginning at 6:00 PM
- Location: Meet at Bourbon & Branch – San Francisco, CA

October 3rd, 2012

CHBA Executive Board Meeting
- Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- Location: Orrick Law Firm – San Francisco, CA

October 10th – 14th, 2012

California State Bar Annual Meeting
- Location: Monterey, CA

October 20th, 2012

CHBA Community Law Clinic: “TBD”
- Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- Location: Oakland Public Library, Main Branch – Oakland, CA
The California Bar Foundation’s Diversity Scholarship seeks to support newly admitted law students from groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession who have committed to attend a California law school. Candidates apply for the Scholarship at the beginning of the summer prior to commencing their law school studies. The Scholarship helps pay the costs of obtaining a law school education, including tuition, fees, books, and related education expenses. Awards of up to $7,500 recognize incoming first year law students with financial need who demonstrate a desire to make a positive impact as a community leader. Since 2008, the Foundation has supported more than 90 law students with awards totaling more than $600,000 through the Diversity Scholarship.

All 2012 Diversity Scholarships will be awarded in person at a reception to be held in early October 2012 in Los Angeles. For more information about the scholarship, including an application, please see the Foundation’s website: http://www.calbarfoundation.org/programs/scholarships/diversity.html or contact the Foundation’s Program.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - IMPACT and the National Bar Association (NBA) honored the “Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40” at a special awards gala on Sunday, July 15, 2012 during the NBA’s 87th Annual Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

Nation’s Best Advocates recognizes talented individuals (age 40 and under) within the African American legal community who have achieved prominence and distinction, professionally and philanthropically. Selected nominees represent a cross-section of legal professionals: solo practitioners, government lawyers, judges, academicians, corporate counsels, young elected officials, and other lawyers using their degree in innovative ways. Nominees were chosen based on their achievement, innovation, vision, leadership, and legal community involvement.

“The 2012 Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 are continuing the tradition of legal giants in American history,” said Angela Rye, IMPACT Director of Strategic Partnerships. “The invaluable contributions made by these attorneys establish a standard for service and excellence in our communities and our Nation.” The recipients of the Nation’s Best Advocate of the Year, Excellence in Leadership, Service, Activism, and Innovation awards will be recognized at the event, which is the only of its kind. Interested in sponsoring this event or for more information, visit: www.NationsBestAdvocates.com.

CHBA is proud to recognize and applaud our awardees for their significant accomplishments and contributions towards the legal profession and our community. We look forward to honoring the following awardees:

Adante Pointer, Senior Associate, Law Offices of John Burris
Ayanna Jenkins Toney, Partner, Law Offices of Ayannna Jenkins Toney
Catherine Ongiri, Attorney, Alameda County Department of Child Support Services
Linnea Willis, Partner, Law Office of Linnea N. Willis
Tchienyonna Katuri Kaye, Attorney, Trucker Huss APC

The Charles Houston Bar Association would like to thank you, our subscribers, for your continued support and readership. The association’s 2012 Communications Committee has been tasked with resuscitating our newsletter. Look forward to our new quarterly publication, with interesting articles, insightful interviews, information on upcoming events and opportunities to get involved. We will recognize those in our membership who are moving and shaking, and continue to highlight the association’s efforts to improve the community, support black legal professionals and groom the next generation of black law students.

If you are interested in purchasing advertising space or submitting a written contribution to the CHBA Newsletter, please contact us at the following e-mail addresses:

Zachary Knox, Communications Chair - communications@charleshoustonbar.org