

October 29, 2022

AMISTAD

Long Island Black Bar Association

Commemorative Journal

Celebrating Excellence in Our Community



AMISTAD

*Masquerade Gala
Westbury Manor
Westbury, New York*



2022 Gala Committee

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Hon. Victoria Gumbs-Moore

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Tarsha C. Smith Hawkins

Kevin Satterfield, Esq.

Hon. Phillippe Solages

Cherice P. Vanderhall, Esq.

The committee members have dedicated their talent, time, and other resources to help make this event a success. Thank you to the Committee for your dedication.

Greetings from the President

Dear AMISTAD Family, Friends, and Honorable Guests:

I am honored to be the President of the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association for the years 2022 – 2023 and I thank you for your continued support of this distinguished organization.

The times we find ourselves in remind us of the vital mission of The Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association. Amistad was formed over 26 years ago to not only foster community among Black attorneys, law students, and judges, but also to be a voice for the issues that beckon the current mantra, “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” Amistad strives to be a sounding board and scholastic influence on the matters where race and the law intersect in America, and more specifically in Nassau and Suffolk Counties of New York. During this most perilous time in American history, it is imperative that we dissect the United States Constitution and Federal Law to better understand how we can work together to dismantle America’s racial caste system. In 2022, our society is witnessing an assault on voting rights, affirmative action, fair housing, the teaching of accurate history and racial inequities in schools, the constitutional right to assemble, and all while facing calls for re-mass incarceration following the pandemic-related crime increase.

Central to the success of the 1950s-1960s Civil Rights Movement was the dominant role played by African-American attorneys and legal scholars. The Movement would have failed without those legally-trained minds championing legal battle after legal battle in the trial and appellate courtrooms across the nation.

Now again, in the year 2022, the African-American attorney and legal scholar are called upon again to answer the clarion call to combat the looming societal rollbacks by advocating for clients in our nation’s courtrooms and by working to inspire others and future generations through continued determination, success, & excellence.

Failure is not an option. Together, we are up to the task.

Peace and Blessings to all.

Kevin Satterfield, Esq.

President

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Program

Welcome *Mr. Quentin J. Hardy, Master of Ceremonies*

Invocation &

Moment of Silence *Maria C. John, Esq., NBA Region II Treasurer*

Opening Remarks &

Acknowledgments *Kevin Satterfield, Esq., President*

Law School Scholarship Presentation

presented by

Alyson E Bass, Esq.

President-Elect, 2022 Gala Committee Chair

2022 Founder's Award Presentation

Presented to

Patricia A. Waite, Esq.

Presented by

Hon. Victoria Gumbs-Moore & J. Stewart Moore, Esq.

2021 Inaugural Founder's Award Recipients

2022 Trailblazer Award Presentation

Presented to

Hon. Geoffrey N. Prime

Presented by

Cherice P. Vanderhall-Wilson, Esq.

Past President, 2014 - 2015

Closing Remarks *Hon. Valerie M. Cartright, Past Pres., 2013-2014*

Benediction *Hon. John Andrew Kay, Ret. District Court Judge*



Awards of the Evening

Law School Student Scholarship

The mission of AMISTAD is to foster community among Black Judges, Attorneys and Law Students of the Long Island area. In connection with our mission, we strive to support and work with the local law schools, Hofstra University Maurice A. Deane School of Law and Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center to provide mentorship as well as internship and employment opportunities. It is the privilege of AMISTAD to offer the 2022 Scholarships in support of a deserving student at each of our local law schools.

Founder's Award

It is the mission of AMISTAD to foster and promote an environment for Black judges, attorneys, and law students in which excellence and success dwell.

It is only through the vision, leadership and extraordinary dedication of our members that AMISTAD continues to meet this expectation and exceed the hopes and dreams of yesterday. Our members today and members of the future stand on the shoulders of those that have come before us, our Founders. And so, it is with gratitude that AMISTAD grants a Founder's award to a member, past or present, who has, through exemplary leadership, contributed to the legacy of the AMISTAD Long Island Black Bar Association.

The inaugural Founders Award was granted at the 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2021 to J. Stewart Moore, Esq. & Hon. Victoria Gumbs-Moore.

Trailblazer Award

Granted to an individual who has broken barriers and/or made strides in their career as a pivotal and impactful player in furtherance of the goals of AMISTAD.

Recent recipients of the Trailblazer Award are Hon. L. Priscilla Hall (Ret.), 2018, and David Blythewood, Esq., 2016.



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Founder's Award

Patricia A. Waite, Esq.



Patricia A. Waite, Esq., is a graduate of C.W. Post University (B.A.) and Seton Hall Law School (J.D). She is admitted to the New York State Bar, the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ms. Waite has worked in both public and private practice. Her career began as a prosecutor for the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, and after four years, she entered private practice to litigate on behalf of many individuals and businesses in Queens. She resumed her prosecutorial career as one of the first African Americans employed with both the Smithtown and Islip's Town Attorney's offices. Ms. Waite prosecuted criminal cases in District Court, handled Small Claim's Assessment reviews and drafted amendments to the Town Code. Additionally, she worked both as an Adjunct Professor of Paralegal Studies and a Board Member of C.W. Post's Continuing Legal Education Department.

Ms. Waite currently serves as a Court Attorney for the Honorable Karen Kerr, Acting Supreme Court and Supervising Judge of the Suffolk County District Court. She is also a Small Claims Assessment Review Hearing officer.

As a longtime member of Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association, Ms. Waite previously held the position of secretary. Her other memberships include Women in the Courts, the Suffolk County Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association, the Islip Town Branch of the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also a recipient of the Nassau Suffolk Law Services' Pro Bono Attorney's Award in recognition of her extraordinary efforts and ceaseless dedication to pro bono representation.

Patricia Waite lives in Suffolk County with her husband Everton, and two daughters, Olivia and Kyra. She is an active, long-standing member of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah serving in the vestry, the Scholarship committee, and the Episcopal Church Women.





**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
MS. PATRICIA WAITE, ESQ.,
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The History of Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association

The AMISTAD Long Island Black Bar Association is a professional legal organization. Amistad's goal is to enhance the development of attorneys who are of African heritage and have reached the Americas as a consequence of the institution of African slavery or the expansion of the African Diaspora. Amistad's membership is open to individuals engaged in the practice of law without regard to race, religion or national origin. The Association's name "Amistad" (meaning Friendship) is in recognition of The United States vs. Cinque et al., Africans of the Amistad a case of domestic and international significance that placed the issue of slavery and Africans as property front and center of the American legal establishment. This case arose from an incident which occurred in eastern Suffolk County on Long Island.

During the summer of 1839, a cargo ship anchored near the shore of Sag Harbor, Long Island. The Amistad was a 150 ton schooner, painted black and white, with two gilded stars on her stern. Upon its decks and as part of its cargo was humankind. There were thirty-nine (39) surviving persons of African origin and others on board. When the ship was intercepted by U.S. authorities, the issue arose as to whether or not the Africans were kidnapped, freeman or property. The Amistad case compelled the U.S. Supreme Court to recognize the personal liberty of these men, women and children at a time when a great many people of African descent were still in bondage in much of the Americas. It was through the courage and initiative of the Amistad Africans together with the collective efforts of abolitionists, philanthropists and a former president of the United States, that the Africans, who sailed the Amistad, reclaimed their freedom. Similarly, the members of the Amistad Association embrace the concept that the achievement of justice and equality must prevail from the collective effort of all Americans.

Thus, in the fall of 1996, a law student, Victoria Gumbs, a law school graduate, J. Stewart Moore, and attorney, Robert B. Cox, Jr., discussed with the Honorable Peter J. Newman, Judge of the Suffolk County District Court, the need and potential for an association of minority attorneys in Suffolk County. Soon thereafter, with the counsel of the Honorable Marquette Floyd and the support of lawyers from Nassau and Suffolk County, Touro law students, Professor Beverly McQueary Smith of Touro Law School and the National Bar Association, Amistad was realized. Under the stewardship of lawyers, Jerry Mims, Jillian Guthman, Desmond Jordon, Ronald Travis, Kevin Satterfield, the Honorable Antonio Brandveen, Glen Vickers and Jocelyn Lecorps, the Amistad Black Bar Association was created. The first election of officers was held in December 1999 with the inauguration taking place February 25th, 2000 at the Cohalan Court Complex. Amistad had arrived.

In 2004 under the leadership of then President, Victoria Gumbs Moore, Amistad Suffolk County Black Bar Association merged with the former Nassau County Black & Hispanic Bar Association to form the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association. Amistad in conjunction with the Unified Court system facilitates the Black History programs in the Nassau and Suffolk County Courts. In addition, Amistad worked with the Nassau County Bar Association to hang the portrait of the first Black Judge, Hon. Moxey Rigby, in the Nassau County Supreme Court. In 2012 Amistad & the Suffolk County Bar Association worked together to commission and dedicate a portrait of the Hon. Marquette Floyd in the Suffolk County Supreme Court. In 2011 under the presidency of Kevin H. Satterfield, the Judicial Institute was established. Amistad continuously strives to lift others as we climb.

Trailblazer Award

Hon. Geoffrey N. Prime



The Honorable Geoffrey N. Prime, is the former Mayor of the Incorporated Village of South Floral Park, having held that position from 2010 through 2021. He served with distinction, having run unopposed in 2014 and 2018.

A proud homegrown resident of South Floral Park, Geoffrey attended local schools, having graduated from Sewanhaka High School and SUNY College at Old Westbury, before furthering his education at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York. There his love of reading and analysis were nurtured, as he trained to become an attorney.

Upon graduation, Geoffrey returned to Nassau County where he served as an assistant district attorney in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, first under the late Honorable Denis Dillon, and then under the Honorable Kathleen Rice. There he handled hundreds of cases; from arraignments, to pre-trial hearings, grand jury presentments and trials. After four years, he left the office, and opened his law practice. From 2006 through 2018, he worked with a partner, but since 2018 he has been the principal attorney at The Prime Law Group, PLLC.

Geoffrey's commitment to public service also included his term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Nassau Community College from 2011 to 2013. He has served on the Board of Directors at the Nassau County Bar Association, was the Educational Chair and then Treasurer of the Nassau County Village Officials Association, and he currently serves a Parliamentarian of the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association.

Geoffrey plans to continue his commitment to public service on January 1, 2023, when he expects to ascend to the bench as a Nassau County District Court Judge. Please vote....

He is humbled by the Trailblazer Award and would like to thank Amistad for all their support.



AMISTAD



*thanks our additional contributors who have generously donated
in support of our organization and our
Honorees, Patricia A. Waite, Esq. and Hon. Geoffrey N. Prime*

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*Congratulations
to Founders Award
Recipient*

Patricia A. Waite, Esq.

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Long Island Black Bar Association on continuing its
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Alyson E. Bass, Esq. for her accomplishments as
President-Elect.

SAJ Heritage Group also
Congratulates Hon. Geoffrey N. Prime as the 2022
recipient of the AMISTAD Trailblazer Award.



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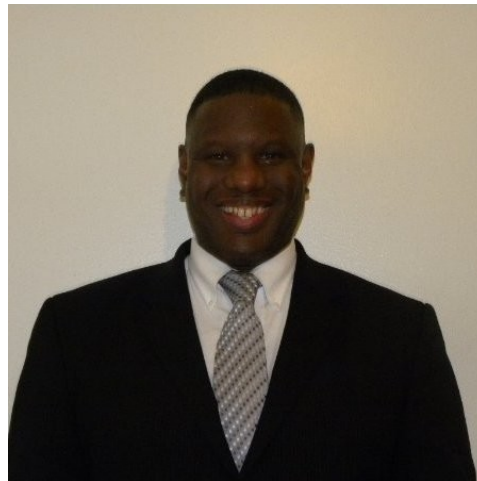
AMISTAD continues to grieve the loss of beloved members of our AMISTAD Community.

*Hon. Toni A. Bean
Maurice Williams, Esq.
Tarsha C. Smith Hawkins, Esq.*

Please continue to keep their families in prayer.



*Judge Toni A. Bean,
The second African-
American to serve as
a Suffolk County
District Court Judge*



*Maurice K. Williams
Attorney at Law
Past President*



*Tarsha C. Smith Hawkins
Attorney at Law
Immediate Past
President-Elect*

*The AMISTAD Family
extends our deepest condolences to our
Executive Director, J. Stewart Moore, Esq.
on the passing of his daughter,
Devon A. Moore.*



*Please keep The Moore Family in your thoughts
and prayers during this difficult time.*



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Patricia A. Waite, Esq.

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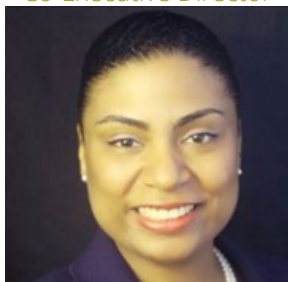
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Bond congratulates the **Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association** for 25 years of providing opportunities for networking, leadership and professional growth to attorneys in the practice of law who work and live on Long Island. We are a firm devoted to a thriving future for our clients and the communities in which we serve.



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www.AmistadBlackbar.org

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