

The Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Blacks In Criminal Justice



From The President's Pen

We kicked off 2020 with training for our leadership on January 4, 2020 and we are SOARing. Thank you for all who attended. Our Assistant Secretary, Tracy Tyson-Parker, has provided a good synopsis of the day. You will find it inside this newsletter.

Our Annual State Conference is scheduled for October 18-20, 2020 at the Embassy Suites (Airport) in Columbus, Ohio. Please save the date. The Conference Committee is planning an exciting and informative 33rd Annual Conference. Thank you to the Conference Co-Chairmen Roni Burkes—Trowsdell & Keisha Allen for their enthusiasm and leadership.

The Ohio Chapter of NABCI has been asked to support Governor DeWine's Strong Ohio Bill. The Strong Ohio Bill addresses issues that are important to us that affect our members, their families and our community. You will find a copy of the letter of support in this newsletter.

It is time to nominate some great individuals in our communities who are doing some fantastic work as it relates to the administration of justice. Our National Secretary and Ohio Chapter President Elect, Vernise Robinson, has sent the membership information on the National Awards. I am asking everyone to review and discuss with your affiliates to recognize some deserving people who are making a positive change. We want to highlight the awesome work of those we know and have the opportunity to serve with. The awards application deadline is March 17, 2020.

I am excited to bring back the affiliate of the year award. The criteria and deadline is listed in the enclosed application. As you can see from the pictorial collage, we have some affiliates in Ohio that are on the move and handling the business of NABCI. Please continue to tell our story, work with the community and fight for equal justice for all. Send your pictures into me at ohionabcjpres@gmail.com.

Again, thank you for all you do for NABCI. Our success rests in the willing hands and giving hearts that make us a great chapter.

Sincerely,

Staci G. Freeman
President

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STRONG Ohio



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE OHIO CHAPTER

P.O. Box 328872, Columbus, OH 43232

www.ohionabcj.org

February 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Staci Freeman and I am the President of the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCI). NABCI is a multiethnic, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals, students and community leaders dedicated to improving the administration of justice. On behalf of the Association, I would like to express our support for the STRONG Ohio proposal put forth by Governor DeWine.

This bill strikes the appropriate balance between providing additional protections to the public from firearm violence while defending citizen's constitutional rights. This is accomplished through three main policy changes that are aligned with the values of our association.

First, STRONG Ohio recognizes the influence mental illness and substance abuse have on the criminal justice system. STRONG Ohio also provides courts and law enforcement with additional tools to get individuals the treatment they need and establishes protocol for separating these people from their firearms, but only after they have been deemed a threat to themselves or others through due process.

Secondly, STRONG Ohio will increase the usage and accuracy of the background checks system. These improvements are long overdue, and we applaud Governor DeWine for his leadership on this issue. STRONG Ohio will provide a consistent database of arrest warrants and background checks, and include protection orders for stalking, domestic violence, and sexual assault, within 48 hours upon their issuance. This change, coupled with the provisions that will increase the usage of private background checks by private gun owners and sellers, will ultimately lead to a safer Ohio. These also encourage responsible gun sales and provide sellers with accurate and relevant information as well as protection for sales using a background check.

Lastly, STRONG Ohio increases penalties for targeted crimes involving firearms. We believe that state prison is reserved for those offenders who are violent and a threat to their community. The penalties contained in STRONG Ohio target "straw man" purchasers of firearms, and those that negligently sell or provide firearms to minors. These penalties will discourage this behavior and prevent firearms from being unlawfully placed in the hands of those that seek to commit violence against their fellow citizens.

Furthermore, this bill provides for increased judicial discretion for crimes where a firearm is used in commission of the offense or for offenders who carry around firearms illegally. These penalty increases allow for judges to determine the appropriate sentence on a case by case basis while maintaining public safety.

In conclusion, the STRONG Ohio proposal will result in a safer Ohio. STRONG Ohio is reasonable and targeted to discourage the unlawful sale and possession of firearms while providing a safe and constitutional process to place individuals into treatment before they can harm their fellow citizens. We are proud to support Governor DeWine's STRONG Ohio proposal.

Respectfully,

Staci G. Freeman

President

"Changing The Future Of Criminal Justice"

2019-2020 Officers

Staci Freeman
President

Vernise Robinson
President-Elect

Ronette Burkes-Trowsdell
Vice President

Angelica Kidd-Brewer
Secretary

George Frederick
Treasurer

Past Presidents

Marva Allen
2018-2019

Garey Burt
2016-2017

Kevin Jones
2014 - 2015

Darryl Graves
2012-2013

Toni Brooks
2010-2011

Andrea Carson
2008-2009

Linda Bond-Smith
2006 - 2007

Jeff Carson
2004 - 2005

Bobby Bogan
2003

Deion Cash
2002

Curtis Wingard
2000-01

Patricia Ellis
1998-99

Walter Echols
1996-97

Dr. Janet Bussey
1994-95

Dr. J. Lamar Johnson
1992-93

Alvin Hall
1990-91

Billy C. Russell
1988-89

Reginald A. Wilkinson,
Ed.D 1987-88

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



Staci Freeman

President

Hometown: Born in Columbus, Ohio – raised since age of 5 in Akron, OH

Education: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Ashland University and Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Tiffin University

Family First: George Freeman and Diantha Freeman (Parents), G. Gregory Freeman (Brother),

NABCJ Service: State Treasurer, State Vice President, State President, Board of Directors as Ohio Chapter President and National Protocol Co-Chairman

Hobbies: Bowling Line Dancing, Traveling and attending sporting events

Fun Fact: I wanted to be a Sportscaster for ESPN, TNT or any major network broadcasting NBA or NFL Games.

Favorite Scripture: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” – Philippians 4:13 “Trust in the Lord with all you hear and lean not in your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” – Proverbs3:5-6

Greatest Accomplishment: Being a Life Member of 2 organizations that I love (AKA & NABCJ) and serving in my community. Regionally and nationally in various capacities

Personal Motto: “It is Always Right to do what is Right” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Do Unto Others as you would have them Do Unto You” – Golden Rule

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



Vernise Robinson

President Elect

Hometown: Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Education: B.S. in Criminal Justice –

Family First:

NABCJ Service: State Membership Chair, Ohio President Elect, National Secretary, National Conference Co-Chair. Previously served as State Secretary, National Asst. Secretary, and Midwest Regional Rep.

Hobbies: Bowling, Shopping, and Traveling.

Fun Fact: I speak fluent French, ice skate, and play the violin.

Favorite Scripture: Psalms 27:1 “The LORD is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid?”

Greatest Accomplishment: “Good Question”

Personal Motto: If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything.

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



George Frederick

Treasurer

Hometown: Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Education: Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from the University of Charleston.

Family First: Shelby Frederick (Wife), Taylor Frederick (Daughter), Tyler Frederick (Son)

NABCJ Service: Member since 1998.

Hobbies: Studying world history, cooking, exercising, DJing.

Fun Fact: I wanted to be a cosmetologist when I finished active duty in the Navy, working in Corrections was not on my radar.

Favorite Scripture: Psalms 133

Greatest Accomplishment: Raising my children and seeing them become prosperous young adults.

Personal Motto: You can't control what others do, but you can control what you do.

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



Angelica Brewer

Secretary

Hometown: Cleveland

Education: Graduate of Baldwin Wallace University

Family First: Loving Husband, Ogunseye; Daughter: Courtney, Student at Miami of Ohio;
Son: Javier, student at Benedictine High School; Son: Elisha, Student at Greenbriar
Middle School

NABCJ Service: Ohio Chapter State Board Secretary; National: Midwest Representative

Hobbies: Reading, Shopping, Teaching

Fun Fact: I can deadlift 375

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among
the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Greatest Accomplishment: Being a wife and a mom to a great family.

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



Tracy Tyson-Parker

Assistant Secretary

Hometown: Akron, Ohio Live in Columbus, Ohio

Education: BS in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati and Masters Degree in Criminal Justice in Administration from Tiffin University

Family First: James Parker Sr. husband of 22 years, Mieshia Parker, daughter (26), James Parker Jr.(21), son and Noah Parker (11months), grandson. Ronda Tyson, mother. Sisters- Charise Tyson-Gaffney, Crystal Neloms and Marquita Thatcher. Brother Rodney Tyson

NABCJ Service: Member since 1991, Lifetime Member since 2008, Ohio Chapter Vice President and Assistant Secretary, Cleveland Affiliate Treasurer, Columbus Affiliate Chair and Vice Chair

Hobbies: Reading and attending sporting events at all levels. Huge Cleveland Browns Fan

Fun Fact: I love to dance but I have little to no rhythm

Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 54 :17 “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn.”

Greatest Accomplishment During Career: appointed as Acting Warden at Lorain Correctional and Warden Franklin Pre-Release Center.

Personal Accomplishment: Creating a life.

Personal Motto: The only time you should look down on a person is when you are helping them get up. We all fall, and we all need help getting back up.

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



Cynthia Ali

Assistant Treasurer

Hometown: Toledo, OH

Education: B.A. in Psychology from The Ohio State University

Family First: I am the youngest of 5 with 2 older sisters and 2 older brothers, no children.

NABCJ Service: I have been a member of the Columbus Affiliate since 1996. I served as the Vice Chair under Toni Brook's leadership as Affiliate Chair, State Conference Chair in 2010; Mentorship Chair in 2016 and have served on various other committees throughout my membership. I currently hold the position of Assistant Treasurer on the State Board.

Hobbies: Line dancing, playing cards, reading, traveling and enjoying life!

Fun Fact: Avid Dallas Cowboys Fan!!

Favorite Scripture: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another"
1 John 4:11

Greatest Accomplishment: My commitment to and belief on God

Personal Motto: Our greatest glory is not never failing, but in rising every time we fall.

MEET THE OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS



Marva Allen

Immediate Past President

Hometown: Monroe, Louisiana

Education: Bachelor's Degree – Wilberforce University – Organizational Management

Family First: Mom – Catherine; Dad – Eugene; Siblings – 4 (sisters 3; 1 deceased and 1 brother); Children - 5; Grand children – 13

NABCJ Service: Dayton affiliate board roles, Chair, vice-chair, secretary, and membership chair; Ohio Chapter - Membership Chair, President; Ohio Conference Chair and Co-Conference Chair; National Parliamentarian for Presidents Council

Hobbies: Bringing new life to furniture – by refurbishing, reading

Fun Fact: I was a majorette throughout junior high and high school.

Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall, Mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint”

Joshua 24:15b: “But as for me and my household; we will serve the lord”

Greatest Accomplishment: Successfully raised five children as a single mom while obtaining my college education and working full time. Leaving a legacy for my children, grandchildren and future great grandchildren that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them.

Personal Motto: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

“Let’s Get Ready To S.O.A.R.”

By: Tracy Tyson-Parker

On January 4, 2020, The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCI) Ohio Chapter 19th President Staci G. Freeman held her first Leadership Training titled “Let’s Get Ready To S.O.A.R.” at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Operation Support Center. **S.O.A.R.** stands for Serve, Obedient, Accountable, Responsive. The training was for all State and Affiliate Officers however it was open to all members. I tell you what, it was a packed house! All six Affiliate Chairs were presented along with their team and members. There were over 40 members in attendance.

President Freeman’s enthusiasm and passion to take NABCI Ohio Chapter to the next level was certainly demonstrated in the training. She was ready to S.O.A.R. President Freeman outlined her goals for her presidency which include reactivating two inactive affiliates, start a student chapter, have annual fundraiser, engage quarterly in community service projects with the affiliates, ensure financial procedures are incorporated and collaborate with other organization to promote NABCI.



The Leadership Training featured Kendall Lee, Lead Consultant Significance, LLC. He made an outstanding presentation on leadership titled: “The Secret to Becoming an Effective Team Player & The Importance of Work Ethics.” His presentation encouraged and inspired us all to become a collaborative team player, improve on our level of commitment, communication, and competence. Oh, did I mentioned that Mr. Lee challenged us to explore our strengths and weaknesses. He said, “You can’t be intentional and effectively focused if you don’t know yourself. If you’ve not done much self-examination, take an inventory of your strengths and weaknesses.”

During the training, President Freeman had the pleasure of swearing in several new officers who were unable to get sworn in at the State Conference in October of 2019. President Freeman, Vice President Roni Burkes-Trowsdell, Secretary Angelica Kidd-Brewer, Treasurer George Frederick, Membership Chairman Vernise Robinson presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining their roles and duties of their position. Each affiliate had the opportunity to report out on all the magnificent and remarkable things that they are doing in their respective communities. Kudos to all the affiliates for their contribution, dedication and commitment to their community and NABCI.

This year’s training was a tremendous success and productive. I can tell you firsthand that there was a lot of excitement in the room and people are Ready To S.O.A.R. with President Freeman.

Justice Sunday

BY: VERNISE ROBINSON - PRESIDENT ELECT/NATIONAL SECRETARY

On the weekend prior to the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s the Columbus and Dayton affiliates of the Ohio Chapter of NABCJ celebrated Justice Sunday activities.

Several Dayton affiliate NABCJ members participated in Justice Sunday activities, a three-day event. On Saturday, January 18th, they distributed 120 "NABCJ Blessings in A Bag", these small toiletry kits were passed out to many who are less fortunate, throughout Downtown Dayton and the Gateway Homeless Shelter. On Sunday, January 19th they attended worship service at In His Presence World Ministries under the leadership of Pastor Angel Ditto. On Monday, January 20th they participated in Dayton's MLK Walk.

The Columbus affiliate hosted Justice Sunday worship service at St. John AME in Columbus, Ohio where Rev. Dr. Jermaine D. Covington presides. This was their 6th Annual Justice Sunday service. The Honorable Senator Hearcel F. Craig of the Ohio Senate, representing the 15th District served as the morning speaker. The title of Senator Craig's sermon was "Live in the Faith Zone and Not the Safe Zone" There were over thirty NABCJ members, Judges, and community leaders in attendance. Senator Craig presented a proclamation to NABCJ.







AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR CRITERIA SHEET

NABCI Purpose and Mission: *To act upon the needs, concerns, and contributions of African Americans and other people of color as they relate to the administration of equal justice. The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice is a multiethnic, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals, students and community leaders dedicated to improving the administration of justice.*

Affiliate Name: _____

Affiliate Officers:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Title	Name	Title
_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Title	Name	Title
_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Title	Name	Title

Affiliate Membership total as of August 1, 2020: _____

Please review the portion of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice purpose and mission statement above. Describe how your affiliate has contributed to this mission from **November 1, 2019 through August 1, 2020**, in the following areas:

- How many memberships has your affiliate gained? New _____ Renewed _____
Community service projects with a description of project and dates: _____

- Special events and programs with descriptions and dates: _____

- Partnerships or networks created by affiliate: _____

- Schools/ Families adopted, name and location: _____

- Scholarships given out in 2019 (total number): _____

AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR CRITERIA SHEET Continued

- Lifetime members (total from your affiliate): New _____ Affiliate Total: _____
- Your affiliate goals for next year:

- Why is your Affiliate deserving of this award _____

*Please return all completed forms to Erica Daniel at erica.white2477@yahoo.com or Vernise Robinson at vernisenabcj@gmail.com by August 15, 2020

A Message from Your National Midwest Regional Representative



Greetings Ohio Chapter Members, I hope this message finds all of you safe and in good health.

As NABCJ has moved into 2020, our mission for equal justice will be truly tested during this year's Presidential Elections. We as an Association must ensure that Social Justice and Criminal Justice Reform continues to gain traction and is not forgotten in whoever is elected as the next President of the United States.

In February, I had the privilege to represent NABCJ at a Presidential Candidate's Forum at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina. I was able to address the Representatives of Biden, Sanders, Bloomberg and Buttigieg with questions regarding Criminal Justice reform and other issues affecting the under privileged and underserved populations that NABCJ supports. During my questions, I was able to stress the need for increased funding to Federal, State, non-profit Criminal Justice and Human Service agencies in order for them to provide the wrap around services that those involved with the Criminal Justice system so desperately need while incarcerated and upon release.

In March, I was asked to speak on behalf of the Association at Dr. George Wilson's retirement event in Durham, North Carolina that was sponsored by North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where he spent 36 years as a Professor. He was also Chair of the Criminal Justice Department for 20 years. Prior to NCCU, Dr. Wilson spent six years in Ohio as an Assistant Professor at The University of Cincinnati. He also served time as the Chairperson for their Criminal Justice Department and was the individual who hired Ed Latessa into the University. While in Ohio, Dr. Wilson also served on the Board of Trustees at Talbert House.

NABCJ was established in 1974 and Dr. Wilson has been an active member since 1978, and a Life Member since 1999. During this time Dr. Wilson has given his time and countless resources to the Association. It is because of his efforts and leadership that NABCJ was able to establish its National Office on the grounds of North Carolina Central University. Dr. Wilson has been a mentor, supporter, confidante to a countless number of NABCJ Members around the country. He has also had a hand in the early years of NABCJ's nationwide expansion of Adult and Student Chapters. He is a true public servant and has an undying love for the Association and his community.

In closing, as our nation works to eradicate the current pandemic, I implore all of you to take every necessary precaution to maintain the safety of yourselves, your families and the individuals we serve. These precautions coupled with our leadership and perseverance will see us through this precarious time. My thoughts and prayers are with us all. Be blessed and stay safe.

Gerard R. Lowe
National Midwest Regional Representative
National Bylaws Committee Chairperson
National Finance Committee Member
National Membership Committee Member
National Communications & Public Relations Committee Member
National Legislative Affairs & Public Policy Liaison

New Life Members

Marilyn Coffey



George Frederick



Tamra Hairston



Dr. Zaria Davis



Ethel Johnson



Patria Carter Martin



Terri Jackson-Gaines

Membership Spotlight



Congratulations to Dr. Chenelle Jones who was selected to receive the NBMBA (National Black MBA Association) Columbus Chapter Citizen of the Year Race for Excellence Award



Congratulations to Vernise Robinson on her promotion as the Workforce Development Administrator in the Office of Workforce Development for ODRC.



Congratulations to Sherri Smith on her promotion to Unit Management Chief at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) for ODRC.



Congratulations to Sasaun Lane who was promoted to the position of Senior Parole Officer within the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS)



Congratulations to Malika Kidd who was promoted to Program Director at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry



Congratulations to Latonya Cotton as she was promoted to Unit Management Chief at Marion Correctional Institution



Congratulations to William Salas who has been promoted to Deputy Warden Special Services at the Correction Reception Center

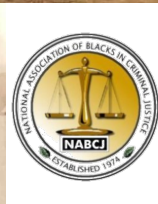


Congratulations to Katie Nixon who has been promoted to Deputy Warden at the Ohio Reformatory for Women



Congratulations to Ruchelle Pride who has been promoted as the Assessment Center Supervisor with Delaware County Juvenile Court

Ohio Chapter Highlights





PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

47TH NABCJ CONFERENCE AND TRAINING INSTITUTE
ROYAL SONESTA ~ NEW ORLEANS, LA
JULY 12-16, 2020



REGISTER TODAY!

***"NABCJ Improving Criminal Justice by Using the
Three R's ~ Review, Restructure and Reform"***

<https://shop.nabcj.org/collections/all>



Justice Matters

AN OBSERVANCE OF JUSTICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Four principles are equity, access, participation, and rights — each remain a goal for the betterment of society.

A JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

The 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will occur in 2020. It was enacted to ensure African Americans enjoyed the voting rights guaranteed to all in the Constitution. Despite these measures, justice and equality remain challenged.

IMPACT OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Nearly one in two adults in the U.S. have or have had an immediate family member in jail or prison. The impact is disproportionately felt by people of color, particularly African Americans who are three times as likely to be incarcerated. A priority of service factoring this impact is mentoring of youth who are impacted and to reduce the likelihood of justice involvement.

The words "justice" and "Sunday" are symbols of faith, fairness, and freedom, all of which were core values of selfless service rendered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and countless others who committed their time, talents, and lives to a movement of change.

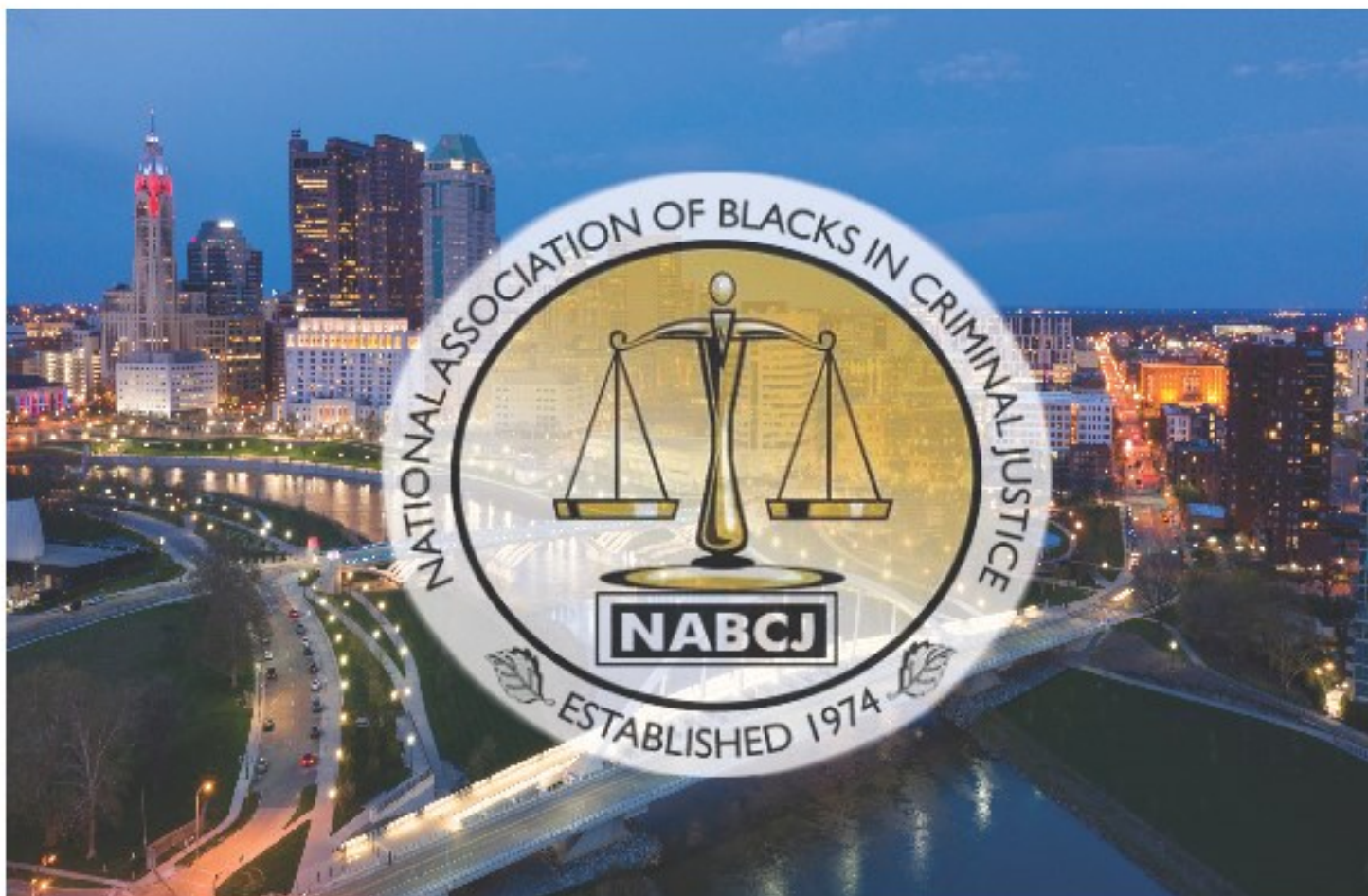
The weekend of Justice Sunday serves as a symbolic call to action before and beyond the MLK Day of Service. It reminds us of the responsibility we each have, in our own way, to serve this present age.

A strategic theme for its path forward, "Writing A New History," the 400 Years of African American History Commission will salute the pursuit of justice by partnering with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice and the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice to encourage a continuum of service and knowledge.



A Charge To Keep We Have To Serve This Present Age

www.nafj.org
www.400yaahc.com
www.nabci.org



SAVE THE DATE

33RD Annual Ohio Chapter NABCJ Conference
October 18 - 20, 2020

THEME: "NABCJ Improving Criminal Justice by Using
the Three R's – Review, Restructure, and Reform."

Location: Embassy Suites Columbus Airport
2886 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

Please watch your e-mail for more information.

FOCAL POINT

The Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Blacks In Criminal Justice

Heather Smith, Editor

Volume 1, Issue 2



Get In Touch With Us Today

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