

# ALC Daily

## THURSDAY

Official Daily Newspaper of the CBCF Annual Legislative Conference



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## All-Important Question Mark of ALC '15 Theme Impassions Speakers

By SHRITA STERLIN-HERNANDEZ

Though most media events focus on statements, the opening press conference of the CBCF 45th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Wednesday morning honed in on a question instead.

Several of the distinguished speakers at the event noted that the theme for this year's ALC, "With Liberty and Justice for All?" ends with an all-important question mark—highlighting the work still to be done.

Each year, said R. Donahue Peebles, chair of CBCF Board of Directors, the chosen theme helps inform "the focus, form and framework of the ALC."

This year, "It pays homage to the Pledge of Allegiance, a national symbol of indivisibility and a promise of equal rights and freedom for all Americans," he said. "Ending the phrase with a question makes us ask a timely and valid question about the civil, economic and social inequities and challenges that African-Americans continue to face today. The fact that we can ask the question highlights the irony that, in 2015, we actually have to ask it. No one can deny progress has been made, but more than 50 years

R. Donahue Peebles, chairman, CBCF Board of Directors and Rep. G. K. Butterfield, Jr., chair, Congressional Black Caucus speak during Wednesday's With Liberty and Justice for All? opening press conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, we still have a long way to go."

Further, the challenges are intertwined.

"We cannot address education unless we attend to poverty and how

it affects our access to education," he said. "We cannot address poverty and the lack of quality health care in our community unless we address economic disparity and the lack of

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## Empowerment through Entrepreneurship

By TIM PULLIAM

A small but intensely focused audience gathered Wednesday afternoon for a session entitled Empowerment through Entrepreneurship. The session was moderated by Tameka Montgomery of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Panelists included Greg Fairchild of the Prison Entrepreneurship Project, which focuses on life transformation for ex-convicts and inmates; Kathryn Finney, Digital Undivided, which helps diverse urban entrepreneurs build scalable and fundable companies; Henry Rock, City Startup Labs, which has developed an entrepreneurial academy to help more young black men launch and run their own businesses; and John Hope Bryant of

Please see "EMPOWERMENT" on page 4



Kathryn Finney, Digital Undivided, shares her personal experiences during "Empowerment through Entrepreneurship" on Wednesday afternoon.



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# Avoice Workshop Questions Students, Encourages Engagement

By ANNE B. WILLIAMS

Slightly more than a dozen high school students, plus a few recent graduates, gathered on Wednesday morning at the National Archives for an interactive learning and discussion session entitled Women of the CBC. Sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and Dell, the session was presented by Avoice, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's online archive devoted to the history of the participation and contribution of African Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Attendees were welcomed to the National Archives by Maria Marable-Bunch, director, Education and Public Programs, National Archives and Records Administration. While the agency's primary mission is to preserve, and provide access to, critical federal government documents, Marable-Bunch noted that it has a second important function as well: educating the public on the history of the United States and the responsibilities of its citizens. "Your role as a citizen," she said, "is ensuring the rights of *all* citizens."

This comment was echoed by the morning's keynote speaker, Rep. Alma Adams (NC). "One of the most important things a citizen can do," she said, "is register and vote. Policymakers make policy, but voters make policymakers." Rep. Adams, the newest member of the Congressional Black Caucus—she was

elected last November after a bruising seven-way primary in which she beat six men—is the 100th woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in its history.

And though she technically is a freshman representative, Rep. Adams is hardly a newcomer to politics. She was the first African-American woman to be elected to the Greensboro City School Board, after which she ran for and was elected to the city council, after which she served 22 years in the North Carolina State Assembly. Speaking to the students, the majority of whom were women, she said, "We do need a voice, and I want to encourage some of you to run for public office. It's like Margaret Thatcher once said: 'If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman.'"

In a Q&A session after her remarks, Rep. Adams, who has a Ph.D. in art education and multicultural education and is a former professor of art at Bennett College, was asked about her legislative goals for education. "Access is important," she said, "but affordability is just as important. It's not like it was when I was in college; many of my students work full time, or have children, or both." In this connection she raised the much-discussed issue of student debt. "I think there's a role for government in this," she said. "If we can bail out some of these other folks, we can bail out students."

Rep. Adams was followed by Kenyatta Albeny, a contractor for the Congressional Black Caucus



Students complete an online activity during Women of the CBC on Wednesday at the National Archives. The session was presented by Avoice.

Foundation and a writer for Avoice. Albeny, who just completed a Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Maryland, College Park, began asking the students—and everyone else in the room—to briefly introduce themselves. She invoked a rule she called "do it in two:" say your name and two facts about yourself and let it go at that.

That taken care of, the group moved on to the workshop itself. Students were provided with a list of questions about the Congressional Black Caucus. Some samples: What organization—a predecessor to the Congressional Black Caucus—did African-American Congress members form in 1969? Which three states had more than one representative among the founding members of the CBC? How many founders were women? What districts did they represent? How many CBC members are there in the current (114<sup>th</sup>) Congress? How

many of them are women?

Students worked in informal teams to answer these questions. When all were complete, the session took on a slightly more competitive tone. Students worked individually, racing to produce the most right answers, and were—if they succeeded—rewarded with prizes. This section of the workshop was called Women of the Congressional Black Caucus.

ALC Daily invites our readers to test their own knowledge with a sampling: Name at least two Congresswomen who serve on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Name at least five who served in state legislatures before serving in Congress. Name at least three who earned at least one college degree in Ohio. Name at least one with a degree from Yale.

Answers can be checked on the Avoice site, [www.avoiceonline.org](http://www.avoiceonline.org).

## President Obama to Keynote Phoenix Awards Dinner Saturday

*Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Fred Gray, Juanita Abernathy, Dr. Amelia Boynton Robinson and Alpha Phi Alpha to receive CBCF honors.*

President Barack Obama will serve as the keynote speaker for the 45th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Phoenix Awards Dinner.

"We welcome President Barack Obama's participation in the Phoenix Awards Dinner, particularly at this critical time for African Americans," said A. Shuanise Washington, president and chief executive officer of the CBCF. "As a former member of the CBC, and throughout his presidency, Mr. Obama has taken action to rectify the civil and social injustices experienced by black Americans. We deeply value Mr. Obama's commitment to our mission to eliminate disparities in underserved communities."

The CBCF will also honor the following 2015 Phoenix Award recipients:

**Rev. Dr. William Barber II** will be honored with the CBC Chair's Award. Barber was instrumental in the release of the Wilmington Ten, and has been a pillar of the national grassroots movement for justice for two decades.

**Fred Gray** will be honored with the ALC Co-Chair's Award. Gray is best known as the first civil rights attorney for Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Civil rights activist **Juanita Abernathy** will receive the George Thomas "Mickey" Leland Award. Abernathy is the widow of Rev. Ralph Abernathy. She helped to organize and lead the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott in her home state of Alabama from 1955 to 1956.

**Dr. Amelia Boynton Robinson** will be honored posthumously with the Harold Washington Award. Dr. Boynton Robinson was one of the organiz-



President Barack Obama

ers of the Bloody Sunday march to Montgomery, Alabama. The photo of her beaten and unconscious at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge circulated around the world.

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated** will receive the CBCF Chair's Award for its leadership efforts to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy with a memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Alpha Phi Alpha, of which Dr. King was a member, is also being recognized for its national programs to mentor black children and mobilize minority voters.

Proceeds from the Phoenix Awards Dinner benefit the CBCF's many programs and initiatives. To purchase tickets, visit the Tickets desk in the ALC Registration area in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center lobby.



# Lessons Learned: Educators Begin Professional Development Series

By MICHAEL DUNCAN

A closer look at Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) registration revealed a compelling fact: An increasing number of attendees come from the education sector. So why not harness that collective passion for students, cull from their experience to affect public policy and allow them to earn professional development credits at the same time?

The inaugural Professional Development Series for Educators is the result, a mini conference-within-a-conference taking place all day Wednesday. In addition to allowing educators and others to take part in strategic planning action tables, the schedule included four concurrent sessions, repeated throughout the day to ensure access to all. On the list: Making Learning Accessible for Students with Disabilities; Ensuring Policy Supports Practice: Connecting the Practice of Supporting Learning and Development to Federal Education Policy and Translating ESEA's Priorities into the Classroom; Supporting Meaningful Parent, Family and Community Engagement; and Culturally Relevant Teaching and Stereotype Threats.

The event's sponsors included the CBCF, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the National Educational Association (NEA) and the Delta Research and Educational Foundation of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



An attendee poses a question to the speakers during Wednesday's Professional Development Series for Educators.

David J. Johns, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans and former CBCF fellow, opened the program by speaking of a recent study that confirmed racism has lifelong implications for young people, similar to living in environments of toxic stress.

"In a world where every day I reach for my phone, thinking about the hashtag #blacklivesmatter, fearful that I'm going to be introduced to another baby who is no longer able to live to his or her potential, we have to acknowledge that our children are grappling with a lot," Johns said. "Sometimes going to and from school they're dealing with things we can't wrap our heads around."

In hopes of improving this picture, knowledge and expertise shared throughout the day will be used to develop a working document of recommendations to be given to members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Those recommendations will be used to advocate for increased access to programs,

policies and practices that increase learning and development for African-American and other historically underrepresented students.

"I want to be clear that we are here to work," Johns said.

Becky Pringle, NEA vice president, also took part in the event, giving a rousing speech. She noted that it was no surprise so many educators were in attendance at the ALC.

"We know as educators, there's not one single thing that happens in our classrooms or for our students that isn't somehow impacted by politics and policy," Pringle said. "So as educators we learned pretty quickly that this was part of our moral responsibility, to be involved in a way that we, the practitioners, those who spend every day in the classroom with our kids, are voices for those who are setting policy that impacts our students."

Finding the words in the spiritual "I Don't Feel No Ways Tired," Pringle

spoke of a 2014 "poignant and painful" visit to a school in Wilksburg, PA, school where she formerly served as a student teacher. Though the current teacher was doing his best, she said, he was working with outdated technology and textbooks 25 years old.

"At once, my heart sang and my spirit cried," she said. "Here were our students who needed more, getting less of everything. And we think they don't know. Because they have caring adults who are surrounding them with love. But they know and it's not right. We can't get no ways tired."

It is oppressive conditions like this, she said, that deny rights, opportunity and equality based on race.

"We understand that it is our responsibility to take on the systemic and insidious reality that is at the heart of hatred and injustice that we are seeing play out in our schools every day," Pringle said. "There's just no excuse why our children in America don't have what they need to learn." She challenged the audience with a profound question from 2006 National Teacher of the Year Kimberly Oliver: "Are we worthy of our students?"

"We cannot say that we are worthy of our children as long as discrimination and fear exist in this society, as long as one child feels that they are not valued and respected for who they are or who they can become," Pringle said. "Our babies, they are depending on us to be worthy of them.... Don't you dare get tired."

## Empowerment

Continued from page 1

Operation HOPE, whose mission is around "silver rights"—making free enterprise work for everyone.

Montgomery began with a question for each panelist: What motivated them to start their program? "The recidivism rate in the U.S. is very high—over 60 percent—and a big factor in this is that it's very difficult for ex-cons to find a job," Fairchild said. Four years into the project, he and his colleagues have helped 137 men and women coming out of Virginia prisons to learn basic business skills and create employment for themselves.

Asked the same question, Finney said, "I think it's important to understand that technology is not an elite game—you don't have to go to Stanford." About 15 years ago, armed only with WordPress and an Internet connection, Finney started one of the first fashion lifestyle blogs, aimed primarily at black women. She sold the company and started Digital Undivided. She reports that 50 percent of the

participants have raised \$50,000 for their companies, and 10 percent have raised \$500,000; one of them just concluded a Series A round of funding with \$2.5 million.

City Startup Labs, Rock said, is aimed at black male millennials, young men 18 to 34 years old. "We were very intentional about that," he said. "These guys have targets on their backs. The question was, 'How can we empower them to re-imagine themselves as entrepreneurs?' What really motivated me is that I was a young black man. I understand, fundamentally, what these young guys are going through in terms of the context they find themselves in."

The overwhelming importance of context was resoundingly echoed by Bryant, who made the point that people absorb the idea of what's possible from their surroundings. "A drug dealer," he said, "is an entrepreneur. He's a dishonest and unethical entrepreneur, but he understands how to run a business." What he needs, and what Operation HOPE works to provide, is an expanded sense of possibility.

**Congressional Black Caucus FOUNDATION ALC '15**  
SEPTEMBER 16-20

## Prayer Breakfast

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**7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Hall D**

Faith is the foundation of the African American community. For nearly three decades, The prayer breakfast has been the inspirational high note of CBCF's Annual Legislative Conference. This year's message of inspiration will be delivered by Reverend. Dr. Otis Moss, III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois.

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## ALC '15 Co-Chairs

### Jeffries Sees Bold Discussions, Concrete Solutions Ahead at ALC '15

By TATIANA NOBOA

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY) is in his second term, representing large parts of the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. A member of the House Education and the Workforce and House Judiciary Committees, Rep. Jeffries works on issues of social and economic justice, and serves as the Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus. Rep. Jeffries maintains close ties with his district through his "Congress on Your Corner" events. These outdoor events, often held in front of a local post office or on a neighborhood corner, allow constituents to meet one-on-one with their congressional representatives. Rep. Jeffries holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton, a master's degree from Georgetown University, and a law degree from New York University School of Law. As co-chair of the Annual Legislative Conference, Rep. Jeffries provides a preview of some of the exciting and thought-provoking topics up for discussion.

#### What are your expectations for the 45th Annual Legislative Conference?

It's an exciting opportunity to co-chair the ALC along with such a dynamic member of Congress as Terri Sewell. We're both looking forward to a conference that tackles the contemporary issues that are on the minds of the African-American community and broader constituencies throughout America. Our goal is to boldly discuss the challenges that are at the forefront of the public policy landscape and come out of the conference with a concrete set of remedies.

#### The theme, "With Liberty and Justice for All?," includes an important question mark at the end of it. How will that question be explored?

It was clear to a variety of stakeholders that we must deal with the continuing quest to try to bring the constitutional promise of equal protection under the law to every community. There has been a parade of horrible tragedies with respect to unarmed African-American men being killed at the



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

hands of law enforcement over the last year. We could not turn a blind eye to this phenomenon. Instead we determined that we must tackle it boldly and with the clarity necessary to bring about meaningful solutions.

The National Town Hall meeting will be central to the ALC with respect to exploring the continued injustices that exist within the criminal justice system, as well as legislative opportunities to solve the problem on both the policing side of the equation as well as the mass incarceration aspect.

#### What particular discussions are you most looking forward to?

The last year has made it clear that there are also issues of economic justice that are intimately connected to the problems that we've witnessed in the criminal justice system. A significant amount of time at the ALC will be spent trying to close the racial income and equity gap that exists in America. We cannot fix our broken criminal justice system if we simultaneously ignore the issues of income inequality and economic injustice that continue to exist in this country. The anchor topic for the ALC will be dealing with our broken criminal justice system and all aspects that are involved from the initial police encounter to subsequent overcriminalization and mass incarceration. From that anchor we will address a host of related challenges, from health care disparities to income inequality to the need for greater black business opportunity throughout corporate America.

#### What new events would you like to draw attendees' attention to?

Rep. Sewell and I will kick off the ALC with a reception at the U.S.

Please see "JEFFRIES" on page 13

### Sewell Plans for ALC to Contribute Meaningful Conversations to Pressing Issues

By SHRITA STERLIN-HERNANDEZ

As a member of Congress representing key locations in Alabama's Civil Rights movement, Rep. Terri Sewell has been a passionate advocate for recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of those who laid important groundwork. She proudly notes that the first piece of legislation she successfully had passed honored the four young girls killed during the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963. Rep. Sewell, Co-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 45th Annual Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), brings significant business experience to Congress. For more than 15 years, she served as a corporate securities and public finance attorney, the first African-American female partner at her firm. In Congress, she has pursued job-creation legislation and hosts an annual job fair and job readiness workshops across her district. Her well-rounded background has led to important positions, such as on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. She is the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on the Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture. Now in her third term, Rep. Sewell has held several leadership positions, including Freshman Class President in her inaugural term. She currently serves as Chief Deputy Whip. She discusses her hopes for the event with *ALC Daily*.

#### What are your expectations for ALC '15?

We are witnessing transformative times in America and we must be proactive to ensure the voices of minorities, women and all marginalized groups are being heard. I am hopeful that we can contribute to the national conversation on the challenges we face in securing liberty and justice for all.

#### The theme, "With Liberty and Justice for All?," includes an important question mark at the end of it. How will that question be explored?

One of the many ways we will explore this theme, "With Liberty and Justice for All?," is by examining how the nation has responded to national movements that are drawing atten-



Rep. Terri Sewell

tion to the racial inequalities that still exist in our society. While we know that we are an exceptional nation, we must be brave enough to admit that there is still much work to do in the areas of economic and social justice. There are many among us who are suffering as a result of the injustices that plague our country.

#### What particular discussions are you most looking forward to?

We are working to present a robust set of discussions that will cover everything from voting rights to fair policing to job creation. I am certain that each discussion will serve our overall mission of serving as conduits for thought-provoking conversations.

#### What new events would you like to draw attendees' attention to?

This year, I am proud to be hosting a panel on voting rights that I am really excited about. The discussion will explore and highlight the challenges we face in getting minorities and other disadvantaged groups to the polls two years after the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

#### What advice would you give to someone who is new to this year's event? With so many outstanding opportunities and session, how can they best decide what they should attend?

Overall, we have provided an agenda that adequately reflects the issues facing African Americans. So my advice would be to simply choose to attend events that highlight issues that are most

Please see "SEWELL" on page 13



## 45th ALC Theme

Continued from page 1

access to capital that many black businesses experience every day. We cannot address the issue of police brutality without a thorough discussion around the criminal justice system as a whole. And we cannot talk about environmental sustainability in black communities unless we address the poverty that often prevents it from being a high priority.”

If we truly believe that black lives matter, Peebles continued, the issues must be tackled simultaneously—and that’s what makes the ALC so critical.

What the ALC does best, added Co-Chair Rep. Terri Sewell (AL), is educate, inform and hopefully motivate the community to look for forward-facing solutions.

“I can’t say enough about liberty and justice for all and the question mark,” she said. “This conference will unravel that. There are lots of pervasive issues on justice: environmental justice, criminal justice, economic justice. It’s really important that we talk and start a national dialogue about it all.”

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY), meanwhile, co-chair of ALC ’15 with Sewell, spoke briefly about black America at a crossroads in 2015. He ran through the names of recent victims such as Trayvon Martin and Tamir Rice, who have painfully reminded the community of needed change in recent years. He also talked about inequities in the criminal justice system overall.

“The CBC, under the leadership



Attendees listen to speakers discuss the theme of ALC ’15 during the With Liberty and Justice for All? opening press conference.

of Rep. G.K. Butterfield, is working diligently to fix our broken criminal justice system, to deal with mass incarceration and mandatory minimums that handcuff justice so often in our communities,” Jeffries said. “And we’re pleased that so many others beyond the Congressional Black Caucus are prepared to come together out of recognition that we, as a country, are better than the criminal justice system that we have right now. There’s an economic cost to it in terms of the loss of human capital. And at end of day, unless we fix our broken criminal justice system, we know that the answer to the question of liberty and justice for all is not one that we as Americans can embrace.”

CBC Chair Rep. Butterfield (NC), for his part, noted that CBC members

are “fighting every day to address the issues that all of you are concerned about.”

“The CBC, ladies and gentleman, is more focused than ever on issues impacting the African-American community,” he said. “And we are always very careful to stress ‘African-American’ community. We

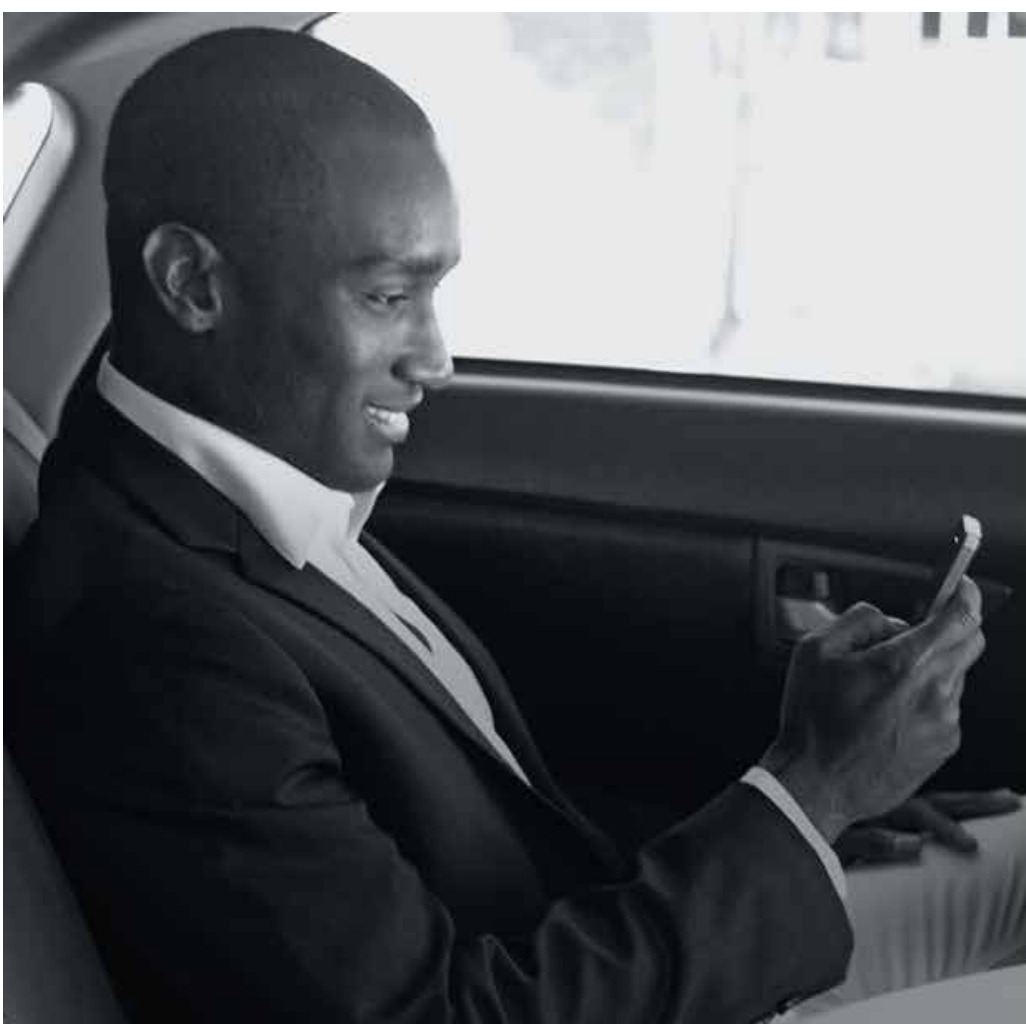
are not the Congressional Minority Caucus. Even though we support every ethnic minority that exists and we support their empowerment and their success, our mission is the Congressional Black Caucus.... We know firsthand that America’s promise for equality has not been realized by all.”

### CBCF Keeps Focus on Criminal Justice Reform

During the course of yesterday’s press conference, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation announced further efforts to advance the national conversation on criminal justice reform:

- Policy Now, an interactive digital platform to explore public policy issues

- CBCF Center for Policy Analysis and Research Future Focus Series
  - National Town Hall: Black Lives Matter
  - Professional development series for educators
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## CBCF Alumni Profile

# CBCF Fellowship Opens Doors to the Hill

By TIM PULLIAM

Immediately after completing his fellowship in 2014, CBCF alum Thomas Brunet stepped directly into a position as a legislative assistant. Within a year, he had been named legislative counsel for Sen. Ron Wyden (OR).

In his role, Brunet handles a broad domestic policy portfolio, including serving as staff on the Senate Budget Committee where Sen. Wyden is the senior member. He also works on judiciary, banking, housing and labor issues among others.

"Being a fellow was a huge stepping stone," he said. "It put me in rooms that I wouldn't have been in had I not had this opportunity." Brunet spent his first 10 months working with Del. Donna Christian-Christensen (VI), focusing on health policy. The second year of his fellowship was spent in Sen. Wyden's office.

"I went to undergraduate school in D.C. and also went to law school here," Brunet said. "Having been in D.C. for such a long time, the CBCF fellowship is one of those prestigious positions that you hear about."

Though he had held internships during his undergraduate days, the CBCF fellowship provided an unprecedented opportunity "to get your foot in the door and work," he said. "The biggest eye opener was how much direct impact you actually can have on the process. People took us very seriously when we got to the offices we ended up working in.

They solicited our input."

He believes that a fellowship like the one offered by the CBCF can enhance a career far better than simply taking a job on staff full-time. "When you go to an office, chances

are they've had CBCF fellows and they know what you can bring to the table," he said. "It gives you automatic credibility and a voice at the table."

He cites his own experience as well as other members of his cohort who now work in the parliamentarian's office and on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Working on the Hill—along with other CBCF alumni—proved invaluable from the beginning. "The alumni working on the Hill embraced us immediately, whether for a short coffee or lunch. They were there to offer advice and tell us about situations they had gone through. They were just a phone call away."

And then there's the power of the cohort itself. "They are the people you rely on, from soliciting advice on daily tasks to leaning on them as we were met with frustrating experiences," Brunet said. "It was like a little family. I think I can speak for the rest of my cohort when I say, I don't think we would have made it through those experiences were it not for each other."



Thomas Brunet

Look for additional CBCF alumni profiles in the Friday and Saturday issues of *ALC Daily*.

## The ALC: Part Family Reunion, Part Inspiration for Robert Harris

By ANNE B. WILLIAMS

When Robert Harris attended his first Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), it was initially a work obligation for the Congressional staffer.

"I had no idea what the ALC was," Harris said. "It was part of my job. But as it unfolded, I realized what an amazing experience it was, to see something that was so basic an idea: gathering people together to talk about issues that affect the black community. It was amazing to see that many people from all over the country, from all over the world, from many different backgrounds, with the same goals in mind."

Now, on the cusp of what will be his 13th ALC, Harris still is astounded by the experience. As director of government affairs at the Glover Park Group, his motivation for attending is no longer because it's a job requirement.

"After a while, it stops becoming a conference and becomes more of a family reunion," he said. "You see friends that you made in years past and those friends now have started families of their own. You see the generation of people who have come to conferences before you who continue to come. It's really like a family reunion and a college homecoming



Robert Harris

rolled up into one big event."

Beyond reconnecting with old friends, he looks forward to the discussions. This year, the Sojourner Truth panel on women in the criminal justice system has caught his eye. That, along with the civil unrests and responses to policing issues, feels familiar.

"That's what got me interested in politics," he said. "My father was a child of the Civil Rights Movement. He attended the March on Washington. He sat at lunch counters in Durham (North Carolina). I heard stories about him marching and being in jail. It inspired me."

Though Harris brings years of

experience to the event, he well remembers what it was like to be a newcomer, overwhelmed by opportunities. He has some advice for first-time attendees: "Relax. Realize that you're not going to see everything. There were many conferences before this one and there will be many after this year. Focus on making this your first of many rather than taking on everything at one time."

But there is a "don't miss" on his list: the Gospel Extravaganza on Thursday night. "What that event does is puts in perspective how far we've come as a community. Our movement, our voice from the days of slavery started through the church. That was our first unifying body, our first organized political system. To hear these choirs compete and bring their talents from their corners of the U.S. and all have the same message is powerful."

Harris will use this year's ALC to

propel him forward throughout the year. "As a lobbyist here, there are many times that I look around the room and I'm maybe the only one or maybe there are a couple of others that look like me. I never forget that I'm a country boy from a small town in North Carolina who made it here on the hopes and work of many others that came before me. Being able to be in those rooms to help influence decisions to shape the lives of those who don't know who I am means a lot. The ALC re-energizes me. You see people who come here who are like me. They may be the only one in the room in Tennessee or California. But we can come together during the conference and share ideas and experiences and return back to our communities with a newfound respect for where we are, and the work that we still have to do. The ALC is more than an event. It's an experience that I wish all could have."

**"After a while, it stops becoming a conference and becomes more of a family reunion. You see friends that you made in years past and those friends now have started families of their own. You see the generation of people who have come to conferences before you who continue to come. It's really like a family reunion and a college homecoming rolled up into one big event."**



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# Rep. Rangel Looks Back on Legacy of Equal Rights, Opportunity

BY MICHAEL DUNCAN

From the beginning, Rep. Charles Rangel (NY), founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, has been an outspoken advocate for equal rights and equal opportunity. Serving his 23rd and final term in the House of Representatives, “liberty and justice for all” remains top of mind.

Issues such as education, income inequality and health disparity continue to plague African Americans. But because of the current presence and status of African Americans in Congress, there’s no need to think in terms of “black legislation,” he said. “We just have to think in terms of liberty and justice for all. No matter what committee we are on, if we are treated fairly and equitably and justly, there is no need for a Congressional Black Caucus.”

With 46 African-American members of the House of Representatives and two in the Senate, things have come a long way since the Caucus was founded in 1971. But still, Rep. Rangel said, racism exists—and Americans in general have a problem admitting it.

“The stigma that’s attached to color as a result of slavery first has to be recognized before we can find a solution,” he said. “The solution is not just saying, ‘I’m sorry.’ It’s compensating for this, whether you call it reparations or just opportunity. It’s making certain that those who don’t have access to the education that’s necessary for them to be competitive get it.... If students need additional time, effort and resources to catch



Rep. Charles Rangel

up—and I really believe the whole country is behind, but minorities are just helplessly behind—it makes the nation more productive. A stronger America means that we don’t have time to dislike each other.”

In terms of the criminal justice system, Rep. Rangel notes that the United States has more people locked up than any other nation worldwide—and more minorities than justified by the population.

“And that is the epitome of ‘with liberty and justice for all,’” he said. “Our theme is not just to deal with the criminal justice system. It’s how can we, in our various legislative positions, bring this country out of its racism and improve education and job opportunity, so that one day—the sooner, the better—we can look at each other with all of our different colors and complexions and languages and homelands and say,

‘In this country, you can depend on liberty and justice for all.’”

Rep. Rangel—whose rich legacy includes the founding of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, a collaborative effort of the U.S. Department of State, Howard University and Congress that promotes greater diversity and excellence of the U.S. Foreign Service—admits that civil rights and social justice remain an “emotional thing.”

Those emotions may be especially high as he attends this year’s ALC. He promises it won’t be his last, even after retirement.

“There is no way as an individual that I could cut off my life support,” said Rep. Rangel, who is not only a war hero, but also was the first African-American member of Congress to lead the House Ways and Means Committee.

Looking back at past ALC events, two things stand out to Rep. Rangel; the first is a favorite memory.

“When we first had President Barack Obama speak to us, it presented a new era in history,” he said. “Individually, we were so insignificant in looking at the population of this great country. But to see the masses of members of Congress, elected officials, public appointees, dedicated African Americans, men and women from all over the country? He wasn’t talking to us about being black. He was talking to us about being American. It is something you almost have to think of as just a dream. That we, as a group of people, are beginning to enjoy what English people, what European people, have enjoyed in this country, what the Catholics enjoyed when Jack Kennedy spoke to them. Vicariously, it made us all better Americans. We were able to share the pride with so many people who had supported us.”

But then, there’s also mention of the growth. In the early days, there were 13 legislative workshops, “and we all had to do more than one in order to educate and to get input from people who had concerns about education, about health, about justice, about veterans, about housing.” Now there are 70 workshops with national and international leaders and specialists all discovering how they can better work together, he said.

“And when we put together the wealth of knowledge we’ve had during these five days, it is significantly different from what we imagined when we first started in 1971,” he said.

As Rep. Rangel looks to the future, he’s hopeful that young people in particular will be willing to give public service a try. That doesn’t necessarily mean running for Con-

gress. But there’s still much to be done on the local school board, on public projects and through volunteer opportunities.

“See how your city council works, see how the state and federal government functions,” he said. “See how important it is just to organize people to vote if you don’t intend to run.”

But it’s also important to remember the obligation of helping “the lesser and the poorest among us,” he said.

“You don’t have to do this by giving a hand-out. But you can do this by helping somebody that you don’t know, when nobody knows that you’re doing it. I submit that we in politics, and more specifically in the Congressional Black Caucus, can best serve our reason for being in trying to do just that, just helping those that have less than we do and less opportunity. And for me, that’s liberty and justice for all.”

## ALC Daily

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Felicia Davis, Building Green Initiative, participates in a panel discussion during the 7th Annual Black Women's Roundtable Policy Forum: Power of the Sister Vote – Black Women Leading the Way in 2016 on Wednesday.



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## CBCF Celebrates Faith Community at Prayer Breakfast



Attendees pause during the CBCF Annual Prayer Breakfast at ALC '14.

BY TIM PULLIAM

**S**tellar Award-winning gospel singer VaShawn Mitchell will perform and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III will deliver the keynote address at the CBCF Annual Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The Miles College Choir will also perform.

The Prayer Breakfast, the penultimate, signature event of the 45th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), draws roughly 3,000 attendees each year. Interactive One will livestream the event for the second year in a row on NewsOne.com.

"The Prayer Breakfast is unique in that it brings our conference guests together in the spirit of worship," said A. Shuanise Washington, president and chief executive officer of the CBCF. "The breakfast provides an opportunity for thoughtful reflection and is welcome respite from the very important work that occurs during the ALC. We are especially thankful for our title sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, and the Radio One Family for their continued support of this uplifting event."

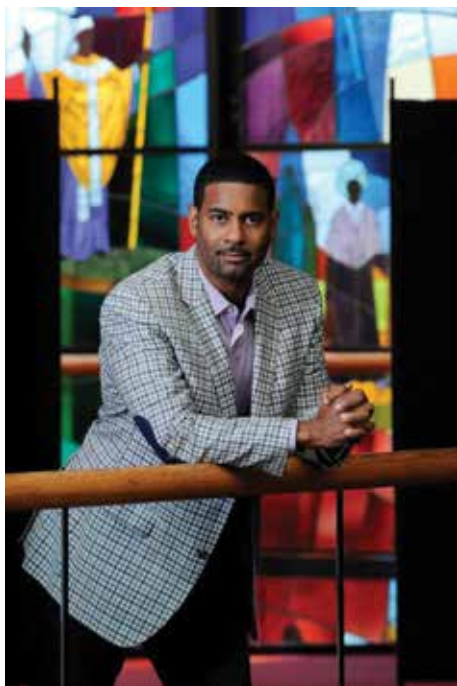
VaShawn Mitchell is one of gospel music's shining stars. His 2010 album, *Triumphant* rose to the top of the charts. *Billboard* magazine declared the album's single, "Nobody Greater," the most played gospel song of 2011, and named Mitchell the top Gospel Radio Artist of the same year.

Dr. Otis Moss III is the senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, IL, and an accomplished author, speaker and activist. He published his first book, *Redemption in a Red Light District*, in 1999. His sermons, articles, and poetry have appeared in various publications.

For the last three decades, the Prayer Breakfast has been the inspirational high note of the ALC. Past guests include Richard Smallwood, Marvin Sapp, Anthony Brown and Group Therapy, and Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III.

Proceeds from the Prayer Breakfast benefit the CBCF's many programs and initiatives. To purchase tickets and register for the ALC, visit [www.cbcfinc.org/alc](http://www.cbcfinc.org/alc).

*The CBCF Annual Prayer Breakfast is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company.*



Dr. Otis Moss III (left) is the senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, IL. VaShawn Mitchell (above), is one of gospel music's shining stars.

## ALC '15: Volunteer Corner

### Everyone in Place: Volunteer Tina Pelzer

BY TATIANA NOBOA

**W**hen Tina Pelzer looks back at her many years of volunteering at the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), her happiest memories include running through the halls of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, rounding up volunteers. In those particular moments, it hasn't been about getting them to work; it's more about them taking a break—and slipping them into the room where the President of the United States was addressing attendees.

"It's been a highlight of my life, to see the joy on their faces," says Pelzer, lead ALC volunteer. "When they volunteer, we can never guarantee that they'll be able to see the President. But when we can get all 300 of them in there, in the back of the room, it's awesome. I am actually running through the convention center saying, 'OK, everybody's in, everybody's ready, let's go. Let's get in there.'" One year, those in the room were even able to shake the President's hand.

Truth be told, Pelzer's gathering of volunteers reaches far beyond those moments. Each year, she travels from her Pennsylvania home to spend most of the month of September in Washington, D.C., encouraging a wide variety of people—seniors, students, professionals, veterans and other community members—to take part in the event, acting as ushers, bag stuffers, registration agents and general helpers in a variety of other areas.

Her first experience with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Incorporated (CBCF) came through AmeriCorps while in high school, and she became involved once again a decade back, this time at the request of a longtime friend. She's been hooked ever since.

"When I was in high school, I didn't understand the importance of voting," she said. "I was in Southeast D.C. then, and we were the murder capital of the world. We had a lot of violence, and you had to fend for yourself. Coming from that background, and seeing what the foundation and Congress offer, that changed my perspective. When I volunteered, I began to see some of the inside of policymaking, and how it affected my neighborhood. It changed my perspective on how I wanted to live."

Now a pastor's wife and mother of two, Pelzer said her experience with the CBCF has helped her learn how every little effort can make a difference—and she's overjoyed to share that message with others (including her now 12-year-old son, volunteering as part of a group from Pelzer's church).

"We recruit volunteers from every facet," she said. "They get to see the forehand of it... and learn that your voice really does matter."

Look for additional CBCF volunteer profiles in the onsite issues of *ALC Daily* during ALC '15.



Idea sharing takes place during the Professional Development Series for Educators, a full-day conference-within-a-conference taking place held on Wednesday.



# Security: Not Your Grandmother's Retirement Program

BY J. JIONI PALMER

Associate Commissioner for  
External Affairs  
Social Security Administration

**S**ocial Security celebrated its 80th anniversary on August 14. President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law in 1935 to prevent Americans from entering the poorhouse after a lifetime of work. When Social Security was first created, agricultural and domestic workers were excluded from coverage, which resulted in the denial of service to many women and African Americans. Over the span of 80 years, changes to the Social Security program increased coverage and economic security for more working Americans and their families. Today we continue to embody this vision of hope and protection for the most vulnerable members of the public.

To understand Social Security and its importance to African Americans, you must first understand that the Social Security retirement benefits depend upon the wages

and respective ages of individual workers and spouses. Next, Social Security's progressive benefit structure provides lower-wage earners a higher percentage benefit than higher wage earners, making Social Security especially important to African American workers, who tend to earn lower wages. In 2013, the median earnings of working-age African Americans who worked full-time, year round were about \$36,000, compared to \$43,000 for all working-age people. Social Security represents 90 percent or more of monthly income for nearly 25 percent of African American elderly married couples and 55 percent of unmarried elderly people. Likewise, in 2013, Social Security Disability insurance benefits constituted nearly 75 percent of personal income for 50 percent of African Americans receiving disability insurance benefits. Without Social Security, these individuals would be living in what President Roosevelt referred to over 80 years ago as "poorhouses".

These Social Security facts are

compelling and provide an up-close analysis of what African Americans can expect under Social Security. This year, Social Security is working with a number of organizations, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Incorporated (CBCF), to educate the African-American community about its programs and promote their online my Social Security account at the 45th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). The agency wants to ensure that all people review their earnings annually for accuracy since benefit amounts are determined by those earnings, and ensure that people understand the benefits they are entitled to receive.

In addition to providing information at the conference, Social Security is participating in the CBCF's Policy Now project. Policy Now is a web-based platform offering up-to-date analyses and resources on public policy issues discussed and debated on Capitol Hill and in legislative bodies across the nation. When fully launched at this year's conference,

Policy Now will feature access to reports, research materials and digital resources to enable the public to review current information related to public policy issues. Social Security will contribute fact sheets, infographics, videos, and other statistical data to help educate the public.

Social Security is excited about the opportunities to educate the African American community and looks forward to meeting with conference attendees at booth #527. While there be sure to sign-up for a my Social Security online account, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Check your conference bag for your free Social Security bookmark and follow us on Twitter at @SSAOutreach for updates.

To learn about how Social Security affects the African-American community, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/africanamericans/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/africanamericans/).

**Visit Social Security in booth #527 in the Exhibits Showcase.**

## Jeffries

*Continued from page 6*

Supreme Court that will highlight the continuing challenges we face with respect to the decimation of the Voting Rights Act. On that first day, in order to set the tone of the conference, we also expect to hear from several of the mothers of the victims of police violence who can tell their stories about the hopes and aspirations of their children who were snatched.

**What advice would you give to someone who is new to this year's conference? With so many outstanding opportunities and sessions, how can they best decide what to attend?**

The subject matter touched on by the ALC is massive because the challenges we face as blacks in America are massive. As a result, a newcomer could potentially be overwhelmed by the magnitude of activity. My suggestion to get the most out of the conference is to focus in on one or two issue areas that are most significant to you, and make those your high priority events. Everything else from there will fall into place.

**While the day's events are important, some of the evening events are more fun-based. Which of the entertainment and networking opportunities do you most enjoy?**

The most meaningful event throughout the weekend for me is the annual Prayer Breakfast on Sat-

urday morning. It features dynamic, talented and intellectually gifted preachers and some of the most inspirational gospel performers in the country. The Prayer Breakfast lays the spiritual foundation for the ALC that is consistent with the role that the black church has played in the social and economic justice movement from the moment we came into being here in America.

**I would envision that would be even more powerful this year because of the shooting in an important black church in Charleston.**

The tragedy in Charleston, S.C., is one that hit home in the African-American community for a variety of reasons. Perhaps most importantly is the fact that it occurred in a church and almost everyone in black America has some connection to the African-American church experience. We all can relate to the black church in some way, shape or form. That's why what occurred in Charleston so shocked our collective conscious. For that reason, the Prayer Breakfast this year will be particularly significant and explore where we've come from, where we are today, and where we need to go.

**I know the "stop-and-frisk" debate has been important in your district. How does that tie into this year's theme?**

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle recognize that we have an overcriminalization problem in America. Stop-and-frisk, which often targeted law-abiding individuals, is a part of

that phenomenon. Ultimately the movement prevailed in convincing a judge that stop-and-frisk was unconstitutional. That was an important victory that ties into the efforts across the nation to make it a more equitable place for everyone and an example of how organizing around an issue can affect policy.

## Sewell

*Continued from page 6*

important to you. There are no limits and there are multiple events that cover the same issues from varying perspectives.

**While the day's events are important, some of the evening events are more fun-based. Which of the entertainment and networking opportunities do you most enjoy?**

The evening events are much more relaxed which, in some cases, lead to more honest conversations. From my experiences, the work never stops. However, different atmospheres can create dialogue that you aren't afforded during more formal gatherings. Each year, I am honored to meet those who are fighting on the front lines of so many of the issues that affect African Americans.

**With your business background, jobs creation has been an**

## Anything else you'd like to add?

Congresswoman Sewell and I are pouring everything we have into making sure this conference is a successful event that is engaging, inspiring and thought-provoking, given the heavy challenges we have to confront in America on behalf of the African-American communities we represent.

**important concern for you. How do you see this year's ALC helping to highlight the issue and bring solutions?**

I represent a district that suffers from the highest unemployment rate in Alabama, and I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact it can have on a community. Economic injustice—whether it's a lack of jobs, too few opportunities for economic advancement or income inequality—is closely related to other forms of injustice. African-Americans historically have been denied the same opportunities as other groups who have come to our shores. This year's theme focuses on injustice, and I hope the discussions from this year's ALC will lead to workable solutions.

## Anything else you'd like to add?

The ALC is a powerful forum to examine and explore the issues that most impact the African-American community. I am very excited and honored to be a co-chair for this year's event.



Thursday, Sept. 17

- 7:00 - 10:30 AM —  
**Community Breakfast and Health Fair**  
*(Invitation Only)*
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM —  
**New Attendee Welcome**  
*(Invitation Only)*
- 9:00 - 11:00 AM —  
**National Town Hall**
- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM —  
**Money, Wealth and Disparities: Mastering the Game**
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM —  
**Culturally Responsive, Relevant and Trauma Sensitive Family Empowerment**
- 12:00 - 2:00 PM —  
**EMERGING LEADERS – Instant Apprentice Luncheon: Leadership and Mentoring**
- 12:00 - 5:00 PM —  
**Valuing Black Lives Part One**
- 12:00 - 7:00 PM —  
**Exhibit Showcase**
- 12:30 - 2:00 PM —  
**General Session Luncheon: Brother2Brother – A Conversation Among Black Men**
- 1:30 - 3:30 PM —  
**The Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham Voting Rights Braintrust**
- 1:30 - 3:00 PM —  
**30th Annual CBCF ALC Jazz Forum**
- 1:30 - 3:30 PM —  
• **Diversifying Innovation: A Blueprint for Tech Industry Leaders**  
• **Providing Opportunities in Homeland Security**  
• **The Black Church in the 21st Century: Victorious/Vigilant/Viable?**  
• **The Road the Leads Somewhere: The Underground Railroad**
- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM —  
**CBC Spouses Essay Contest and Issue Forum – The Most Pressing Issue from the POV of Generation X**
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM —  
**The Media are the Messengers: Negative Black Images in the Media, Movies and News, and What to do About Them**
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM —  
• **Black Economic Empowerment in the 21st Century – What You Need to Know**  
• **Closing the Skills Gap through Technology**  
• **Diversity in Federal Procurement & Sustaining Advanced Small Businesses**  
• **Education Braintrust: Education as a Civil Right: Federal Policy Solutions to Advance Access From Cradle to Career**  
• **Emerging Leaders Town Hall- Corporate Responsibility in the Workplace**  
• **From Selma Champions to Baltimore Leaders: Sharing the Principles of Effective Movements**  
• **Halting the Criminalization of Adolescence**  
• **National AIDS Strategy Reboot, HIV and Reaching Marginalized Populations**  
• **The Minorities in Energy Initiative:**

Schedule-at-a-Glance

- Energizing the Future by Engaging Diverse Americans in STEM**
- 2:00 - 5:00 PM —  
**Women’s Health: Building A Healthy Legacy: Our Prescription For The Future**
- 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM —  
**Full Employment in the 21st Century: Innovative Strategies for Inclusive Growth**
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM —  
• **The Cause for Excellence: Advancing Equity and Engagement in CTE**  
• **Mandatory Minimums: New Opportunities for Criminal Justice Reform**  
• **Policing Reform Legislation**  
• **Transportation Braintrust: Embracing Innovation, Inspiring Leaders and Bridging Opportunities**
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM —  
• **Innovation in Education: A Blueprint for Expanding the STEM Pipeline for African-American Youth**  
• **Marijuana, Guns and Abortion: Can D.C. Residents Get Their Rights Without Fighting for Statehood?**
- 4:00 - 5:30 PM —  
**Where are the Jobs for African Americans: A Discussion on Infrastructure, Workforce Development and Opportunity**
- 4:30 - 6:00 PM —  
**Haiti: The Path to the Future**
- 6:00 - 11:00 PM —  
**Leadership Reception - Honoring Rep. G. K. Butterfield, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus**  
*(Invitation Only)*
- 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM —  
**Sojourner Truth Women’s Leadership Reception**  
*(Invitation Only)*
- 8:00 - 10:30 PM —  
**Gospel Extravaganza**
- 8:00 - 11:30 PM —  
**Jazz Concert – 30th Anniversary Celebration**
- 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM —  
**The Black Party: Live and Direct**  
*(Ticketed event)*
- Friday, Sept. 18**
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM —  
• **Conversations about Sickle Cell Disease**  
• **Fatherhood in the African-American Community**  
• **Reversing the School to Prison Pipeline for African Americans and Minorities**
- 9:00 - 11:50 AM —  
• **CBCF- Sojourner Truth Session: Black Women & The Criminal Justice System: We, Too, Sing America**  
• **Financial Services Braintrust: Closing the Wealth Gap: Solutions for Increasing Access to Capital for Black Entrepreneurs**  
• **From Ferguson to \$15: The**
- Economic Path Forward**
- **11th Annual African-American Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit: Black America’s Prostate Cancer Burden – A National Review**  
• **Science And Technology Brain-trust: The Future of Consumer Electronics & The Journey to Mars and Beyond**  
• **Veterans Braintrust: The President’s Vow: Ending Homelessness Among Veterans by 2015**
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM —  
**Criminal Justice Braintrust: Strengthening Relationships and Bridging Gaps between Law Enforcement and Minority Communities**
- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM —  
**Child Welfare Braintrust: No Place Like Home: The Reunification of Families with Children of Incarcerated Parents**
- 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM —  
**Do Black Lives Matter in Congress? Activism and Action Restoring Trust Between Community and Police**
- 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM —  
**Africa Braintrust**
- 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM —  
• **Health Braintrust – The March Towards Health Equity**  
• **Valuing Black Lives: The Global Emotional Emancipation Summit**
- 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM —  
**Exhibit Showcase**
- 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM —  
• **Environmental Braintrust: Shared Impacts of Climate Change and Environmental Justice**  
• **Avoice: Keep the Faith in Education: Rep. Adam Clayton Powell and the Passage of ESEA**  
• **Education Behind the Wall: Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration**  
• **Race Solutions 2015**  
• **Sex, Politics, and Black Women: The Intersections of Race, Class, Gender and Our Liberation**  
• **The Men Speak on Unfailing Bridges**
- 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM —  
**Emerging Leaders – Power to the People: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders**
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM —  
**Overcoming the Odds: STEM Education and College Completion for African Americans**
- 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM —  
**Judiciary Braintrust: In Pursuit of Policing and Criminal Justice Reform**
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM —  
**Power of the Black Millennial**  
*Presented by Walmart*
- 12:00 - 2:00 PM —  
**Emerging Leaders – Alumni Panel**
- 12:00 - 2:00 PM —  
**Teens4Pink – Breast Health**
- 1:30 - 3:30 PM —  
• **Environmental Sustainability in Black Communities**  
• **HBCU College and Career Fair**

- **The Youth PROMISE Act – A PROMISE to dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline**
- 1:30 - 6:30 PM —  
**My Brother’s Keeper Town Hall**
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM —  
• **Economic Development Through Technology for the Afro Diaspora**  
• **Black Faith and Civic Activism**  
• **Emerging Leaders – Black Voices in Media**  
• **The State of African-American Small Businesses: Tackling Barriers to Achieve Economic Prosperity**  
• **Wealth Building in the African American Community**  
• **Young, Gifted And Black Braintrust**
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM —  
• **Black Men & Women Speak: Where Do We Go From Here?**  
• **Community Health Centers, Health Disparities and Addressing the Social Determinants of Health**  
• **Ensuring Solar Access in Under-served Communities: Successful Models and National Opportunities**  
• **Fixing the Crisis in African-American Economic Security: Attaining Opportunity and Prosperity for All African Americans**  
• **Fostering Economic Opportunities for the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States**  
• **Hip Hop and Politics**  
• **Meet and Match Procurement Fair: Minority Suppliers Doing Business with the Public and Private Sector**
- 3:30 - 5:30 PM —  
• **Income, Poverty & Health Insurance: Newly Released Statistics from the Census Bureau**  
• **Not All Degrees Are Created Equal: Race and Ethncity in Choice of College Major**
- 4:30 - 6:30 PM —  
**Real Estate Recovery: Is It Real for Black Americans in 2015?**
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM —  
**CBCF Alumni Association Networking Reception**  
*(Invitation Only)*

Saturday, Sept. 19

- 7:30 - 10:00 AM —  
**Prayer Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM —  
**Exhibit Showcase**
- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM —  
**Returning Citizens: What Really Works in Re-entry?**
- 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM —  
• **Caregivers in the African-American Community**  
• **Not For Sistah’s Only**
- 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM —  
**Documentary Screening: 25 to Life**
- 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM —  
• **Faith Leaders Roundtable Removing the Confederate Flag is Simply Not Enough**  
• **Veteran Roundtable: A Candid Discussion**
- 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM —  
**Phoenix Awards Dinner**  
*(Ticketed event)*



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