



JMLBA

John Mercer Langston Bar Association

The John Mercer Langston Bar Association
and the Local Chapters of the
Black Law Students Association

~Presents~

**The Eighth Annual Gala
and Barrister's Salute**

"Onward Together"

~

Le Meridien Columbus, The Joseph

May 14, 2022





Dear JMLBA Members, Sponsors, Friends, and Allies:

On behalf of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association (“JMLBA”) Executive Board, our gala committee, and the entire membership of JMLBA, I would like to thank you for joining us as we commemorate our Eighth Annual JMLBA and Black Law Students Association Gala “Onward Together.” After a year without the gala in 2020 and a year with a virtual gala in 2021, we are fortunate to be able to come together to reflect on the past year and look toward to the future. We honor those who paved the way and celebrate the achievements of the 2022 BLSA graduates of Capital University Law School and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, the future leaders of the legal community.

While much has changed since JMLBA’s humble beginnings as Central Ohio’s first unified bar association for Black lawyers, our purpose remains the same: to further the legacy of our namesake, John Mercer Langston, by promoting professional development, networking, mentoring, and community activism. Accordingly, JMLBA is proud to continue its support and mentorship of law students to prepare them to enter the legal profession.

We would also like to acknowledge each of you for your help making this event possible. In addition to supporting this event, your contributions will be used to fund scholarships for law students as well as educational programs, community service projects, and networking events for our members. Without your support, our organization would not have been able to grow into one of the preeminent affinity bar associations in the state.

Although we are proud of the accomplishments of JMLBA over the last quarter century, we recognize that we could not deliver on our mission without the support of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, members, allies, and supporters.

There is optimism about returning to some semblance of normalcy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are excited for what the coming membership year will bring for JMLBA. We hope that this gala will serve as the launch point for a membership year of in-person events and opportunities to come together with our members, allies, sponsors, and supporters. Regardless of what this year may bring, we look forward to your continued partnership and support as we march onward together.

Sincerely,

Ryan E. Wheeler
JMLBA President-Elect



BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

To Our Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the Black Law Students Association at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, welcome to the 8th Annual John Mercer Langston Bar Association Gala and Barrister's Salute. I would like to personally thank each one of you for joining us tonight to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of the distinguished graduates of BLSA and attorneys in our legal community.

Tonight's gala would not be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors. It is beyond humbling to see the degree to which the Columbus legal community is willing to support this organization and its members. Your generous support and commitment to the JMLBA and BLSA is a true testament to the importance of further diversifying leadership in the legal community. We appreciate your selflessness, kindness, and continued support. Thank you for all that you've done so far and continue to do.

This Moritz BLSA chapter would like to honor each of its graduating members. Many have spent time on BLSA's Executive Board, held leadership positions in various Moritz law journals, managed a multitude of student organizations, and most importantly, helped build the BLSA community here at Moritz. Our graduates have also gleaned invaluable experience by working as summer associates at some of Columbus's best law firms, interning at fortune 500 companies, and taking part in clinic courses and externships.

This chapter has continued to build on the foundation provided for us from years prior. We have kept with tradition by hosting a BLSA Boot Camp Pre-Orientation program, which is designed to introduce 1Ls to faculty, staff, practicing attorneys, existing BLSA members, and each other. The program also provides a space for 1Ls to learn hard and soft skills relevant to their law school career and develop an understanding of what it is like to be a law student and attorney. This year, Moritz BLSA was particularly proud to partner with J.P. Morgan Chase to sponsor our Spring Wellness Retreat, where we were able to relax, unwind and reconnect with each other and ourselves. We hosted a variety of informational sessions for our members to support them throughout the school year and we have partnered with various organizations to highlight issues our members care about, and so much more. I am beyond proud of this organization and thankful for the many folks who have dedicated their time and energy towards making it the outstanding organization it is today.

To the families of our graduates, thank you for your patience and understanding through this long journey. To the Moritz faculty and staff, thank you for your vital support. Lastly, to our graduates, never forget the many lessons you have learned during your time here. Continue to grow and work hard in everything that you do. I wish you all success in your future endeavors.

Best,

Taylor McGlashan

BLSA President

J.D. Candidate, May 2023

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law



BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Capital University Law School

May 9, 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the Black Law Students Association at Capital University Law School, I would like to thank you for joining us at the 8th Annual Gala, “Onward Together,” hosted by the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and the Black Law Student Associations. This gala not only celebrates the achievements of our current graduates, but it is a commemorative time to reflect on the moments of excellence from our past, present, and future.

In the spirit of celebration, I would like to thank and acknowledge the sponsors for making this event come to fruition. Your generous support and commitment to the JMLBA and BLSA is a true testament to further diversifying leadership in the legal community. I would also like to thank this year’s gala coordinators, moderator, our fellow BLSA counterparts at Moritz and JMLBA for planning another amazing event!

This year, Capital’s BLSA chapter hosted a “Know Your Rights” Event at a local YMCA where BLSA members acted out different scenarios and educated the attendees on their rights in that specific situation. Our chapter has continued to build upon the foundation provided to us from years prior by inviting alumni and community leaders to the general body meetings to network and glean wisdom from their personal experiences. These are but a few captured examples of our commitment to impacting our community and fostering an atmosphere of growth and development.

Words cannot describe how much of an honor it has been to serve as Capital’s BLSA President this year. Our executive board was truly determined to not only adhere to the goals and mission of BLSA, but to work closely with fellow students, alumni, and the greater Columbus community to better prepare students for further diversifying the legal community, as well as foster each individual’s professional ambitions.

To the families and friends of our graduates, thank you for your patience and understanding through this long journey. To the Capital faculty and staff, thank you for your guidance and support. Lastly, to our graduates, I hope you take time to reflect on the hard work and commitment that it took to get you to this moment. Let us always remember to be better than we were the day before. One of the quotes that I strive to pattern my life after is, “Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” May your faith, resilience, and conviction continue to lay the foundation for your purpose.

Sincerely,

Kaila Taylor
BLSA President
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2022
Capital University Law School



The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is a national organization that was founded in 1968 at the New York University Law School for the purpose of advancing the presence of African Americans in the legal profession. Today, the Black Law Students Association strives to articulate and promote the needs and goals of black law students, effectuate change in the legal community, and encourage the development of talented, socially conscious lawyers of tomorrow.

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ABOUT US



The John Mercer Langston Bar Association is Columbus, Ohio's affiliate member of the National Bar Association. Our purpose is to be a facilitator for excellence within the legal profession while also encouraging community service for those in need. The John Mercer Langston Bar Association achieves these goals by providing valuable information, networking opportunities, mentoring opportunities and Continuing Legal Education programs.

THE JOHN MERCER LANGSTON BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The John Mercer Langston Bar Association Scholarship Fund of the Columbus Bar Foundation was established to recognize and promote the academic achievement of law students in Central Ohio who embody the legacy of John Mercer Langston through:

1. Academic excellence and achievement;
2. Leadership in community organizations that further the mission of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association; a future career in the legal profession that furthers the mission of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and the legacy of John Mercer Langston; and
3. Achievement through personal milestones or overcoming personal hardships.

John Mercer Langston (1829-1897) was a prominent African American lawyer, politician and public servant who rose to prominence in Ohio. After graduating from Oberlin College, Langston was denied entry to all but one of the law schools to which he applied. He studied law under a judge and passed the bar in 1854, then was elected to public office in 1855 after a brief career as a trial lawyer in private practice. As a civil rights advocate, Langston worked tirelessly as a champion for the cause of including the disenfranchised in the public life of the country. He served as the Education Inspector of the Freedmen's Bureau, the first Dean of Howard University School of Law, Consul General to the nation of Haiti, president of Virginia Normal College Institute (now Virginia State University), and as a politician, elected to the United States Congress from his home state of Virginia.

The John Mercer Langston Bar Association Scholarship is awarded to law students in Central Ohio who honor the legacy of John Mercer Langston by furthering his ideals- embodied by the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and its mission- in the present day.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Arryn K. Miner
President



Ryan Wheeler
President -Elect



Janay Stevens
Immediate Past President



Kofi Semanya
Secretary



Louisa Edzie
Treasurer



Chassidy Barham
Gala Co-Chair



Tiara Ross
Gala Co-Chair



Kyle Strickland
Government Relations
and Activism Co-Chair



Tiffany Lipscomb-Jackson
Government Relations
and Activism Co-Chair



Jhay Spottswood
Community Service Co-Chair



Latashia Love
Community Service Co-Chair



Holly Coats
Mentoring
(Law Students) Co-Chair



Keesha Warmbsby
Mentoring
(Law Students) Co-Chair



Angela Frost
Mentoring
(Attorneys) Co-Chair



C. Awele Nwajei
Mentoring
(Attorneys) Co-Chair



Sydney Pahren
Social Chair



Azure'D Metoyer
Professionalism Chair



Kari Murphy
Events Marketing Chair



Christopher Signil
Solo/Small Firm Chair



India Scarver
Social Media Chair



Monique Hall
In-House Partnership Co-Chair

Erin Hatton
In-House Partnership Co-Chair

More INCLUSION

Dinsmore strives to consistently promote diversity and opportunity within the legal profession. It's a win-win for our community and the next generation of great legal minds. We are proud to join in celebrating the achievement of the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and Capital University Law School BLSA Class of



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Capital University Law School Black Law Students Associations

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Keynote Speaker



Kenneth L. Parker was sworn in on November 23, 2021 as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio.

Attorney Parker is a lifelong resident of the Cincinnati region and served as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1999 - 2021. Parker has served in a variety of leadership roles as a federal prosecutor in the Office's criminal division, including as Criminal Chief from 2011 to 2019 and as the District's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Chief from 2010-2011.

Attorney Parker graduated from Tuskegee University in 1994 and earned his law degree from Indiana University in 1997. He clerked for the Hon. S. Arthur Spiegel in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Attorney Parker has served as president of the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati. He also served as Chair of the Summer Work Experience in Law program (SWEL) which seeks to increase the number African Americans in the legal profession. Parker is an alumnus of the 30-year old program and has been instrumental in its expansion to Hamilton, Dayton and Columbus.

Throughout his career, Parker has been consistently dedicated to connecting with the community to promote crime prevention as an essential part of enforcement. He works tirelessly to support community prevention and intervention strategies that focus on substance abuse, narcotics trafficking, and violence. Building community trust has been of primary focus during his tenure as chief law enforcement officer for the southern district of Ohio.

In his words, "As U.S. Attorney, I am committed to partnering with the community to strengthen relationships between our office, the law enforcement partners with whom we work, and government and non-government agencies."

U.S. Attorney Parker is honored and proud to be a husband to Mrs. Cheryl Parker and father to twin girls, Lena and Cecilia.

Welcome

Mistress of Ceremonies
Councilmember Shayla Favor

Dinner is Served

Le Meridien Columbus Staff

Introduction of John Mercer Langston Bar Association President-Elect

Mistress of Ceremonies

John Mercer Langston Bar Association Highlights

Ryan Wheeler, JMLBA President-Elect

Introduction of Keynote

Tiara N. Ross, JMLBA Gala Co-Chair

Keynote Address

Kenneth L. Parker

United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio

John Mercer Langston Bar Association Scholarship

Keesha Warmby, Scholarship Co-Chair

Barrister Awards

Legacy Award: Judge Stephen McIntosh

Impact Award: Judge Laurel Beatty

Trailblazer Awards: Attorney Mark Hatcher and Attorney Janica Pierce Tucker

Sponsorship Recognition

Chassidy Barham, JMLBA Gala Co-Chair

Closing & Celebration

Mistress of Ceremonies

Legacy Award Honoree



Judge Stephen McIntosh is a 1983 graduate of the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. While attending the College of Law, he was President of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and served as a member of student government. He received the Judge Joseph Harter Trial Advocacy Award upon graduation. His team won best brief at the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Regional Competition.

In 1984 Judge McIntosh was employed with the Columbus City Attorney's Office as an assistant city prosecutor. In 1986, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Uniform Commercial Code Division of Ohio Secretary of State Sherrod Brown's Office. In January of 1990, he accepted a position as an associate with the law firm of Crabbe, Brown, Jones, Potts and Schmidt, (now Crabbe Brown and James). Columbus City Attorney Janet E. Jackson in February 1997 appointed Judge McIntosh Chief Prosecutor for her Prosecutor's Division, a position he held until January of 2007 when

he assumed the bench.

Judge McIntosh served the Administrative Judge of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and serves as its Drug Court judge in the TIES program. (Treatment is Essential to Success).

Judge McIntosh is a past president of the Columbus Bar Association. He is a member of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association where he served on the Board of Governors and currently serves on the Council of Delegates.

As a member of the OSBA he served on the Legal Ethics Committee. He is a past member of the District 10 Pro Bono Committee and former chair of the Criminal Justice Committee. He has also facilitated numerous Bench Bar Conferences on behalf of the OSBA.

As a member of the CBA he has served on the Columbus Bar Association's Racial Profiling Task Force, Domestic Violence Task Force and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

Judge McIntosh served as chair of the Supreme Court Task Force to Examine Improvements to the Ohio Grand Jury System. He currently serves on the Ohio Sentencing Commission. He previously served on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution, the CLE Commission, the Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services and the co-chair of the Joint Task Force to Study the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

He has authored two articles for the Columbus Bar Association, "*Straight Talk About the Law, the Role of the Public Prosecutors*," May 2002 and another on the role of Plea Bargaining, in criminal cases in 2004.

He has been recognized by Columbus Monthly Magazine and Who's Who Among African Americans in Central Ohio.

He served as a member of the United Way's Race Relation Vision Council, a former board Chair with Alvis Inc., served as the legal advisor for the Marion Franklin High School Mock Trial team for 15 years and currently a member of the Gahanna Y Board.

In 2001 Judge McIntosh was appointed Special Prosecutor for the City of Cincinnati in the case of *City of Cincinnati v. Stephen Roach*. This case involved the shooting of a young African American male, which sparked days of rioting within the City of Cincinnati.

Judge McIntosh was born in Columbia, South Carolina. He is a graduate of W.J. Keenan High School and South Carolina State University in Orangeburg South Carolina where he graduated Magnum Cum Laude. At SCSU he was President of the Social Science Forum and Political Science Club. He was recognized by Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He has been married 37 years to Dr. Sara A. McIntosh, MD. They have three adult children Tyler, Phillip and Lillian. He serves as a Deacon at the Second Baptist Church.



Impact Award Honoree



Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt attended College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received a B.S. in Psychology magna cum laude in 1996. She subsequently attended Vanderbilt University Law School and received a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1999. Judge Beatty Blunt was licensed to practice law in Ohio in November 1999.

Judge Beatty Blunt started her legal career at Frost Brown Todd (formerly Frost & Jacobs) in Cincinnati, Ohio where she was a member of the litigation department, focusing primarily on commercial and drug defense litigation. Judge Beatty Blunt then returned to her hometown of Columbus and joined Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter where she was a member of the litigation, creditor's rights and bankruptcy, and government affairs departments. Afterward she handled small business, probate, and personal injury matters for Otto Beatty, Jr. & Associates where she sat first and second chair in

several trials.

Judge Beatty Blunt then served as Director of Legislative Affairs and Counsel to the Voting Rights Institute for the Ohio Secretary of State. In that role, Judge Beatty Blunt served as liaison to the Ohio General Assembly and 88 county boards of elections. She also oversaw the drafting of legislation, obtained sponsors for bills, and provided testimony and information on bills pertaining to the Secretary of State's office.

In 2009 Governor Ted Strickland appointed Judge Beatty Blunt to serve on the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. In that capacity, Judge Beatty Blunt has jurisdiction over felony criminal cases, administrative appeals, and civil matters in which the sum or matters in dispute exceed \$15,000. She has presided over a variety of issues from sentencing on murder and rape case to multi-million-dollar civil litigation. Judge Beatty Blunt was overwhelmingly elected in November 2010, earning 68% of the vote in Franklin County and re-elected in 2016 to a second term. In November 2018, Judge Beatty Blunt was elected to the Tenth District Court of Appeals which hears appeals from the court on which she previously served, as well as appeals from the other divisions of the Franklin County Common Pleas- Probate, Domestic Relations, and Juvenile- in addition to appeals from the Franklin County Municipal Court, the Ohio Court of Claims, and various state administrative agencies.

Judge Beatty Blunt is currently a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio Board on Continuing Legal Education. She also serves on numerous law-related panels and is a member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Franklin County, and John Mercer Langston Bar Association. Judge Beatty Blunt is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the YWCA of Central Ohio, the United Way of Central Ohio Board of Trustees and Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force.

Judge Beatty Blunt is married to Chief Petty Officer Richard Blunt, II Retired Intelligence Specialist, US Navy. They are the parents of Leah and Spencer.

Trailblazer Award Honoree



Attorney Mark Hatcher is the Managing Partner of the Columbus office of Baker & Hostetler LLP. Hatcher is a trusted counselor and strategic adviser to corporations, boards of directors and senior executives on matters ranging from corporate governance, real estate development and affordable housing, to health care and higher education.

A native of Detroit, Hatcher has always had a heart for community and has worked tirelessly to create pathways to success and increase diversity and inclusivity in the field of law.

In his words, "I really [want] to be impactful to the community and to people that grew up in places like where I grew up and show that there's a different way of living your life."

Hatcher has been an Ohioan for nearly three decades and has strong ties to the Columbus community.

Since 2016, he has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Central State University and chairs both the Columbus Next Generation Development Corporation and the Isabelle Ridgway Foundation.

Hatcher works with several community organizations that advocate and advance diversity, equity and inclusion issues, including the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council of the United Way of Central Ohio, The Ohio State University Buckeye Research Venture Mentoring Program and the Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council.

Hatcher has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America each year since 2019 in the areas of Health Law and Business Organizations and listed among the best lawyers in central Ohio by Columbus Business First in 2019. He is a 2016 Fellow of the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity and was twice named to Savoy Magazine's list of "Most Influential Black Lawyers in America" and he received the Leadership Excellence Award from the Ohio Diversity Council in 2017.

Hatcher received an LL.M. in Business and Taxation, with honors, from Capital University Law School, a J.D., cum laude, from Capital University Law School, where he was the Business Editor of the Capital University Law Review; a Master of Criminal Justice from Tiffin University and a B.A. from The Ohio State University.

Trailblazer Award Honoree



Attorney Janica Pierce Tucker is the partner-in-charge of the Taft Columbus office. Her practice focuses on representing clients in all aspects of employment and labor law. Janica is a member of Taft's Executive Committee and serves as co-chair of Taft's firm wide Diversity & Inclusion Committee and is a 2018 Fellow for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Active in the community, Attorney Tucker has been recognized by her peers on numerous occasions including, Ohio Super Lawyers for employment and labor law, Columbus CEO's Top Lawyer and Columbus Business First's Forty Under 40. She is also the recipient of the Franklin County Trial Lawyers Associations President's Award

and is a 2022 YWCA Woman of Achievement honoree.

A history making trailblazer, Attorney Tucker is no stranger to breaking the mold. In 2021, Tucker became the first African-American woman to serve as general counsel for a Minor League Baseball team – The Columbus Blue Jackets, and she is now the City of Columbus' first Black woman to become managing partner of a law firm.

In her words, "We are truly our ancestor's wildest dreams. And what we have to remind ourselves of every day is that you can do whatever you set your mind to do."

Attorney Tucker received her B.A. from Tennessee University and her J.D. from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



May 13, 2022

Dear Capital University 2022 BLSA Graduating Students:

On behalf of the students, staff, administrators, and faculty of Capital University Law School, I congratulate you as you near your law school graduation. During your time in law school, you and the world experienced the senseless killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, among others. You also endured a pandemic and more than a year of online learning, followed by many more months of masked learning when we returned to in-person classes this year. Happily, as you closed your studies in your final semester, Capital University Law School and the world celebrated the elevation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. These painful and joyful experiences served as profound lessons about the importance of seeking justice. Through it all, you persevered and achieved your graduation goal. We are proud of you and confident that your years of study, hard work, dedication and sacrifice will yield great results in the future.

In 1903, Mr. William Corn, the founder of what would ultimately become Capital University Law School, pronounced that “the new law school would provide accessible, legal education to all, regardless of race, sex, or financial status.” Since our founding over 100 years ago, therefore, Capital has embraced diversity of background and thought in all of its forms and we are committed to creating a culture of inclusion. We fully understand and appreciate that a diverse learning community leads not only to a more diverse legal profession but also helps ensure that all of our graduates are better prepared to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse and globalized society.

The Black Law Students Association plays an integral part in the life of Capital University Law School. BLSA helps the Law School fulfill its mission through programming that promotes cultural awareness and educates our community about legal issues affecting African Americans. Through their leadership and fellowship, BLSA students help make Capital more than a law school; they help make us a community. The Law School is honored to participate in tonight’s celebration and to support BLSA in its efforts to foster a supportive community for African American law students and to enhance the academic and cultural experience for all Capital law students.

I also wish to thank the members of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association and our colleagues at The Ohio State University Michael E. Mortiz College of Law for their continued partnership in this event. Capital looks forward to continuing to work with them to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between our two schools and the African-American legal community.

Congratulations again to the graduating members of BLSA. Best wishes for success in all of your future endeavors, and we look forward to celebrating your successes in the years to come!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reynaldo Anaya Valencia".

Reynaldo Anaya Valencia
Dean and Professor of Law



Michkayla Edmondson is a graduating 3L at Capital from Columbus, Ohio. Michkayla attended Bowling Green State University for her undergraduate degree for Criminal Justice. Michkayla has been a member of BLSA since Fall of 2019. She has been the Treasurer of BLSA since Fall 2021. She is currently employed at the Franklin County Public Defender's Office in the Juvenile Division and Municipal Division. Michkayla spent her final semester externing under Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart. After law school Michkayla plans to Criminal Defense and Family Law



Lusanne Green is a Capital University Law Student in the evening program. Additionally, she works full time with the Ohio Community Corrections Association and part time with the International Community Justice Association. A graduate of Kenyon College, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies with concentrations in Biology, Black Studies, Foreign Aid and Development.

She actively participates in student life at Capital University Law School as a Black Law Students Association Executive Board Member, Student Bar Association Admissions Representative, and as a summer extern with the Columbus Bar Association Minority Clerkship Program at the Federal Public Defender's Office. Lusanne is currently writing on the law review staff on real estate and civil rights.

In service to the greater community, Ms. Green volunteered at Columbus Africentric High School, assisted with moot court competitions, and aided in the expungement clinic. She looks forward to using her law degree to make a difference for those who have the greatest needs.



Keria Haugabrook is from Cincinnati, Ohio. She attended The Ohio State University and graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Political Science. During her time at Capital, Keria served as the Treasurer of BLSA for the year of 2020 and currently serves as BLSA'S Community Service Director. As a summer intern, she worked for the United States attorney's Office and Franklin County Public Defender's Office. After law school Keria plans to take the Ohio Bar Exam and practice Criminal Law in the public sector here in Columbus. Keria would like to thank God, family, friends, and each of her formal and informal mentors for their guidance throughout this journey. A fun fact about Keria is that she loves to swim.



Alexis Pannell is a fourth-year, part-time evening student at Capital University Law School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Affairs from The Ohio State University. Throughout law school, Alexis worked as a real estate paralegal in the Columbus City Attorney's Office. Alexis is an active member in the Capital Law School community. She serves as a peer advisor, student representative for LexisNexis and Themis Bar Review, Student Coordinator for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. She previously served as Vice President of Capital's chapter of the Black Law Students Association, Community Service Director of the National Black Law Students Association for the Midwest Region, Fellow for the Law and Leadership Institute, and participated in mock trial. Alexis also gives her time to the Columbus community. She is on the planning committee of the Columbus Museum of Art's annual fundraiser, the grants committee for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, and has completed over 100 hours of pro bono service.

After graduation, Alexis will take the Ohio bar exam and begin her legal career practicing civil litigation.



Kaila Taylor is a 3L Day student at Capital University Law School. Kaila was born at the Naval Hospital in North Charleston, SC but proud to be a native of Lorain, Ohio. Her family ties are deeply rooted as her maternal grandfather is one of 16, the majority still residing in Lorain. A loyal buckeye, Kaila attended The Ohio State University and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in History. While at Capital, she has been an active member of the Black Law Student Association, serving as Secretary in her 2L year and President in her 3L year. She is also a member of the Christian Legal Society and the student representative for the American Bar Association. Kaila has enhanced her legal education by volunteering for various pro bono opportunities, externing at the probate court, serving as a Legal Intern in Capital University's Legal Clinic and working as a law clerk for Moyer Law Offices. Upon graduation, Kaila plans to immerse herself in preparation for the July 2022 Bar Exam. Kaila's career aspirations are geared toward the public sector. With her family's military background and genuine concern for the elderly, she is actively exploring opportunities that incorporate elements of both. She is humbled and honored for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. She would like to thank God, family, friends and each of her informal and formal mentors for their guidance throughout this journey.

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**To the Moritz College of Law Black Law Students Association
Class of 2022**

The Moritz College of Law is honored and privileged to celebrate the Black Law Student Association’s Class of 2022. The Class of 2022’s law school journey will always be noted for the profound challenges it endured – racialized violence and racial reckoning, a fundamental attack on democracy, a time of isolation and separation resulting from the pandemic. While these challenges were profound, so are the resilience, the comradery, the compassion, and the commitment with which this group pursued their law school career. Our students spoke truth to power – and always supported their BLSA family. We are proud of you and all you have accomplished. I am proud to share those accomplishments with JMLBA and the gala participants.

Pierre Collins was recognized for his significant and lasting contributions to the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution. While at Moritz, Pierre served as a Lead Fellow for Lawyers of Color, as an Emerson Fellow at the National Homeless Law Center, and as a Moritz Board Fellow for the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation.

Trina Edwards served as managing editor for the Midwest Journal on Law and Policy. Best Oralist at the National Energy and Sustainability National Moot Court Competition, Best Brief NYC Bar Association National Moot Court Competition. She served as the Inter-Professional Council Senator and on the Student Bar Association Honor Council. Trina also led efforts to promote trauma informed teaching practices to the Moritz faculty.

Makiah Harper is the inaugural Kenneth Zak Scholar and will be joining Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter in the fall. While at Moritz, Makiah played an integral role as an Ambassador Fellow in support of the Admissions Office and the College’s efforts to continue to build the pipeline of Black attorneys. Makiah has been an unwavering mentor to BLSA members and a leader in the classroom.

Rebecca Joseph served as the Editor in Chief of The Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution. Rebecca is a Moritz Board Fellow with the Community Refugee and Immigration Services. In addition, she is a member of If/When/How Lawyering for Reproductive Justice; the Student Bar Association and BLSA.

Nia Kaudo lives the meaning of her name; she is a purpose driven advocate for those who have no voice. She served as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center, and as a Board Fellow at the Horizon Prison Initiative. This continues her work prior to law school with AmeriCorps Vista at the Philadelphia Re-entry Coalition.

Shayla Kendrick will join Frost, Brown, Todd in the fall. She served as Chief of Staff for the Student Bar Association and as the Professional Development Chair for BLSA. Shayla is a Judge Yvette McGee Brown Leadership Scholar and a Congressman William McCulloch Scholar. Shayla was awarded the Robert M. Duncan Service Scholarship for outstanding service contributions to the College community.

Tiraj Lucas is an outspoken advocate for those who lack voice, power, and privilege. She has delivered several TED Talks, is the Chief Executive Officer for “Tiraj Talks” and is a Legal Fellow at Equality Ohio.

Candace Milner is a two-time graduate of the Moritz College of Law. She is a graduate of our inaugural Law and Leadership Institute class and well as the Class of 2022. Candace also received her M.P.A. at this year’s University graduation. While at Moritz, Candace served as President of BLSA building community during a time of isolation. Candace serves as a consultant and a facilitator for a range of non-profits and is a Tom Weeks Equity and Inclusion Fellow.

Joseph Oteng is a social justice educator, blogger and photographer who provides social justice, anti-racism, and racial justice workshops and consults throughout the nation. While at Moritz, he served as an Admission Fellow, a Hearing Officer at the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, A Policy Intern at the Reporter Committee for Freedom of the Press. Joey is a Moritz Scholar and will begin a PhD program in Higher Education at OSU in the fall.

Joshua Pittman will be joining Jones Day this fall. He is a member of the Moot Court Board and BLSA. Joshua was a member of top 16 teams at the NYLS Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition and the West Virginia University National Energy & Sustainability Moot Court Competition. Joshua also gives back to the community as a debate coach for Gahanna Jefferson High School.

Continue to live your dreams and to fulfill your purpose. You are the change this Nation needs. On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff of the Moritz College of Law. Well done.



Trina Edwards received her B.A. in Communications from The Ohio State University. Prior to law school, Trina worked in professional and college sports at the NCAA national office and Indianapolis Colts, and later the Indiana Democratic Party during the 2018 Midterm and 2019 Municipal Election Cycles. During her time at Moritz College of Law, Trina was Vice President of the OSU BLSA chapter, Midwest BLSA Journal Managing Editor, IPC Senator, and a Moot Court competition champion and best oralist. During her law school career, Trina was a summer associate at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, a law clerk at the Columbus City Attorney's Office, legal research assistant, and a judicial extern for both Justice Sharon Kennedy on the Ohio Supreme Court and Magistrate Judge Kimberly Jolson of the Southern District of Ohio.

With the support of her husband and family, Trina will take the Ohio Bar and join Vorys as an associate after graduation.



Makiah Harper is a graduating 3L from West Chester, Ohio. She received her B.A. in Human Communication and Organizational Leadership, with minors in Classics and Marketing from Butler University in 2019, and continued her education at The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law. During her time at Moritz, Makiah was an active member of the Black Law Students Association, serving as the Social Chairman in her second and third year, coordinating programs such as the BLSA 1L Bootcamp and various social outings. As a 3L, Makiah served as an Admissions Ambassador Fellow, allowing her to follow her passion of supporting and uplifting Black students in higher education. During her summers, Makiah worked as a summer associate at Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter, and will continue on with the firm after graduation and completion

of the Ohio Bar Exam. In her free time, Makiah enjoys cooking and going to new restaurants throughout Columbus with friends. With the love and support of her friends and family, Makiah has been able to succeed in the journey that is Law School, and she looks forward to what the future will hold.



Nia Roxann Kaudo is a determined woman from the Midwest, who is on a journey to understand the law and master the necessary tools to drive society forward. Nia received a Bachelor's in Africana Studies and Political Science with a minor in History from the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a Certificate in Politics in 2019. Before law school, she served as the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition capacity building coordinator for a year through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. During that year she also worked as Program Coordinator for the From Cell to Home Project for Women Lifers in Pennsylvania.

She will matriculate with her JD from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in May 2022. Throughout law school, she worked to develop her litigation skills, while balancing academic, professional, and community commitments. Nia spent two years as a summer associate at Frost Brown Todd, LLC in Columbus. After graduation, she will join the firm's Columbus Office working in labor and employment litigation. Nia worked as a research assistant through the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center for multiple professors. She interned and now volunteers with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network to help incarcerated women prepare for parole. Nia also serves on the Dean's Advisory Board and the Program on Law and Leadership Advisory Board at Moritz.

Nia's work ethic is fueled by her deeply personal passion for research, service, and community efforts designed to assist individuals, whose lives have been touched by mass incarceration and to raise public awareness of its origins.



Shayla D. Kendricks is a 3L at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She spent her last semester studying abroad in Madrid, Spain at Comillas Pontifical University in their Masters of International and European Business Law program. After sitting for the July 2022 Universal Bar Exam, Shayla will begin her legal career as an Associate at Frost Brown Todd in Cincinnati, OH, likely in their Real Estate and Finance practice groups.

During her time at Moritz, Shayla served as Professional Development Chair of Moritz BLSA and is an active General Body Member. She also served on the Student Bar Association as a Senator for Faculty Appointments and as the inaugural Chief of Staff. Shayla received a CALI award for the highest grade in Commercial Leasing and she is the inaugural Judge Yvette McGee Brown Leadership Scholar, the Congressman William McCulloch Scholar, and a recipient of the Vogel International Fellowship.

Before pursuing her JD, Shayla received her Masters in Business Administration concentrated in Ethics and Governance from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. She served with AmeriCorps VISTA and worked in various roles in budget planning and nonprofit governance. She received her Bachelors of Science in Business majored in Finance from DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Shayla is a daughter of Dayton, OH, a proud stutterer, dog mom, and soon to be a second-generation lawyer.



Tiraj Lucas is a current 3L at The Ohio State University Moritz School of Law and an alumna of Eastern Michigan University. She will be a prosecutor for the Bronx District Attorney's Office this upcoming fall. She published the book, *Piece by Piece* in 2019, *SOIL* in 2021, the CEO of her program Tiraj Talks, LLC and an intern at the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office. She has recently been recognized on a 10TV segment, a published news article and was a featured speaker on TEDx. You can learn more about her at www.tirajtalks.com.



Candace Milner (she/her) is a Columbus native with a passion for racial, gender, and economic justice. This year she will graduate from The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law and John Glenn College of Public Affairs with a dual JD/ MA in Public Policy and Management. She is a Michael E. Moritz Scholar, participated in the Civil Law Clinic, and served as President and 3L Advisor of Moritz's Black Law Student Association. In addition to her extracurricular commitments, Candace was the inaugural Thomas W. Weeks Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellow at OSLSA where she spent 10-weeks working at the Ohio Poverty Law Center on gender and racial disparities related to unemployment. Candace was also named the inaugural Amy E. Kellogg Fellow in Public Service and spent a summer interning with the Economic Justice


team at the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law. Prior to Law School Candace a Strategy and Policy Associate at the National Women's Law Center and earned her B.S. in Business Management from Georgetown University while minoring in sociology and African American Studies.

When she's not nerding out on policy news or reading for class, Candace enjoys trying out new recipes with her family, watching makeup tutorials on YouTube, and attending concerts.



Josh Pittman grew up in Youngstown, Ohio and graduated cum laude from The Ohio State University in 2019 with a B.A. in Political Science – focusing on issues of inequality and justice. During his undergraduate studies and throughout law school, he coached a debate program for high school students in Columbus, Ohio. Josh served on the executive board for the Black Law Students Association as a 2L. He was also a two-year member of the Moot Court Program at Moritz, and he received the Best Petitioner Preliminary Round Oral Advocate award in the Wagner Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition in 2022. Josh worked as a summer associate for Jones Day during his 2L summer, and he worked for Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP during his 1L summer and 2L year as a law clerk.

Josh is appreciative of the support and advice he received from numerous professionals in the Columbus legal community, advisors and professors at Moritz, and his family during his legal education. Following graduation, he will take the Ohio Bar and looks forward to joining Jones Day's Columbus Office as an Associate.



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Dean Reynaldo Anaya Valencia, Associate
Dean Scott Anderson, and the Faculty
and Staff salute the 2022 BLSA graduates
and extend congratulations to BLSA at
the 8th Annual JMLBA/BLSA Gala

~



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The faculty and staff of The Ohio State
University Moritz College of Law
congratulates the BLSA Class of 2022.
We are thankful for your many contributions
and proud of your impressive
accomplishments.
Good luck on your future endeavors.

Pierre Collins
Trina Edwards
Makiah Harper
Rebecca Joseph
Shayla Kendricks

Nia Kuado
Tiraj Lucas
Candace Milner
Joseph Oteng
Joseph Pittman



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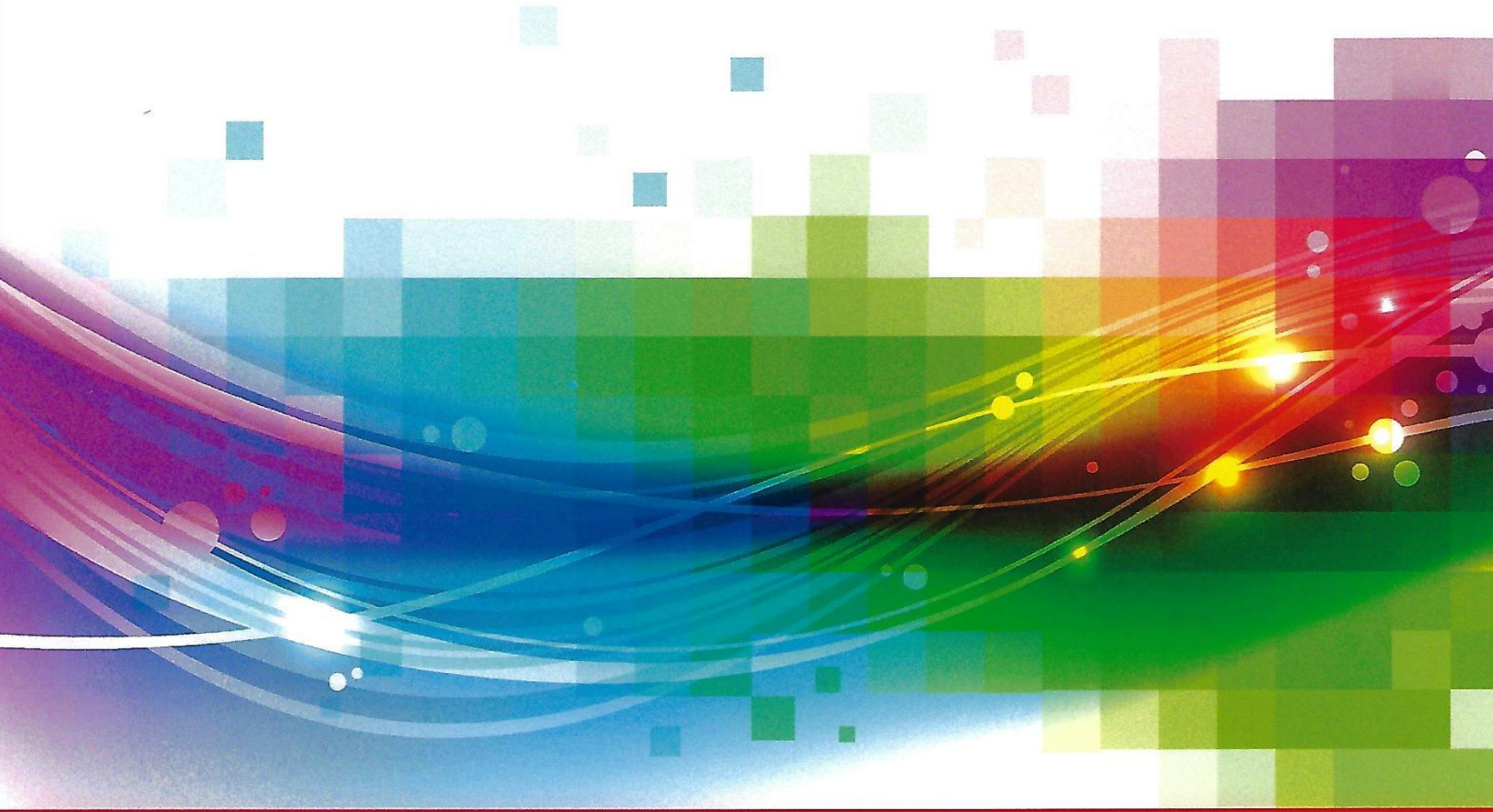
Jasmine Corrie is a rising third year law student at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. In addition to her studies, Jasmine spends her time as a research assistant, hearing officer for the Franklin County Teen Court, board fellow with the Upper Arlington Education Foundation, and member of student organizations including BLSA. Prior to law school, she worked in various roles supporting students in the Greater Philadelphia area including as an administrator at an independent school. She plans to use her legal career to improve educational access and opportunities for early childhood and K-12 students.

Tiara Dowling is a rising 3L day student at Capital University Law School. Tiara currently works as a juvenile law clerk at Franklin County Public Defender's office, and will serve as the Black Law Student Association's president for the upcoming school year.



Born and raised in Columbus, OH, **Milas Stevens** currently works as a law clerk and office administrator for The Steward Firm LLC while attending Capital University Law School. His education includes graduating from Reynoldsburg High School, receiving his Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master's degree from Franklin University in Public Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management. He is also a family man with a wife, Octavia, and their two children

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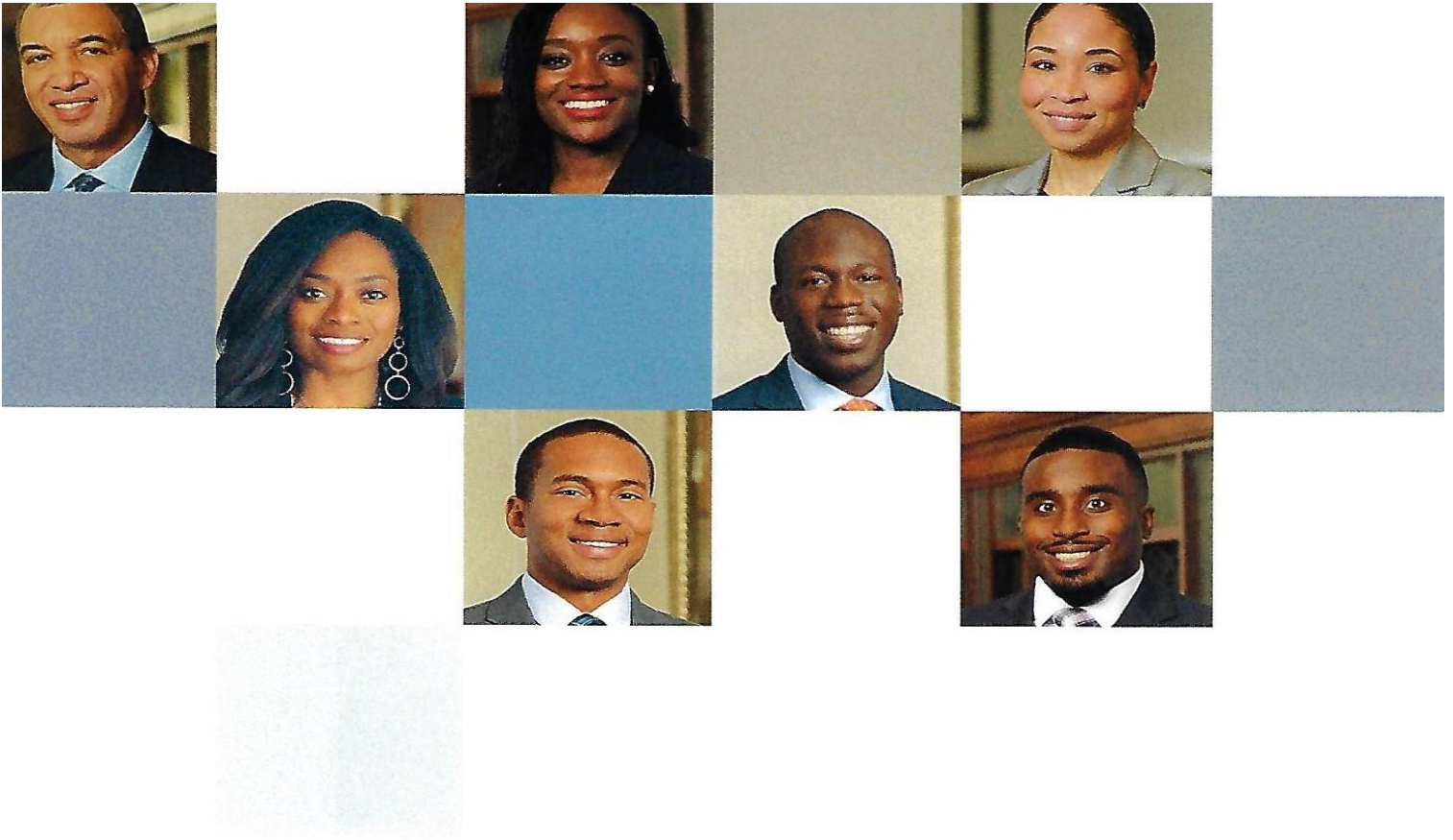


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