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Biz X Was There - Black Law Students' Association Gala



ASSISTANT EDITOR

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The Black Law Students' Association of Canada Celebrates Black History Month With Windsor Gala

The Black Law Students' Association (BLSAC) of Canada held their "26th Annual National Conference" in Windsor this year from February 9 to 11, 2017 as part of the celebrations for "Black History Month," On the Saturday evening, February 11, a gala with dinner and dancing was held at St. Clair College Centre for the Arts with photos taken by Rod Denis of *Biz X* magazine shown on this page.

Representing Windsor Essex there was lawyers from Willis Law, M. Gordnerlaw Professional Corporation, and a handful of professors and students from University of Windsor Faculty of Law. There was also quite a few lawyers from other cities and provinces, and law students from across the country.

Keynote speaker was Anthony Morgan from Falconers LLP in Toronto, and the "Lifetime Achievement Award Winner" was Judge Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré from Montreal, Quebec. She was the first black Dean of a law school in Canada when she was Dean of Windsor Law in the 90s.

This year's theme for the entire conference, "Oneness in Motion: Impacting the Future," brought together students, academics, and legal professionals from across Canada to discuss issues of law and their impacts on underrepresented groups in the legal profession. This knowledge allowed students to consider ways to ameliorate and reduce these barriers.

Highlights of the conference included:

- A visit to Amherstburg Freedom Museum
- An Opening Ceremony with Justice L. Dean from the Ontario Court of Justice
- A firm fair featuring Bennett Jones, BLG, Cassels Brock Davies, Fasken Martineau, Goodmans, Gowlings, McCarthy Tetrault, McMillan, Miller Canfield, Ministry of the Attorney General, Torys and Weirfoulds
- A Resume and Cover Letter workshop
- Panels on Being Black on Bay Street, Working for the Government, Crossing Borders,
 Technology Law and Resources for Young Lawyers

- A CABL YLD Networking Event
- A Windsor Law School Tour and High School Workshop

The Black Law Students' Association of Canada (<u>BLSAC</u>) is a national, not-for-profit student-run organization with chapters in law schools across Canada.

Formed in 1991, BLSAC was established to identify and work towards the removal of systemic barriers in the legal profession and to promote access for Black students in relation to law school and the legal profession generally.









Photos by Rod Denis – <u>Biz X magazine</u>

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