



Executive Director James O'Neal Prepares to Pass the Leadership Baton . . .



LEGAL OUTREACH

YEAR END

NEWSLETTER & APPEAL

Legal Outreach Announces Forthcoming Change in Leadership

Two thousand twenty-three will usher in a significant milestone for Legal Outreach. We will celebrate our 40th year of educating and empowering youth from underserved communities as well as the transition of our founding Executive Director, James O'Neal. James has announced his intention to step down as Executive Director in August of 2023 after 40 years of service. His vision and direction of Legal Outreach have created one of the most successful college prep and pipeline diversity programs nationwide. James' knowledge and insight are a resource the organization can continue to rely on as he steps into the new role of Senior Advisor on September 1, 2023.

Although James will be missed, Legal Outreach is excited to welcome Tamika Edwards, our current Managing Director of Program Operations, as our next Executive Director. Tamika has devoted her professional career to advancing the vision and mission of Legal Outreach. She has served the organization as a leader, creative legal mind, innovator, and advocate. Tamika's vision for the future of Legal Outreach will well-position the organization to continue Raising the Bar.

To honor James, LO's Board of Directors and Advisory Board have decided to establish a Fellowship, similar to the one that enabled him to start Legal Outreach four decades ago upon graduating from Harvard Law School. The James B. O'Neal Legacy Fellowship (JBOLF) will be awarded annually to an LO alumnus or dedicated non-profit professional pursuing the development of a new or enhancement of an existing program that expands the impact of Legal Outreach and pipeline diversity in New York.

As you think about your Year-End giving and those organizations most deserving of your support, please consider making a meaningful donation to the James B. O'Neal Legacy Fellowship. There is no better investment than in the lives of children. James' dedication and commitment to the lives of children are felt throughout every borough, school, college, and university he's touched. The power of his legacy is formidable. Your donations will recognize his vision, acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments under his leadership, and honor his 40 years of dedicated service to advancing Legal Outreach's mission.

Please join us in continuing his legacy of excellence by helping us to raise \$100,000.00 to support the annual James B. O'Neal Legacy Fellowship.

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JAMES B. O'NEAL
Outgoing Executive Director
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WHO KNEW? These two words certainly apply to my journey. Who knew that when I started this journey of faith in 1982 upon graduating from law school that the journey would last 40 years. Who knew that my prayers and efforts to use the law as a tool to serve, inspire, and create educational opportunities for students from some of NY City's most underserved communities would bear fruit and become not only my job but my passion.

Who knew that as I ventured out to create these programs to help level the educational playing field and create a path to a more diverse society that others – individuals, law schools, law firms, corporations, foundations, sponsors, and funders - would join me on the mission. I wouldn't have to do it alone. Though they would come from all walks of life, they all saw themselves just as I saw myself – as public servants working for a more just and equitable society.

Who knew that I would be joined on the journey by extraordinary staff members, one of whom would climb the ranks and position herself to become the next Executive Director. Though there were many things I didn't know along the way, the one thing that I do know is that Tamika Edwards, our current Managing Director of Program Operations, is the right person to succeed me. She is ready, willing, and able to take this organization to new heights as she assumes the position of Executive Director in September of 2023.



TAMIKA EDWARDS
Incoming Executive Director
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I am honored to have been chosen by Legal Outreach's Board of Directors to lead this 40-year-old organization as its next Executive Director. Several mottos have been associated with Legal Outreach, including "Raising the Bar" and "No Excuses." I want my tenure to be a lengthy one characterized by one more saying: "Claim your Stake."

When I encountered James in 1999 and was introduced to the Legal Outreach students and programs, I knew I would be making a worthwhile career investment. Having planted my feet within an organization that espouses my beliefs and promotes my personal values has been gratifying, but Legal Outreach has afforded me even more. I have had the rewarding opportunity to work directly with students and their families, plan and execute programs, and build relationships with like-missioned individuals, firms, and corporations. For more than two decades, I have watched students develop skills, actualize instilled vision, and change their lives. The "LO difference" remains evident as I work with current students and encounter alumni who are thriving in college and leading in spaces across various professional industries. Witnessing this transformation of lives via education, the "great equalizer" leads me to affirm Jonathan Kozol's claim in *Savage Inequalities* that "all our children ought to be allowed a stake in the enormous richness of America."

Undoubtedly, there are more students and families to be reached; more diverse talent to be cultivated; and more stakes within academia and professional sectors to be claimed. I'm committed to the charge and invite you to join by becoming a program partner/sponsor and/or contributor to the James B. O'Neal Legacy Fellowship. Together, we will change the futures of students by having them claim their stake.

To support Legal Outreach's new Fellowship Fund to honor our Founder and Executive Director, James B. O'Neal:

LEGAL OUTREACH
RAISING THE BAR

36-14 35th Street
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(718) 752-0222

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