

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

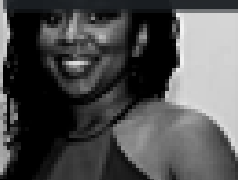
5th Annual

Awards & Installation Gala

February 23, 2023

AVENUE OF THE
ARTS HOTEL
COSTA MESA

6:00 P M



THURGOOD MARSHALL BAR ASSOCIATION
5th Annual Awards
Installation Dinner
February 23, 2023

THURGOOD MARSHALL BAR ASSOCIATION (TMBA)

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association (TMBA) is a contemporary bar association committed to connecting, supporting, and increasing the Black legal community in Orange County. TMBA strives to promote diversity, professional improvement, and the advancement of justice through positive community involvement and excellence in the practice of law for the Black legal community, allies, and the community at large. TMBA was founded in 2012 by an extraordinary and diverse group of attorneys and judges in Orange County, California. TMBA's founding members and visionaries include: Judge Daphne Sykes-Scott, Michael Gregg, Connie Louis, Carolyn Carlisle, and Marion Wheeler.

In 2018, Thurgood Marshall hosted its inaugural Scholarship and Installation Dinner at Chapman Law School. The installation serves as TMBA's major fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the Installation go towards providing scholarships to law students in Orange County, providing Continuing Legal Education that promotes diversity and the advancement of equality and justice in the legal profession in Orange County as well as community service. In the 2021 Virtual Gala, TMBA raised more than \$25,000 to aid in providing scholarships and supporting its members through the pandemic.

TMBA PAST PRESIDENTS

2012-2014 Marion Wheeler

2015 Carolyn Carlisle

2016 Michael Gregg

2017 Kimberly La Salle

2018 Denisha McKenzie

2019 Desirae Hutchison

2020 Lakeshia Dorsey

2021 Rebekah Thomas

2022 Hollie Washington

Inaugural Summer Associate Program

TMBA's Inaugural 2022 Summer Associate Program was a big success and we are overjoyed! Summer Associate Program Co-Chairs Melonie Jordan, Vice President, and Rebekah Thomas, Immediate Past President designed the Summer Associate Program to provide Black law students with substantive legal and professional experiences to support their development as attorneys. Summer Associate Program participants are provided the opportunity to work under the guidance of Program Partners as part of a six (6) to eight (8) week, full-time program.

We want to thank Melonie Jordan and Rebekah Thomas for their dedication and commitment to the law students in piloting this program.

We also want to thank our 2022 Summer Associate Program Partners who all hired a law student for the summer:

Elder Law & Disability Rights Center
Orange County Superior Court
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
Torklaw
Veros Real Estate Solutions

Our goal is to have more summer placements so that we provide practical training to more law students. All employers, including, sole proprietors, small firms, big law, public interest and government are encouraged to become Program Partners. Keep watching this space for the announcement of our 2024 program.



Thank you to the
Summer Associate
Program Sponsors





Outgoing President's Message

Hollie Washington ESQ



I have had the pleasure of serving TMBA and our community for the past five years, and it has been a joy to watch this organization grow in membership, purpose and impact in the OC and beyond. From providing legal clinics, scholarships to repeat bar takers, establishing the Thurgood Marshall Bar Association Foundation to be the fundraising arm of TMBA, holding a press conference in response to calls from the community after the murder of George Floyd, mentoring law students and implementing a Summer Associate program, my legal career has truly been enhanced by the work, and it is work, of TMBA.

My reason for joining the TMBA family as a Board member was to increase racial diversity in the OC legal community, which was also the impetus for our 2022 theme of Pipelines to Practice. With the support of our members and sponsors, we have been able to create and facilitate programs and partnership opportunities to open doors and broaden pathways to the practice of law for Black students and lawyers in Orange County.

I look forward to what's next for TMBA as it continues to champion equitable opportunities by providing access to coaching, mentorship, continuing education and career placement and advancement. As my Presidency comes to a close, my dedication to TMBA continues, and, because the road to practice should never be determined or derailed by economic inequality or hardship, I encourage all of you to join me in devoting some piece of yourselves to expanding TMBA's reach and influence to more law students, more lawyers, high school students and the greater OC community.

Cheers to Connection, Community and Compassion in 2023.

The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis. ~ Justice Thurgood Marshall

In solidarity,
Hollie



Harpist

Radha Botofasina



Radha Renee Reyes-Botofasina is an Afro-Cuban American harpist, pianist and vocalist from Brooklyn, N.Y. As a young woman Botofasina was part of a band called The Spirits of Rhythm. While living in Agoura Hills, CA. Botofasina became a music student of Alice Coltrane, the wife of prominent jazz musician John Coltrane. Reyes-Botofasina has played harp at several memorial events following Coltrane's death. She is the director of the Universal Consciousness Harp Ensemble which performs in Los Angeles. Botofasina has released many albums, beginning with her debut Mantram in 1999. Botofasina studied with Coltrane while she lived on the 50-acre ashram Coltrane founded in 1983, Coltrane died in 2007.

In the Los Angeles jazz scene Botofasina has performed harp with the Dwight Trible Cosmic Band. In 2010, Botofasina performed Coltrane's sacred music before audiences at UCLA's Royce Hall. Botofasina formed the Eternal Soul Orchestra (ESO) in 2013 which debuted her orchestral work Meditations on the Supreme at the California African American Museum and in 2015 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Ms. Reyes Botofasina is honored to be participating in the Thurgood Marshall Bar Association's 5th Annual Awards and Installation Gala.

Program

Black National Anthem

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Sponsors

Recognition of Dignitaries

Radha Botofasina

Denise Carter

Dinner Service

Remarks by Outgoing President

Hollie Washington, Esq.

Presentation to Scholarship Recipients

Hollie Washington, Esq.

- *Kevin Harris*
- *Isaiah Crosby*
- *Tuaku Hjarunguru*
- Baele Hasbrouck

Introduction of Incoming President

Cathrine Castaldi, Esq.

Remarks by Incoming President

Honieh Udenka, Esq.

Installation of 2023 Board of Directors

Hon. Juliet Macaulay

Passing of the Gavel

Hollie Washington, Esq.

Performance by Radha Botofasina

Presentation to Honorees

Denise Carter

- *Hon. Desirae L. Hutchison*
- *Michael A. Gregg, Esq.*
- *LawWorks*
- *Whitney & Dorsey, LLP*
- *Anthony S. Filer, Esq.*

Reza Torkzadeh, Esq.

Dimetria Jackson, Esq.

Denise Carter

Rebekah Thomas, Esq.

Hon. Kelvin Filer

Closing Remarks

After-party to follow



Installation Judge

Hon. Juliet Macaulay



The Honorable Juliet Macaulay is a Judge for the Superior Court of California, County of Orange, appointed to the bench in 2022. Judge Macaulay currently presides over civil trials and a law and motion calendar at the Pomona Courthouse.

Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Macaulay served as Chief Administrative Law Judge and Deputy Director for the State of California, Department of Social Services, State Hearings Division since 2020, where she worked as Presiding Administrative Law Judge from 2016 to 2020, as Administrative Law Judge II from 2014 to 2016, and as Administrative Law Judge I from 2012 to 2014. Macaulay held several roles at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Board of Parole Hearings from 2004 to 2012, including as a Commissioner and as a Deputy Commissioner. She was a Sole Practitioner from 1997 to 2004 and a Law Clerk at the Law Offices of Victor O. Moses from 1996 to 1997. She worked at Tokunbo Olugbenga & Co, Legal Practitioners as an Attorney from 1992 to 1995 and at International Leasing and Investments Company as Outside Counsel from 1992 to 1994. Macaulay earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Ibadan, College of Law.

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

2023 OFFICERS



Honieh Udenka

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Brown Rudnick



Tremayne Wilson

President-Elect
Horton, Oberrecht & Kirkpatrick



Yemi Adeyanju

Vice President
*Providence St. Joseph
Health*



Precious Odum

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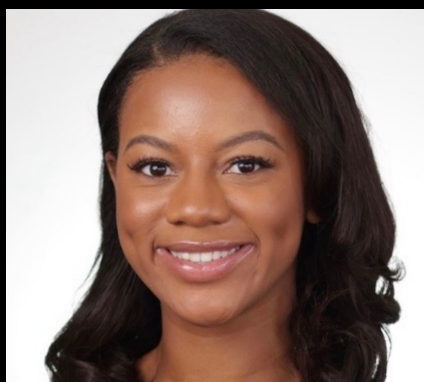
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Defender's Office*

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

2023 OFFICERS



David Griffith

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Melonie Jordan

Member at Large
Dorsey & Whitney LLP



Biola Macaulay

Member at Large
*US District Court for the
Eastern District of Michigan*



Nyja Prior

Member at Large
Knobbe Martens



Rebekah Thomas

Member at Large
CDF Labor Law LLP



Hollie Washington

Immediate Past President
*Bryan Cave Leighton
Paisner LLP*



Incoming President's Message



It is a deep honor and privilege to steer TMBA through the upcoming year as its President. I am extremely thankful to our immediate past president, Hollie Washington, for her friendship and leadership. I am also extremely thankful to our outgoing board of directors, many of whom served TMBA faithfully for several years. In 2023, our organizational focus will be on Connection, Community, and Compassion.

TMBA's core mission of increasing the racial diversity of the Orange County legal community will be amplified by programming and events centered around connection. The organization has and will continue to serve as a platform for professional advancement through networking opportunities, coaching, mentorship, continuing education, and career placement.

TMBA will also continue to be a place of community for Black lawyers and law students in Orange County. To that end, programming and events will, to the extent possible, shift back to the in-person format to allow us to reconnect with, and reignite our village. And by serving one another with compassion, TMBA will continue to extend itself to the most vulnerable of those in our community through our charitable initiatives.

I am excited about our upcoming year, invigorated by our incoming leadership, and I look forward to continuing and building on the incredible legacy of this very worthy association.

In Solidarity,
Honieh

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

2023 Law School Ambassadors

TMBA's Law School Ambassadors Program (LSA), is designed to support and connect to our local law students. LSA's serve for one year and act as a liaison between TMBA and their respective BLSA chapters. TMBA partners with each LSA to sponsor at least one event per semester/quarter. In addition to receiving a scholarship, each LSA will be paired with a mentor and have access to other invaluable mentorship, networking and internship opportunities. Congratulations to our 2022-2023 LSA's! We are excited to partner with you this year!



Tuaku Hjarunguru
2L, Chapman E. Fowler
School of Law



Kevin Harris
2L, Western State
College of Law



Isaiah Crosby
2L, UCI School of Law

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

2023 Bar Taker Scholarship Recipient

According to the American Bar Association's 2018 National Lawyer Survey, African Americans make up only 5% of attorneys in the United States and have one of the lowest bar pass rates. Studies show that one of the factors impacting bar passage rates for minorities is finances. TMBA is committed to being a part of changing this narrative by financially assisting bar takers thereby increasing their chances of success. Congratulations to our 2023 February Bar Taker We are excited to partner with you this year!

Baele Hasbrouck is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine School of Law. Growing up, she lived abroad and traveled extensively, but she considers Atlanta, Georgia, her home. Prior to law school, she graduated from Louisiana State University as a Political Communication major with double minors in Spanish and Psychology. She plans to practice immigration law. She looks forward to becoming a passionate and dedicated student of the law in her career, representing her clients with grace, and learning humbly from her colleagues in practice.



Baele Hasbrouck, 22L



Judge Karen L. Robinson *Legal Excellence Award*

Hon. Desirae L. Hutchison
Worker's Compensation Appeals Board

The Honorable Desirae L. Hutchison was appointed by the State of California to serve as a Judge for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board in 2021. Notably, Judge Hutchison was the first University of California, Irvine Law School Alumni to become a Judicial Officer. Prior to her judicial appointment, she served as an attorney with the State Compensation Insurance Fund for six years.

On May 26, 2022, the UCI Alumni Association honored Desirae Hutchison (UCI Law '14, and UCI B.A. Criminology and Political Science '10) with a Distinguished Alumni Award at the Lauds & Laurels ceremony. The Lauds & Laurels awards recognize outstanding UCI alumni for their service to the community, professional excellence and campus involvement..

She also served as the 2019 President of the Orange County Thurgood Marshall Bar Association and is the immediate past president of the Thurgood Marshall Bar Association Foundation. In addition, she served as an alumni representative on the UCI Law Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.



Attorney of the Year

Michael A. Gregg, ESQ
Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Michael Gregg is a partner in the Irvine office of Littler Mendelson, representing employers in a broad range of employment matters arising under state and federal laws. He also represents unionized and public sector employers in labor relations matters, including arbitrations and administrative hearings.

Michael is the 2023 President of the Orange County Bar Association and previously served the OCBA in many different roles, including Secretary, Treasurer and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Most notably for TMBA, Michael serves one of the founding members and former President of the Thurgood Marshall Bar Association, an affiliate of the OCBA. Michael has remained an immense supporter of TMBA and its mission.

Community Organization of the Year

LawWorks

LawWorks provides legal professionals with purpose built space to work, meet with clients, collaborate with colleagues, develop professionally, and grow their practice - it is a community for lawyers who are redefining the way that law is practiced.

Founded in 2019 in Irvine, California, LawWorks is more than office space – it's a community for lawyers to build their network, meet with clients, learn more about the law from industry influencers, collaborate with colleagues, and grow their business with purpose.

LawWorks has been honored to partner with organizations like Thurgood Marshall Bar Association to promote diversity, inclusion and equity within the legal profession. LawWorks has donated its space to organizations to host events for their members, such as MCLE programming and fundraisers. LawWorks has been proud to sponsor space to support law students studying for the bar exam and for the legal community at large, even through the pandemic.



LAWWORKS

Law Firm of the Year

Whitney & Dorsey, LLP

Whitney & Dorsey, LLP is an Am Law 100, full service, law firm with offices around the world. Dorsey is committed to being an inclusive organization that values diverse backgrounds, perspectives and contributions.

Dorsey understands the strength that comes from a diverse and inclusive workplace. It contributes to the success of its employees, clients and enriches the firm experience.

The firm's support of TMBA's mission underscores Dorsey's intentional approach to supporting the needs and viewpoints of diverse communities here in Southern California. The firm's commitment to these values was in full display when it partnered with TMBA for the Inaugural Summer Associate Program.

Dorsey was one of the first employers to commit to serve as a Program Partner and hired a student for the summer. In addition, the orientation presented to all students was sponsored by the firm and hosted in its Orange County offices. The Firm furthered its support of the summer associate program by sponsoring the Midsummer Social Function held for Program Partners, summer associates, and TMBA members.

Congratulations to Dorsey and thank you Melonie Jordan.





L. Song Richardson Legacy Award

Anthony S. Filer, Sr.

Anthony S. Filer grew up in the City of Compton, attended Rosecrans & Dickson Elementary schools, General Benjamin O. Davis Junior High School and graduated from Compton Senior High School in 1976. He earned a BA Degree in Political Science at the University of California, San Diego in 1980, then earned a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Santa Clara, School of Law in 1983. He went back to Compton to fulfill his dream of practicing law in his hometown. He started off as a paralegal/law clerk in his brother's law office. In 1984, he joined the Compton office of Community Legal Services (A Legal Aid office now renamed Community Legal Aid SoCal), initially as a paralegal and then as a staff attorney for approximately 11 years. In September of 1995, he became the Supervising Attorney of the Norwalk office of Community Legal Aid SoCal. In April 2015, Anthony added supervision of the Compton office of Community Legal Aid SoCal and is presently Directing Attorney of both the Compton and Norwalk offices.

Community Legal Aid SoCal is the legal aid office which provides free legal services to indigent clients in civil cases in all of Orange County, California and 20 cities in Southeast Los Angeles County. As a Directing Attorney, Anthony supervises the Family Law Unit, the Housing Unit, the Consumer Debt Unit, the Public Benefits Unit and The Self-Help Unit, consisting of approximately 23 attorneys, 22 paralegals, along with law and paralegal student externs and volunteers. Each year, they provide legal assistance to thousands of people in Orange and Los Angeles County who would probably not have had access to any legal services. It was always his dream and desire to help people in his hometown, once he became an attorney, it was Community Legal Aid SoCal that allowed him to live out his dream.

Anthony has participated as a speaker at more than one hundred career days at the local school districts, law days sponsored by the courts and bar associations, and community information and education forums sponsored by local cities and organizations. Anthony was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Long Beach NAACP's Annual Law Day and selected as a Black History Month Hero by the Long Beach NAACP earlier this month.

Anthony taught in the evenings for ten years (1990-2000) in the Political Science/Sociology Department at California State University Dominguez Hills. He also started teaching as an evening adjunct professor at Cerritos College in their paralegal program in 1998, where he taught for 25 years and retired from teaching, after 32 years in total, in 2020. Anthony taught and mentored hundreds of students that are now practicing paralegals and attorneys, steering as many as he could into the area of Public Interest Law.

Anthony's father, while ensconced in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, realized that attorneys can make an important difference in people's lives as he watched and admired civil rights attorneys like Thurgood Marshall use the courts to effect change, and Anthony's father embarked upon his own personal quest to become an attorney. His father inspired him and one of his older brothers to go into the legal profession through his journey. Anthony and his brother became attorneys before their father, but he was always with them guiding them in their decision making. A few years ago, when his oldest sister found an old newspaper article that described their father's work as a "paralegal with the legal aid office in Compton" in the 1970s (this was before the Legal Services Corporation was created). Anthony was giddy with delight in realizing that he had really followed in his father's footsteps.

Thurgood Marshall said "None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps, we got here because somebody bent down and helped pick up our boots". Anthony is thankful to Community Legal Aid SoCal for allowing him to follow the mandate of Thurgood Marshall to help others, for allowing him to follow the path and visions of his father to use the law as a tool of change, and for allowing him to fulfill the career dreams of a young kid from Compton to be of service to his community.



**Community
Legal Aid SoCal**

Advocates for Justice in Orange and Los Angeles Counties

**Congratulations to our colleague, Anthony Filer,
the recipient of this year's Legacy Award.**

Justice is Your Legacy!

**Congratulations also to all the newly installed officers,
scholarship recipients, and honorees.**

**We applaud and support the
Thurgood Marshall Bar Association in its commitment
to connecting, supporting, and increasing
the Black legal community in Orange County and to
promoting diversity, professional improvement, and
the advancement of justice.**



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We are proud to support the
Thurgood Marshall Bar Association's
5th Annual Gala & Installation Dinner



Congratulations to Brown Rudnick's
Honieh Udenka on being named President
of Thurgood Marshall Bar Association.

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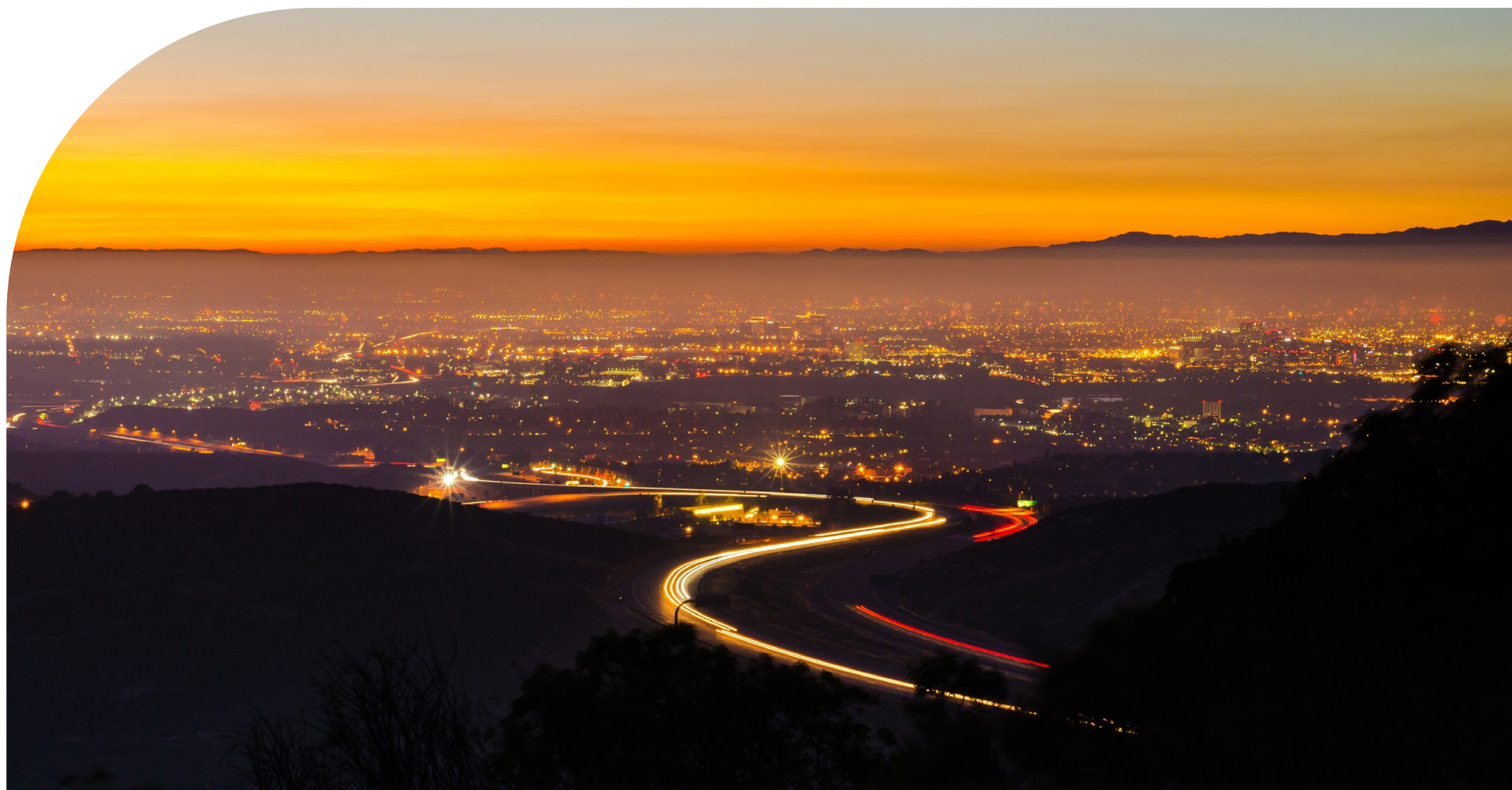


We are proud to sponsor Thurgood Marshall Bar Association's Annual Awards and Installation Gala.

Congratulations to the newly installed Board and best wishes for a successful year.

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Thank You!

The Thurgood Marshall Bar Association expressly thanks and appreciates the following individuals who graciously donated their time, talents and resources to make this dinner a remarkable event.

Gala Chair

Rebekah Thomas

Committee Members

Yemi Adeyanju | Carol Grosz | Honieh Udenka
Melonie Jordan | Hollie Washington

Installation Judge

Hon. Juliet Macaulay

Performance

Radha Botofasina

Photographer

Eze Photography

Decor

Golden Designs & Events

Dj

DJ Mike Moss



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Thurgood Marshall Bar Association



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