

National Bar Association 95th Annual Convention: NBA Women Lawyers Division

WHERE WE ARE NOT AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?

July 28, 2020 | 2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. EDT

There is no dispute that black women attorneys face a myriad of challenges as we pursue our dreams and callings in the legal profession. We are inspired and challenged by the trailblazers that preceded us. When we began our legal journeys, most of us believed that we would soar higher than any of our predecessors. We studied hard to graduate from law school and even harder to pass at least one bar exam. Some of us even landed that first job in “big law”. Some have advanced to the bench.

Despite the accomplishments of many of our Sister lawyers, our dreams sometimes leave us drenched in sweat with hearts pounding as we consider the paths forward and the uncharted territories. Yet, we press forward to a place where we can be our best selves. For some, that may be a career in big law; others may find their best selves by owning and operating their own practices, building a stellar public service career, or pursuing other opportunities to become trailblazers in their own right.

This session will focus on areas of the law where you might not expect to find black women, yet we are there. The panel members will share experiences about meeting obstacles head-on, and provide advice on how to keep going when the path to success takes you up an icy hill on a cold day with no boots! We will also seek a deeper understanding of why our blessings are about much more than just ourselves.

Moderators:

Related Professionals

Kendra Perkins Norwood
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Practice Areas

Government Contracts

Linda Bond Edwards, Partner, Rumberger Kirk and Caldwell LLP, Tallahassee, Florida

Desireé C. Boykin, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Corporation, United Negro College Fund, Washington, D.C.

Panelists:

Andrea Hence Evans, The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC, Laurel, Maryland

Antoinette Barksdale, General Counsel Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Sherri Blount, Partner, Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery LLP, Washington, D.C.

Kendra Perkins Norwood, Senior Associate, Wiley Rein LLP, Washington, D.C.