



## Black Lawyers Group

### Mission Statement and Goals

The Black Lawyers Group (BLG) supports black lawyers at Latham through global and local efforts designed to establish and maintain broader networks and relationships; attract, retain, and promote top talent; and foster an inclusive culture at the firm that supports the long-term success of black lawyers.



“True to Latham’s ‘one firm’ mentality, the various local branches of the Black Lawyers Group collaborate frequently and thoughtfully to provide a support network for black attorneys and allies, not only in one’s home office, but globally. This is crucial for innovation, and also provides a unique opportunity to encounter diverse perspectives within our own community.”

– Jennifer Kent, BLG Local Leader, Washington, D.C. associate

### About Us

- Our membership spans three continents and 15 offices, and reflects the many faces and facets of the African diaspora (African, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, multiracial), as well as many diverse lawyers who support the BLG mission.
- We hold frequent global videoconferences on topics of professional and personal importance and relevance, such as associate progression and retention, increasing the pipeline for and recruitment of black lawyers, and effective business development.
- We engage in pro bono and public service activities, such as mentoring students and advising nonprofit organizations.
- The BLG produces quarterly newsletters and a quarterly “spotlight” profiling one of our members. Each office also holds frequent events to ensure that members engage with and support each other.
- We arrange attendance for our members at local and regional seminars and conferences that promote or complement our mission.

### Recent Events

- Global retreat in Washington, D.C. for all members that featured sessions with members of the firm’s global leadership, business development training, meetings with the NFL Players Association, a tour of the National Museum of African-American History & Culture, and other team-building events.
- Sponsorship of and attendance at the annual convention of the National Bar Association, the oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges in the United States.
- Panel discussion on grand juries, race, and justice in the wake of recent tragedies involving law enforcement, featuring Roger Fairfax (author and professor at George Washington University Law School), Michael Songer (DOJ trial attorney) and William Emory (former lieutenant and associate general Counsel for the US Capitol Police).
- Panel featuring Afro-Caribbean artists discussing and exhibiting contemporary African diaspora art.
- Panel discussion on “minority elites,” education, and inequality featuring Carla Shedd, assistant professor of sociology and African-American studies at Columbia University.
- Interview and discussion on race and the US criminal justice system, led by Columbia journalism professor and *New Yorker* staff writer Jelani Cobb.
- Interview and discussion with Roy L. Brooks, professor at the University of San Diego School of Law, and author of *The Racial Glass Ceiling: Subordination in American Law and Culture*, about the impacts of race in and out of the office.
- Visit to Hank Willis Thomas’ interactive, mixed-media art installation “Righteous Black Space” at the California African-American History Museum, followed by a membership luncheon and reflection on Black History Month.

“The BLG provides a fantastic forum to connect with Latham attorneys around the world, and a much-needed avenue to build and cultivate relationships I might have never otherwise created. Being encouraged to share experiences in a comfortable setting cannot be taken for granted as an asset to building a career.”

– David Adams, BLG Local Leader, San Francisco associate



The Black Lawyers Group is one of seven global affinity groups at the firm. Our global affinity groups provide a firmwide platform to share experiences, advice, and interests, and to partner with clients and other groups interested in fostering a more diverse and inclusive profession.

