2017

2017 African American Alumni Reunion

University of Michigan Law School

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2017 AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI

REUNION

Partner With Us

M LAW
DEAR POTENTIAL SUPPORTER,

The University of Michigan Law School's African American Alumni Reunion is a powerful weekend of community building, reflection, inspiration, and fun. As excitement builds for the next reunion, March 24–26, 2017, we need your help in making it a success. We ask that your organization support the reunion program through a charitable gift.

A gift in support of the African American Alumni Reunion confirms your organization's long-term interest in preserving and strengthening diversity at Michigan Law—an issue that impacts us all. Our students better appreciate the complexities of the law—and how best to serve a diverse set of future clients—when they learn alongside and from students who approach their studies from multiple perspectives. We then are able to graduate practice-ready students who not only mirror but understand today’s society. A gift from your organization will provide immediate assistance in a number of ways, including:

• event registration fees for current and prospective students
• reduced registration fees for recent graduates and alumni working within the public sector
• general programming and outreach

Please review the enclosed gift form detailing how your organization can be a part of the African American Alumni Reunion. All gifts and pledges received by Nov. 21, 2016, will be recognized in the registration brochure, on the website, and onsite during the reunion. If you have questions, please contact the fundraising committee at A3ReunionSupport@umich.edu. For additional information, you can also visit our website at www.law.umich.edu/A3Reunion.

Our goals for the African American Alumni Reunion are ambitious, but they are important. They also are achievable, with your help. Please partner with us and help us build on our great momentum as we promote a strong, diverse community of alumni and students at Michigan Law.

Sincerely,

Saul Green, Class of 1972

Curtis Mack, Class of 1973

Khalilah Spencer, Class of 2001

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As a member of BLSA, I was able to witness the inauguration of black students to the Michigan Law black alumni community at the African American Alumni Reunion. For most, the African American Alumni Reunion was the first time they saw the full power of the black alumni community—and it is so powerful! Every class deserves the opportunity to be similarly brought into the fold.

Sami Hall, '15
BLSA treasurer, 2013-2014;
2014 reunion student-attendee

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Before the passage of Proposal 2 ("the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative") in 2006, the average number of African American students in each Michigan Law class was 25 to 30. It now averages 15 to 18.

In a race-blind admissions process, most African American students we admit are choosing among the best and most appealing schools in the nation. Because of that increased competition, we lose more of our admits than we did prior to Proposal 2. Scholarships can make the difference in recruiting top talent and getting students who aren’t familiar with Michigan, and Ann Arbor, to look at us seriously.

With such a small African American student population at Michigan Law, recruiting even two or three admitted students away from another school could make a significant difference.

An uptick in African American applications to the Law School for the Class of 2019 shows that momentum is building and that our efforts do make a difference.

• Reengage African American alumni with the Law School and each other.
• Celebrate the legacy of Michigan Law’s African American alumni community.
• Recognize the importance of alumni-funded scholarships and lay the foundation for increased support for African American students.
• Improve and support recruitment and matriculation of African American students through outreach and mentoring.
During the 2014 African American Alumni Reunion, I was able to hear firsthand the challenges that the Law School faces in recruiting African American students, along with the numerous efforts that the School is making to continue being the best in class. Gifts in support of the 2017 reunion will ensure that Michigan Law is able to continue these efforts in building a diverse and vibrant legal community.

RON FALLS, '05
2005 Carpenter Banquet chair;
2014 reunion attendee