



AMISTAD

*Long Island Black Bar
Association*

Celebrating
25 Years
of Promoting
Diversity and Inclusion

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

6:00P.M.

**OHEKA CASTLE,
HUNTINGTON, NY**



2021 President's Message

25th Anniversary Celebration

Dear Amistad Family, Friends and Honorable Guests,

On behalf of the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association, it is my privilege to welcome you to our 25th Anniversary celebration.

Madame CJ Walker once said "Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them." This principle is the cornerstone of our mission. Amistad was born out of the need to create opportunities for networking, leadership, and professional growth for Black attorneys, jurists and law students who work, study and/or live on Long Island and to ensure the legal profession reflects the community around us.

It is fitting that this year's theme is "Promoting Community, Professional Growth and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Practice of Law on Long Island & Beyond for 25 years." Since its inception, Amistad has steadily changed and diversified the face of Long Island's legal community through its activism, programs and strategic partnerships. We have seen our judiciary grow from only two Black judges on the bench to having five Black judges elected or re-elected in one year. We have seen Nassau County appoint Joyce Smith, its first Black Acting District Attorney. And we have seen the number of Black partners at the largest law firms on Long Island grow significantly. Our next initiative is tackling the issue of diversity and inclusion at the law school level.

In the face of a triple pandemic threatening our community over the past year, Amistad has not slowed down one bit and remains committed to moving its mission forward. We have had an amazing year with many robust programs, such as our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Series, Annual Tax Grievance Clinic, Salute to Black Excellence: Honoring our Judges, and Empowering Diverse Lawyers to Pursue Pathways in ADR. Simply stated, we have our eyes on the prize.

I would like to thank my executive board members who helped make this past year successful. Amistad has accomplished so much in these twenty-five years, but we understand that the work is not over, and we still have much more to do. Tonight, let us rejoice in each other's company and celebrate this momentous occasion. Here's to the next 25 years!!!

Warmest regards,

Tamika N. Hardy

President

Program

Presiding

Hon. Valerie M. Cartright

Past President, 2013-2014

Invocation

Rev. Monte Chandler III

Negro National Anthem

Declan McPherson, Esq.

Welcome

Tamika Hardy, Esq.

President

Acknowledgements

Cherice P. Vanderhall-Wilson , Esq.

Past President, 2014-2015

Greetings

Joseph Drayton, Esq.

76th President of the National Bar Association

T. Andrew Brown, Esq.

New York State Bar Association President

Hon. Letitia James

Attorney General for the State of New York

Closing Remarks

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

Founding Members

Benediction

Rev. Larry McCord, Esq.

2021 Executive Board



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Kevin Satterfield
Board Member

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.

Joseph Drayton

Joe is a partner in the international firm Cooley LLP in its New York City office where he primarily services leading technology companies. Joe has served as lead counsel for Fortune 500 entities and comparable private



companies in intellectual property matters over his 20 years of practice, and has obtained successful outcomes in high stakes high tech federal court litigation over the years. Joe's practice background includes a broad range of intellectual property and complex commercial matters. Joe has successfully led multi-billion dollar companies in competitor litigation.

Joe served as the 76th President of the National Bar Association, and is an active leader in the ABA Section of Litigation and a Vice President and past chair of the Executive Committee member at the New York City Bar. Joe is recognized as one of the top lawyers in the US by several legal directories and publications. He is named a "Client Service All-Star" by BTI Consulting Group (2016 and 2017) for "delivering superior client service" and was recently named to the IAM Patent 1000 list, a recognition that honors the top patent practitioners in the world. In May 2017, Joe received the Private Practitioner of the Year Award from the Metropolitan Black Bar Association of New York City. In 2018 and 2015, he was named one of the "most influential black lawyers" by Savoy Magazine. Joe graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and attended the University of Maryland, College Park. He is a life member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Andrew T. Brown



Andrew Brown of Rochester, founder and managing partner of Brown Hutchinson, became president of NYSBA on June 1, 2021. A NYSBA member for 36 years, he was chair of the Trial Lawyers Section and Finance Committee, vice-president for the 7th Judicial District, a member-at-large of the Executive Committee and co-chair of the Task Force on the Future of the Legal Profession in 2010 and 2011.

In response to the protests motivated by the murder of George Floyd, Brown was appointed co-chair of the NYSBA Task Force on Racial Injustice and Police Reform. He moderated three panel discussions with members of law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, and judges that examined the issues contributing to police brutality. The task force will deliver its report and recommendations on how to end deleterious policing practices that disproportionately impact persons of color to NYSBA's House of Delegates on June 12.

For nine years, Brown was a member of the New York State Board of Regents, which provides general supervision of all educational activities within the state and was vice-chancellor of the board since 2017. He stepped down in 2020 to prepare for his role as president of NYSBA. He is a former general counsel of the National Bar Association, the largest association of attorneys and judges of color in the world. He is a past president of the Monroe County Bar Association and the Rochester Black Bar Association. He has served on many other boards and commissions and has also held adjunct teaching positions with the State University of New York.

Brown entered law practice as an associate with Nixon, Hargrave, Devans and Doyle (now Nixon Peabody). He has also served as Rochester's corporation counsel — the city's chief legal officer and head of its law department. He has been a mediator and an arbitrator on the commercial, employment and complex case panels of the American Arbitration Association for more than two decades. Brown earned his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, and his undergraduate degree from Syracuse University.

Letitia James

Letitia “Tish” James is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York. With decades of work, she is an experienced attorney and public servant with a long record of accomplishments. She is the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be elected Attorney General.



In 2013, Ms. James was elected Public Advocate for the City of New York and became the first woman of color to hold citywide office. As Public Advocate, Ms. James served as a watchdog over New York City government agencies and as an advocate for the City’s most vulnerable communities. She transformed the Public Advocate’s office to be a formidable engine for change.

Her office handled over 32,000 constituent complaints and passed more legislation than all previous Public Advocates combined, including a groundbreaking law that banned questions about salary history from the employment process to address the pervasive gender wage gap. Ms. James successfully took on the gun industry by pushing NYC’s largest pension fund to divest from gun and ammunition retailers. She fought in court on behalf of children and families on issues including children in foster care, children with disabilities, and tenant protection. New Yorkers overwhelmingly elected Tish James to a second term as Public Advocate in November 2017.

Prior to serving as Public Advocate, Tish James represented the 35th Council District in Brooklyn in the NYC Council for 10 years. As a Council Member, she passed the Safe Housing Act, legislation that forced landlords to improve conditions for tenants in NYC’s worst buildings. She helped uncover corruption behind the Office of Payroll Adm’s CityTime contract, a scheme that cost NYC \$600 million. She also pushed through a revolutionary recycling package that included expanding plastic recycling, a clothing & textile recycling program, & increased access to recycling in public spaces.

Before her election to the City Council, Tish James served as head of the Brooklyn Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General’s Office. She resolved hundreds of consumer complaints and investigated predatory lenders who preyed on first-time homebuyers. She assisted the Civil Rights Bureau in its investigation of the NYPD’s stop-and-frisk policy and cracked down on firms engaged in deceptive business practices including violations of human rights, environmental laws, and scams targeting immigrants.

Tish James began her career as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society. A proud Brooklynite, she is a graduate of Lehman College and Howard University School of Law.

Amistad Through the Years



Founders Award

2021 has been an historic year for many reasons. As the world pandemic hopefully draws to a close, we are renewed with hope for the world, yet still reminded of the barriers that lie ahead. It is the mission of Amistad to foster and promote an environment for attorneys and law students of color 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 the inaugural Founders Award at the 25th Anniversary Celebration to exemplary leaders of Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association.



We are proud to support the
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★ **Congratulations on 25 years!** ★



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Littler is proud to support

Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association

in their continued efforts of providing networking, leadership, and professional growth opportunities to a diverse group of attorneys of color.

Kimberly Dobson

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25 YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE,
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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.



The background features a close-up of a pair of scales of justice on the left, with a globe on the right. A large, curved, light-colored graphic element separates the top text from the bottom text.

Harris Beach is proud to support the
Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association
in advancing inclusion and diversity
within the legal community.

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The **Osei Rubie Charitable Fund** is deeply committed to investing in organizations that will advance the cultural and economic empowerment of the African Diaspora in the U.S. and abroad. We provide grants to IRS-qualified public charities to support programming that will engage, educate, and equip youth of all ages with the tools for success.

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Hon. Valerie Cartright, Chair

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