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# Women and Children First

Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association

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## A Cry for Justice

Although the days of lynchings have past (physical, that is!), women and children continue to fight daily against domestic abuse and judicial unfairness. "A Cry for Justice" is a column that will focus on social injustices we, as female African-American advocates, should be aware and concerned about. Needless to say, "We are our brother's, sister's, and children's keeper."

### Texas Woman Murdered; Grilled

By **MONICA RHOR**  
*Associated Press Writer*  
*Published March 26, 2007*

For at least two days, neighbors at a city apartment complex noticed an acrid aroma, black smoke and leaping flames coming from two barbecue grills on the balcony of a second-floor apartment.

What, neighbors at the Red Oak Place apartments wondered, was going on in the unit where 27-year-old Timothy Wayne Shepherd lived? What was he burning at all hours, for days at a time? The answer turned their stomachs.

According to law enforcement officials, Shepherd dismembered, and then burned the body of his former girlfriend, Tynesha Stewart, a 19-year-old Texas A&M University student. Nothing remains of Stewart's body, Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas said at a press conference Saturday.

"I just don't know what to think about it," said Louis Evans, whose balcony faces Shepherd's in the quiet tree-lined enclave in northern Houston. "I thought he was a nice normal person. I guess you never know what your neighbors are doing."

Authorities said Shepherd has confessed to strangling and dismembering Stewart, a college freshman who was home on spring break, because he was angry that she had started a new relationship.

*cont. p. 3*

### Girl in prison for shove gets released early

Teen is first of possible hundreds to be freed from a scandal-ridden juvenile justice system

By **Howard Witt**  
*Tribune senior correspondent*  
*Published March 31, 2007*

HOUSTON -- Shaquanda Cotton, the black teenager in the small east Texas town of Paris whose prison sentence of up to 7 years for shoving a teacher's aide sparked nationwide controversy, was released Saturday.

Her release, ordered by a special conservator appointed to overhaul the state's scandal-ridden juvenile prison system, was the first of what could be hundreds as a panel of civil rights leaders begins reviewing the sentences of every youth incarcerated by the Texas Youth Commission to weed out those being held arbitrarily.

"We have no confidence in the system that was in place," said Jim Hurley, spokesman for the conservator, Jay Kimbrough. "And this case is an example of what we expect to happen if something wrong has been done to youths being held inside that system."

Cotton, who is 15, had no prior criminal record when she was incarcerated a year ago under an indeterminate sentence that could have lasted until her 21st birthday. Her case rose to national prominence and

*cont. p. 3*

## Letter from the Chair



E. Jean Johnson, Chair

Greetings Sisters in the Law, As I pin my last note as Chair of the Women Lawyers Division, I do so with much gratitude and pride. I am very thankful to each of you who have worked tirelessly to make this a successful year for our division and proud of all of the accomplishments we have made together. I am truly thankful to April Rolle, our Newsletter Editor and Board Member who has been relentless in making sure our newsletters got out. I think this is the first time that we have gotten one newsletter out per quarter (you go girl!).

Following is an update on the activities at the Gertrude Rush Conference and a request for help. It is with pride that I communicate that the Women Lawyers Division activities at the Gertrude Rush Conference were well received. The students who

attended the mentoring session couldn't thank us enough. We had sister-to-sister roundtable discussions that got pretty heated at times. It was all good. Also, the Human Trafficking seminar was simply outstanding. Let's give kudos to Iris Green who did an awesome job putting the seminar together. She was successful in getting panelist from the Department of Justice to speak on the topic who were sensational. We received so much positive feedback that we are looking to conduct a symposium on this topic.

The Women Lawyers Division was also successful in getting two motions passed by the Board of Governors and now we need your help. The first motion which is near and dear to each of us came out of the Imus debacle. The Women Lawyers Division Board

approved an initiative to support the WLD taking a position on the degradation of females in the music and video industries. The NBA board of governors voted in favor of our motion. As part of this initiative the Women Lawyers Divisions will visit with, campaign against, and publicly ridicule recording labels, artists and sponsors who endorse or promote music and videos that degrade women of color. We have already begun to work with community organizations in this effort, but need your help in your respective communities. As part of this initiative, the WLD is planning to launch a "Respect Yourself" campaign geared toward working with female high school students across America to instill in them the importance and necessity of respecting themselves and demanding respect from others. This will be a grassroots effort and we need each of you to volunteer to host "Respect Yourself" seminars in your area.

*cont. p. 4*

## Letter from the Editor

It's hard to believe another year has passed. We've witnessed the beginning of several WLD projects that have changed and will continue to change the lives of women and children across America. It has all come to fruition through the tireless efforts of our fearless leader E. Jean Johnson, a supportive Board, and active WLD members; we couldn't have done it without you.

The Gertrude E. Rush Mid-Year Conference proved to be another tremendous success. It was both encouraging and enlightening. We kicked off the Conference with the Sister-to-Sister roundtable, which gave us an opportunity to encourage law students to

keep on keep'n on. The experience also forced us to reminisce about our law school days, and thank the Lord those days are over. The WLD also sponsored a Human Trafficking Symposium, which shed new light on an issue some were unaware. I found myself sitting on the edge of my seat, mouth open, amazed that such acts are taking place in America in 2007. Congratulations WLD on a job well done!

On Saturday evening, July 28, 2007, at the Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA, the WLD will sponsor its Annual Retreat, which promises to be the best one yet. The attendees will receive a manicure, pedicure, and his/her choice

of another mini treatment, which will be followed by a fashion show of fine furs. Start the Conference off right, and join us for Spa Night 2007.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Chair, E. Jean Johnson for the opportunity to serve on the Board as your Newsletter Editor. It has been a pleasure to serve with someone who has not only vision, but the determination to get the job done. It's a wonderful thing to see dreams and visions materialize into projects that enhance the lives of others. It was truly an honor to serve, and I thank you.

Sincerely,  
April E. Rolle, Esq.



April E. Rolle, Editor and Ashley E. Rolle

## A Cry for Justice cont.

### Texas Woman Murdered; Grilled cont.

Officials first thought Shepherd had disposed of her remains in a large commercial trash bin that had since been emptied, launching an intense debate in the area about whether the Sheriff's Department should conduct a massive and expensive search of area landfills for Stewart's remains.

Stewart was last seen March 15 and was reported missing March 19. The next day the Harris County Sheriff's Office homicide division launched its investigation.

On March 16, neighbors said they first noticed the unusual activity - and the unpleasant odor - on Shepherd's balcony.

"The smell was awful," said Evans, who also became alarmed after seeing a blaze shoot out from the grills. "I was wondering: What is he burning? Not cooking, but burning. There is a difference."

At times, Evans said, the flames from the grills leapt dangerously close to the roof of the balcony. Evans says he called 911, but when firefighters arrived, the flames had calmed and Shepherd assured them everything was under control.

A leasing agent at the apartment complex also noticed the thick dark smoke and the intense flames and asked Shepherd what he was doing, Evans said. Another neighbor, 18-year-old James Hebert, told The Houston Chronicle that he often cooked out with Shepherd, and even left his grill at Shepherd's apartment. When he wasn't invited over, he asked his neighbor what was going on. Shepherd replied that he was cooking for a wedding, the newspaper said.

Dionne Whitaker, 31, who lives in the complex, said she saw Shepherd carry the grill and smoker to a garbage bin a day or so later, the newspaper said.

Human remains generally require extremely high temperatures to destroy, and authorities have not said how it is possible that Stewart's remains could be completely burned on a patio grill.

"This certainly turned out to be one of the most heinous crimes I've ever seen in my 38 years (in law enforcement)," Thomas, the sheriff, said Saturday.

Shepherd, who is charged with murder, is being held on \$250,000 bond in the Harris County Jail. Telephone message left with his attorney, Chip Lewis, were not immediately returned. On Sunday, the door to Shepherd's apartment was covered with plywood boards.

<http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=35429>

### Girl in Prison for Shove cont.

and became the focus of ongoing civil rights protests after a March 12 Tribune story detailed how a 14-year-old white girl convicted of the more serious crime of arson was sentenced to probation by the same judge.

Cotton's case occurred against a backdrop of persistent allegations of racial discrimination inside the Paris public schools -- allegations that are the subject of a continuing probe by the U.S. Department of Education to determine whether black students in the district are disciplined more harshly than whites.

"When I learned about this case, I thought, this just looks so bad and smells so bad it made me hurt," said state Rep. Harold Dutton, the influential chairman of the Texas Legislature's juvenile justice committee. "I told [prison officials] I wanted her out of there immediately."

Officials said Shaquanda Cotton was being released on 60 days' probation to allow her to access state health and counseling services. But after that, she would be completely free, they said. Creola Cotton said her daughter would not return to the Paris public schools but would pursue her GED at home. What effect her release might have on the pending legal appeal of the youth's case was unclear.

Since she has been in prison, Shaquanda Cotton said that she had grown despondent surrounded by other youths who were hardened criminals, and that she had tried to commit suicide. Her sentence, which ultimately was up to the discretion of prison officials, had twice been extended, first because she would not admit her guilt as required by prison regulations and then because she was found with "contraband" in her cell -- an extra pair of socks.

Those sentence extensions drew the attention of Kimbrough, who was confirmed by the state Senate on Thursday as conservator of the youth prison system, which has been rocked by a sex scandal over allegations that guards and administrators coerced inmates for sex.

Kimbrough, a former deputy attorney general, said last week that he was convening a special committee to examine the sentences of all 4,700 youths in Texas juvenile prisons to determine how many might have had their sentences unfairly extended by prison authorities -- and that Shaquanda Cotton's was the first case he intended to review. Prison officials said it was Kimbrough who personally ordered the girl's release on Friday.

Since the Tribune's first account of Shaquanda Cotton's case, her story has been circulated on more than 400 Internet blogs and featured in newspapers and radio and TV reports across the country. Two protests demanding her release were held in Paris and a third, to be led by Rev. Al Sharpton, was scheduled for Tuesday.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0703310265mar31,0,4450616.story??track=sto-relcon>

## Letter from the Chair cont.

The next motion was for the board to approve a quarterly NBA publication spotlighting cases and situations across the America where judges' and/or public officials' decisions appear to be racist in nature. The publication would be sent to the media and community advocate associations across the US. If you have a case or hear of an incident where minorities, particularly African Americans, appear to be discriminated against in the courts or legal process because of their race, please let us hear from you. Although this is not specifically a women's issue, discrimination affects each of us and as a division of the National Bar

Association, which is the oldest and largest bar of people of color, it is our duty and obligation to advocate for justice.

With the NBA Annual Conference just a few weeks away, I want to invite each of you to attend. The Women Lawyers Division slogan for the conference is "Sisters-in-the-Law United by Common Causes." I want to remind each of you to be sure to get there on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> in time for the Women Lawyers Retreat (see information in this newsletter). It will definitely be a night to remember. This year we will also get to

do some shopping at discount rates! The Women Breakfast promises to be one of the best ever. We will continue our networking theme at the breakfast.

In closing, I am truly thankful for your support over the years. We would not have had nearly the success we did if it were not for each of you. For that I am truly grateful. I look forward to working with you on our ongoing initiatives. May God's peace be with you Sisters-in-the-Law.

From my heart,  
E. Jean Johnson

## WLD News

Relax! Relate! Release! Spa Night 2007

The NBA Women Lawyers Division will host its Annual Retreat on the evening of Saturday, July 28, 2007. This year, the WLD will bring you an evening of tranquility - Relax! Relate! Release! Spa Night 2007!

Each Retreat attendee will receive a manicure, a pedicure, and his/her choice of another mini treatment (facial, massage, etc.). In addition, thanks to our co-sponsors - Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and Helen Frushtick Furs - we will enjoy refreshments and a fashion show, featuring the finest quality furs!

All of this is yours for a fraction of the price you would ordinarily pay!!!! Come one, come all! Please note that space is limited for the Spa Treatments, so please register early! See you in Atlanta! Your 2007 Retreat Committee: Cylenthia LaToye Miller, Chantel Mullen, and Deborah Poole.

### **HOUSTON BUSINESS LEADER JEAN JOHNSON NAMED TO NEW WIPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 27, 2007) —Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), the nation's largest bipartisan women's business group, announces the formation of a WIPP Board of Directors featuring women business leaders from coast-to-coast. The new Board of Directors will guide WIPP in raising the voices of 10.4 million women entrepreneurs and 46 national women business organizations in Washington, D.C.

Jean Johnson, president and CEO of LegalWATCH, Inc. in Houston, Texas, will serve on the WIPP Board of Directors. "Jean is a leader who understands and exemplifies the importance in engaging women business owners in the political and public policy process. She knows how legislation can impact a company's bottom line and ability to grow," said WIPP President and Co-founder Barbara Kasoff.

Members of WIPP's Board of Directors will serve 3-year terms. As board members, they will serve as a governance board and provide strategic counsel on strengthening the impact of women business owners at the federal legislative and executive levels, bringing their unique perspective on top economic growth concerns to our nation's political leaders, and activating this fast growing demographic in the electoral process. Since its founding in 2001, WIPP members have testified at numerous Congressional committee hearings on issues that affect the growth of women-owned businesses, particularly access to capital, tax reform, affordable healthcare and federal contracting opportunities. Also, WIPP members frequently participate in roundtable discussions conducted by the Administration on the economic impact of public policies on business. "Now that women have ownership in nearly half of all private companies and are growing faster than any other business demographic, the impact of women entrepreneurs on the political landscape is formidable. With involved business owners like Jean on our board, WIPP is leading the way to ensure women's voices are heard in the halls of Congress, The White House and federal agencies," said Kasoff.

#### **Women Impacting Public Policy:**

Women Impacting Public Policy is a non-profit, national bipartisan group with over half-a-million members. WIPP is The Collective Voice in Washington, DC, for 46 national women and small business organizations. WIPP strengthens its members' sphere of influence in the legislative process, creates economic opportunities for members and builds alliances with other small business organizations. Visit [www.wipp.org](http://www.wipp.org).

# The Imus Issue: Two Perspectives

The following two articles were written by third year law students who attend St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, Florida

## Gender Bias in the Media: Repairing the “Woman” Image

By: Adam Senior

Gender bias in the media is not merely a trumped-up hypothesis predicated on the disproportionate number of women stereotyped on national television. Gender bias is a sad reality in the media because the persons responsible for the administration of newsworthy institutions are predominantly male. But just like any other profession, the media contingent is not immune to, nor can it escape, the ramifications of the deeply ingrained prejudices of those who administer the news. Preconceived notions of prejudice cannot whimsically disappear simply because the job description requires that it do so. Among the many issues surrounding gender bias within the media, ranging from blatant displays of sexism to unwarranted stereotypes, the media seems to always find a way to pound, twist, and slant these stereotypes into sensational headlines and sound bites, essentially dumping them back on the public as fact.<sup>1</sup> Serious repercussions emerge in society and manifest themselves in the form of negative emotions toward women altogether, associating women with the immoral, derogatory side of the gender continuum. No example is more prevalent than that of the recent controversy surrounding Don Imus' talk radio show entitled, “Imus in the Morning”.<sup>2</sup> Imus' usage of the phrase “nappy headed ho's”<sup>3</sup> in describing a select group of female college basketball players represents the epitome of gender biased speech. A closer look, however, reveals that the blatant dissemination of such deplorable speech in the media has a profound effect on how women are viewed in society.

Gender bias in the media is augmented by the provisions and implications of the First Amendment's right to freedom of the press. The only remedy for this problem is in the form of stricter regulations on public broadcasting mediums. The institution of “gender specific legislation” would serve to alleviate the fairness problem associated with the media and the assassination of the woman image. Moreover, by eradicating gender bias in

the media, select legislation has the simultaneous effect of substantially lifting the woman image in modern society and forces people to embrace, not embarrass, women as positive and iconic forces in society. If this avenue remains unregulated then public denunciation of women as “nappy headed ho's” in the public sphere can very well become a trend on public broadcasts. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are the primary tools public broadcasters use to justify such behavior. These First Amendment rights constitute a paramount structure embedded in society that allows for the free flowing of information to the public and its impact has grown to be an invaluable asset to everyday life. These freedoms, however, are inherently flawed as they give the media a license to degrade the image of women with little or no opportunity for rebuttal, refutation, and overall balanced coverage. It is no secret that gender bias in the media has potent and damaging connotations for women. When freedom of the press encroaches upon the fundamental rights and freedoms of an entire gender, where is the line drawn between what is fair, what is funny, and what is unjust? If speech rights and the First Amendment are of paramount importance to individual liberty, then where is the liberty in maliciously shaping the image of women through the media?

The media's negative depiction of women has the practical effect of undermining the fragile foundations of gender comity. Issues such as continued employment discrimination, where women are labeled as sex objects and “nappy headed ho's” are examples of the direct consequences of the media's unregulated behavior. Its domino effect can leak not only into the workplace, but the homes, and social structures of women in all facets of life, essentially heightening animosity among the public; carrying potent and damaging connotations; and fostering negative emotions toward women altogether. However, the institution of any practical “gender specific legislation” can deplete negativity associated with women in the media and refresh the woman image as a respectable figure. The mediums used to portray these negative perceptions can have the opposite effect as an effective tool against gender bias in the media because television and radio have the power of reshaping ideas and opinions in the public sphere.

The public interest standard should ultimately be the determining factor for whether conduct in the public realm requires governmental regulations. When the public interest standard is compromised through repugnant, unconscionable speech in the public sphere, as was the case with Don Imus, then it should trigger gender specific regulations that aim to curtail these efforts. Imus' words can be interpreted as a one-sided negative view of women, perniciously affecting the image of women, in general, as “nappy headed ho's.” Shock jock radio hosts participate in this banter on a regular basis, so it would be difficult to regulate it in every instance because there must be an ascertainment of the effect the words have on society, and thus the public interest. Referring to women as “nappy headed ho's” on national broadcast radio infringes upon the perception of women as a whole and, unequivocally, damages the public interest standard. These mediums, coupled with the aims of “gender specific legislation,” provide a platform in the media to offset gender bias with positive news broadcasts that have the profound effect of repairing the woman image.

<sup>1</sup> Earl O. Hutchinson, *The Assassination of the Black Male Image* 4 (1994).

<sup>2</sup> IMUS: So, I watched the basketball game last night between -- a little bit of Rutgers and Tennessee, the women's final.

ROSENBERG: Yeah, Tennessee won last night -- seventh championship for [Tennessee coach] Pat Summitt, I-Man. They beat Rutgers by 13 points.

IMUS: That's some rough girls from Rutgers. Man, they got tattoos and --

McGUIRK: Some hard-core hos.

IMUS: That's some nappy-headed hos there. I'm gonna tell you that now, man, that's some -- woo. And the girls from Tennessee, they all look cute, you know, so, like -- kinda like -- I don't know.

<sup>3</sup> The term “nappy headed ho's” has offensive gender and racial connotations that pertain to the characterization of women as prostitutes and the tightly curled or coiled hair of persons of African descent.

## The New Danger to the First Amendment

By: Michele T. Bachoon

It should be said from the beginning that I do not listen to Don Imus. Nor do I listen to Howard Stern or any other shock jock that panders to the ignorant. However, that being said, I believe in the freedom of speech. As much as I loathe this sort of celebrity personality, in general I do not believe that they should be censored by anyone or anything, other than the market share for which they compete. If people are truly disgusted by what shock jocks say they have the power and the right to change the station. If enough people exercise this right, stations which broadcast shock jocks would change to more profitable programming.

Do radio personalities, noted for provocative or inflammatory commentary, have the right to publicly air whatever views they want, regardless of whom they hurt? According to the constitution, except in very limited circumstances, everyone has the right to say what they want, including celebrities. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution says that Congress shall make no laws abridging the freedom of speech.<sup>1</sup> The First Amendment does not apply to individual conduct. However, private conduct may infringe on freedom of speech; particularly in the entertainment and news industry. Freedom of speech means freedom of speech for everyone. This suggests that even speech which we may find distasteful should be protected. Once we begin chipping away at the freedom of speech we start down a very slippery slope. Yes, Don Imus's remarks about the Rutgers Women's Basketball team were extremely distasteful; however, was it anymore objectionable than many other vile comments which have spewed from his mouth? Or anymore repulsive than the many songs played on the radio which refer to women as 'bitches' and 'hos'? What about music videos which show half-naked women dancing around lewdly? Once censoring beings, when does it end? America's founders were puritanical by nature, however, that was centuries ago and its population has grown up. There is no reason why any voice should be silenced, regardless of how abhorrent

the message. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the right of people to say what they want; no matter offensive others may find the message.<sup>2</sup>

In the case of Don Imus, it was CBS and MSNBC who silenced him, not the government. And while I, myself, do not miss him, I question the motives of CBS and MSNBC and what it means for the freedom of speech. Did they cancel Imus because his listeners were up in arms and stopped listening to him? No. They cancelled him because their corporate sponsors were threatened with boycotts. Imus still had an audience but now a few irate people had control of the airwaves. It is one thing to cancel a show for the reason that it loses its audience and becomes non-profitable; it is another thing to cancel a show because the sponsors of the show are boycotted. As Americans, we cannot allow a minority of people to control what goes out on the air. It was a minority of people who believe that Imus should be silenced. Most people with whom I've spoken have expressed disgust at Imus and yet also have expressed the view that freedom of speech allows him to say what he wants.

Most of America's wealth is controlled by a small amount of people. Do we truly want what we hear on news and entertainment shows to be what the wealthy minority voices deem least offensive? What does that mean in the future for shows like the Colbert Report or the Daily Show, which routinely poke fun at the rich and powerful? Will Stephen Colbert or Jon Stewart be afraid to satirize of the likes of Al Sharpton for fear of his corporate influence?

Do not get me wrong CBS and MSNBC had the right to fire Imus if they chose to, barring of course any contract considerations. Companies have the right to choose the image they want to portray and we can not force a radio or television station to advance views they choose not to. However, it is the reason Imus was fired that causes me grave concern.

To maintain a society in which free speech is valued, we ought not to coerce people to act a certain way. Persuasion should be employed. It would have been different had Al Sharpton and his followers actually persuaded CBS and MSNBC to come to

understand that they did not want to associate their image with the offensiveness of Imus. Instead of persuading listeners to boycott the Imus show, Sharpton chose to call for a boycott Imus's sponsors. This course of action, should it become habitual, could have dreadfully serious consequences. Corporate sponsors may become wary of shows which might potentially offend some group. Shows like the Colbert Report, The Daily Show and other news entertainment programs face losing sponsorship. Only the most bland and least controversial programming will be able to get sponsored. Ideas will cease to flow and society will become stagnant in its thinking. Controversial shows spark debate which is necessary for society to learn and grow and change. Imus's remarks were offensive, but look at the healthy debate it sparked. People are discussing the Constitution and their rights. People who use words like 'nigga' and 'ho' in their everyday language are taking a second look at how their language affects others. Perhaps, without Imus's remark, this may not have happened.

The First Amendment is in jeopardy; but not from the government. The true enemy of freedom of speech is the power of the purse. The only valid censorship of ideas is the right of people not to listen.<sup>3</sup> We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, must be sure that money, or the loss thereof, never controls ideas.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. CONST. amend. I.

<sup>2</sup> See Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969) (reversing the conviction of Ku Klux Klan leader and declaring Ohio statute unconstitutional because it abridged freedom of speech). See also Texas v. Johnson, 491 U.S. 397(1989) (holding that the conviction of a protester for burning the American flag as part of political demonstration violated the First Amendment).

<sup>3</sup> Tommy Smothers, *available at* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom\\_Smothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Smothers).

# National Bar Association

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check If: \*New Member  Renewal  Original Year Joined \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ms./Mrs./Mr./Hon. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last First M.I.

Name of Organization or Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Send mail to:  Business  Secondary Address

**NBA Chapter Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

Law School: \_\_\_\_\_ Degrees: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Admission to Bar: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

State Month Day Year Month Day

\*New Member Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

The membership year for **NEW** members is twelve months from the date joined. Dues amount is based on the year of original admission to the Bar.

Dues include a \$36 annual subscription to the NBA National Bar Association Magazine.

### CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP

#### Regular Membership

(MC)  Admitted to Practice less than five (5) years ..... \$100.00

(MB)  Admitted to Practice more than five (5) years ..... \$200.00

(MG)  Admitted to Practice more than five (5) years (*Sustaining Status-Gold Card*) ..... \$250.00

(MP)  Admitted to Practice more than five (5) years (*Sustaining Status-Platinum Card*)..... \$300.00

(MD)  Associate Membership (*Lawyer not yet admitted to a Bar*) ..... \$ 75.00

(ME)  Student Membership & First Year Law School Graduates ..... NO CHARGE

#### Life Membership

(MA)  Regular Life Membership ..... \$3,000.00

(SA)  Subscribing Life Membership (\$1,500.00 down and \$1,000.00 per year for two years) ..... \$3,500.00

### METHOD OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Check/Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_ **Credit Card:**  AMEX  VISA  MC  DINERS

Purchase Order No: \_\_\_\_\_ Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual NBA Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Section Fee(s) Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by credit card may be faxed to (202) 289-6170. When faxed, please **DO NOT MAIL** a duplicate copy. Return this application with payment.

Make checks payable to the **National Bar Association** and mail to:

**Membership Manager, National Bar Association, 1225 11<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 842-3900**

If elected to membership in the National Bar Association, I will abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Professional Responsibility.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT SECTIONS/DIVISIONS ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING?**

- DIVISIONS:**  Civil Rights (\$20.00)  Government Lawyers Division (\$15.00)  Civil Trial Advocacy (\$25.00)  
 Communications Law (\$15.00)  Commercial Law (\$25.00)  Criminal Law & Juvenile Justice (\$25.00)  
 Judicial Council Division (*Choose one*)  New Judicial Council Member (\$75.00)  Retired from the Judiciary (\$50.00)  Regular Member (\$100.00)  
 Law Professors Division (\$35.00)  Entertainment, Sports & Art Law (\$20.00)  Legislative Lawyers Division (\$100.00)  Family Law (\$15.00)  
 Partners in Majority Law Firms (\$25.00)  Health Law (\$10.00)  Small Firm/ Solo Practitioner (\$25.00)  Immigration Law (\$25.00)  
 Women Lawyers Division (\$15.00)  Institutional/Corporate Law (\$25.00)  Young Lawyers Division (\$20.00)  Law Students Division (No Charge)  International Law (\$35.00)  Energy and Environmental Law (\$20.00)  Intellectual Property Law (\$25.00)

- SECTIONS**  Labor and Employment Law (\$25.00)  Administrative Lawyers (\$10.00)  Military Law (\$20.00)  Arbitration (\$15.00)  
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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

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- Type of Practice:**  Corporation/Company  Judge  Law Professor (check one)  Government Lawyer  Law Firm  Solo Practitioner  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Area(s) of Emphasis** (check two):

- Administrative  Corporate  General Practice  Law Professor  Pension  Aeronautical  Criminal  Health  Malpractice  Probate  
 Admiralty Maritime  Construction  Housing  Medical  Public Utility  Antitrust  Civil Rights  International  Military  
 Real Property  Banking & Finance  Energy  Immigration  Municipal  Securities  Bankruptcy  Entertainment & Sport  Insurance  
 Negligence/Personal Injury  Taxation  Computer  Elder Law  Judiciary  Public Interest  Tort  Communications  Estate Planning  
 Legislative  Patent/Trademark/Copyright  Transportation  Consumer  Environmental  Litigation  Public Contract  
 Worker’s Compensation  Commercial  Family  Labor  Product Liability  Zoning & Land Use  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other State or Federal Bar Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership in Local Bar Associations, Law Clubs, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Other Membership (Civic & Social) \_\_\_\_\_

List any Publications, Papers presented, Awards received \_\_\_\_\_

Family Information: Married  Single  Name of Spouse (*if any*) \_\_\_\_\_

Children: No  Yes  Names and Ages \_\_\_\_\_

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