



## 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.



“BLG is a shining example of the power of diversity and inclusion at Latham & Watkins by serving as an incredible global platform for the development of mentorship and support networks, unique leadership opportunities, and genuine friendships. By fostering cultural pride, offering innovative programming, drawing attention to the history and current priorities of black communities, and highlighting the achievements of black lawyers within the firm and in the broader legal sphere, BLG truly gives life to the concept of ‘community’ among black lawyers and allies alike.”

– Monica White, former BLG Local Leader, Houston associate

### About Us

- Our membership spans three continents and 19 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, financial planning, and effective business development.
- We engage in pro bono and public service activities, such as mentoring students and advising nonprofit organizations.
- The BLG produces a quarterly “spotlight” profiling one of our members, in addition to a quarterly newsletter. Each office also holds frequent events to ensure that members engage with and support each other.

- BLG members across the globe serve as formal and informal mentors to black law students at various law schools in London and in the US.
- We arrange attendance for our members at local and regional seminars and conferences that promote or complement our mission (including the annual convention of the National Bar Association, the oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges in the US).

### Recent Events

- A global retreat in Chicago that featured sessions with members of the firm’s global leadership, meetings with the Obama Foundation and Leslie Nixon, Senior Director of Community Affairs for the Miami Dolphins, a happy hour with local black law students with offers from or who have summered with Latham, and teambuilding events.
- A wine tasting event at Urban Grape, a black-owned wine store in Boston. Attendees learned how to navigate wine selection at client dinners and events.

- Kicked off Boston’s Diversity Leadership Speaker Series with Rachel Rollins, who was the first woman and second African-American to serve as the D.A. in Suffolk County. She spoke to Latham attorneys about public service, community interaction, criminal justice reform, and diversifying workplaces. This videoconference was broadcast to all Latham offices.
- A Black History Month Art Show featuring a standing art exhibit in the D.C. office that was designed and crafted by local Black artists, including a special panel and reception with each of the artists whose works were featured in the show.
- An “LBS Africa Business Summit” hosted by the London BLG, offering an opportunity to look at, connect with, and learn from businesses, leaders, and change-makers of African entrepreneurship.
- A screening and discussion of “Soundtrack for a Revolution,” a documentary examining the significance of music during the US Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

“The BLG’s global network helps members push open doors. Members enjoy the support of partners in the BLG and buy-in across the firm. Yet, the most impressive part is that trainees and attorneys of every level, and across the different offices, collaborate to develop the ideas and make them happen. Every member is encouraged to contribute and every member is valued.”

– Josh Gabriel, BLG Global Co-Leader, London associate

