The Mighty Midwest Region of the NBLSA presents...

THE 2015 ACADEMIC RETREAT

OCT 2 – 4, 2015

ACADEMIC RETREAT GUIDE

To register, visit nblsa.org/mwblsa
For more information email mwblsa.programming@nblsa.org

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Dear MWBLSA Members:

The Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association (MWBLSA) cordially invites you to participate in our annual Academic Retreat on October 2-4, 2015 at the Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, Indiana.

The MWBLSA Academic Retreat helps orient students to law school and aids their transition into an ever-changing legal career. Attendees have an opportunity to network with other law students and legal practitioners from the Midwest region, and receive useful information, tools, and resources to hone their skills, excel academically, and develop professionally.

This year’s Academic Retreat will include an all-day Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Bootcamp, which will teach attendees the basic skills needed to successfully conduct a trial in three workshops. Interested students may attend one or all of the Bootcamp workshops. The Retreat will also include workshops on writing exams, transitioning to 2L year, registering for the bar, learning your constitutional rights, and much more.

Please see the enclosed packet of information for more details, including how to register and book your hotel room. Remember, you must register for the Academic Retreat before Monday, September 28, 2015 and book your room before Sunday, September 20, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding the MWBLSA Academic Retreat, please contact the MWBLSA Director of Programming, Sharon Uti, at mwblsa.programming@nblsa.org.

We look forward to seeing you in South Bend this October!

Best wishes,
The 2015-2016 MWBLSA Executive Board

August 31, 2015

2015-2016 Theme: Stars in Alignment, Shine Brightest.
REGISTRATION

Register at: tinyurl.com/MWBLSAAR

**Law Students:** To attend the 2015 MWBLSA Academic Retreat, law students must pay their NBLSA dues for the 2015-2016 school year. This means your dues will expire on 7/31/2016 or later. Before registering for the Academic Retreat, please pay your NBLSA national dues. You can check your dues status, and pay your dues, by logging into your NBLSA account at [http://nblsa.siteym.com/](http://nblsa.siteym.com/). If you arrive at Academic Retreat without paying your dues, you will be required to do so before participating in the retreat.

**Pre-Law Students:** The MWBLSA Academic Retreat is FREE to pre-law students. Pre-law students are encouraged to join the Pre-Law Division of NBLSA. For more information, please visit [www.nblsa.org/prelawdivision](http://www.nblsa.org/prelawdivision).

To attend the Retreat, **ALL** attendees must register at tinyurl.com/MWBLSAAR.

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON Monday, September 28, 2015
HOTEL

Reserve your room by calling (574) 288-3800

Hotel Information: Quality Inn & Suites
4124 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN 46628
(574) 288-3800

MWBLSA has reserved a room block at Quality Inn & Suites for the convenience of Academic Retreat attendees. The Quality Inn is close to the Law School as well as other areas of the Academic Retreat; there will be a shuttle to and from Academic Retreat activities. We highly encourage you to use the room block as it is highly discounted compared to other hotels in the area.

Rates/Night: Single Occupancy Room (King Bed) $85/night
Double Occupancy Room (Queen Beds) $90/night

Reserve Your Room via Telephone:
Number: (574) 288-3800
Group Name: Midwest Black Law Students Association

In order to receive the group rate, callers must identify their affiliation with MWBLSA and use the Group Name above. Group rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation at the time the reservation is made.

NOTE: We highly encourage you to book your room today to ensure you get a room at the discounted rate. While the hotel will ask for your credit card, you WILL NOT be charged until you arrive and check-in to the hotel. The credit card you provide when booking your room is just to have one on file and you will have to further authorize the hotel to use that card when you check-in. Please remember that the room block will close on September 20, 2015, or when it fills -- whichever comes first. Do not delay, book your room today!

THE ROOM BLOCK CLOSES ON Sunday, September 20, 2015
AGENDA
MWBLSA Academic Retreat
Friday-Sunday, October 2-4, 2015
The Notre Dame Law School (NDLS)

Please note that the agenda is subject to change (current as of 8/31/2015)

**Friday, October 2**
Hotel Check-in & Retreat Registration
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

“Know Your Rights” Workshop. A refresher workshop on your constitutional rights in certain situations.
*NLDS Room 1130*
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Academic Retreat Welcome Reception: Meet members of the MWBLSA Executive Board, and fellow BLSA members from around the region, and get a preview of Academic Retreat.
*NDLS Commons*
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Saturday, October 3**
Registration & Continental Breakfast
*NDLS Commons*
8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Introductions & Welcome Remarks
*NDLS Commons*
8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

**Morning Sessions**
9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- Pre-Law Students – LSAT Prep Workshop. Practice makes you better, perhaps even perfect. Take a mini-practice LSAT and familiarize yourself with some test-taking skills.
  *NDLS Room 3130*

- 1L Students – Legal Writing & Exam Writing Workshop. Gain insights into this new world of legal writing and law school exams.
  *NDLS Room 1140*

- 2L Students – Transitioning from 1L to 2L year. You thought 1L year was bad? Welcome to your 2L year. Get tips from 3Ls about how navigate the second year of law school.
  *NDLS Room 1310*

- 3L Students – Registering for Admission to the Bar. Find out about the general processes for registering for the bar, including when to start gathering information, and what information is necessary.
  *NDLS 1315*
Mock Trial Bootcamp – Overview, Opening & Closing Statements Workshop. Discover the nuances and differences between opening and closing arguments, and learn how to present a case in court.

**NDLS Room 1130**

**Mid-morning Sessions**
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Education Panel – On the Importance of Academic Excellence

**NDLS 1310**

Introduction to the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition. Learn the rules and structure of the competition, as well as receive important dates and deadlines.

**NDLS 1315**

Mock Trial Bootcamp – Direct Examinations Workshop. Learn how to examine favorable witnesses and elicit testimony to prove your case at trial.

**NDLS 1130**

**Lunch Session:** Economics Panel – On the Importance of Supporting Black Businesses

**NDLS Room 1130**
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Afternoon Sessions**
1:40 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
Stress Management Workshop – On the Importance of School/Life Balance. Receive important advice on how to complete law school without burning out or going crazy.

**NDLS Room 1310**

Mock Trial Bootcamp – Cross Examinations Workshop. Learn to examine opposing counsel’s witnesses in order to create doubt in opposing counsel’s case.

**NDLS Room 1130**

3:20 pm. – 4:30 p.m.
Pre-Law Students – Admissions, Financial Aid, Law School. A unique opportunity to ask about what to look for in a law school, how to afford law school, and what law school is really like.

**NDLS Room 1310**

All Law Students – Diverse Legal Careers. Maybe BigLaw isn't to be for you, after all? Find out where else you can use your law degree.

**NDLS Room 1130**

**Wrap-Up**
**NDLS Courtroom**
4:35 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

**Networking Reception**
**Location TBA**
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 4
MWBLSA Initiatives This Year
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Hotel Checkout
12 p.m.
DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

School Location: Notre Dame Law School
1100 Eck Hall of Law
Notre Dame, IN 46556

General Driving Directions

From the Toll Road (East or West)

NDLS is located just south of the Indiana Toll Road (Interstate 80/90). Exit I-80/90 at Exit 77 and turn right onto Indiana 933. Make a left at the fourth stop light (Angela Boulevard).

From the South

Take U.S. 31 north which becomes Indiana 933 just south of the city of South Bend. Stay on Indiana 933 through downtown South Bend to Angela Boulevard. Turn right onto Angela.

Parking

The Law School is #1027 on the campus map. The closest free parking lot for visitors to the Law School is the C1 lot, located by the Compton Family Ice Arena. Please allow 10 – 15 minutes to walk from the C1 lot to the Law School. To reach this parking lot from Angela Boulevard, turn north on Leahy Drive and the lot is immediately on the left.

When walking from the C1 lot, follow Holy Cross Drive west to Notre Dame Avenue. Turn right on Notre Dame Avenue and walk toward the Golden Dome. The Law School is located on Notre Dame Avenue, just east (right side) of the Main Circle.
OTHER INFORMATION

Dress Code
The dress code for the entire weekend is business casual.

Time Zone
Please note: Notre Dame is located in the Eastern Time Zone (ET).

MWBLSA Contact Information
Have immediate questions or need to contact the MWBLSA Board? Please direct your inquiries to:

Sharon O. Uti
Midwest Director of Programming
National Black Law Students Association
Email: mwblsa.programming@nblsa.org
See you Oct. 2nd!

@MWBLSA

MWBLSA