

# LEGAL OUTREACH THE VERDICT



Newsletter

## LO'S CLASS OF 2023 PREPARES FOR THEIR BRIGHT FUTURES.

Meanwhile, SCOTUS Decision Potentially Limits Opportunities for Future LO Graduates of Color from Underserved Communities.



**JAMES B. O'NEAL**  
Outgoing Executive Director

How ironic that the publication of Legal Outreach's summer, feel good newsletter, THE VERDICT, coincides with the Supreme Court's disappointing ruling on Affirmative Action. The good news, that we traditionally share at this time, is that 100% of Legal Outreach's 2023 seniors were accepted to college with 87% planning to attend schools rated as the nation's most, highly, or very competitive colleges. (See below for the college matriculation list).

The bad news is that the Supreme Court has made it more difficult and challenging for our juniors, sophomores, and freshmen, the overwhelming majority of whom are young people of color residing in underserved communities, to have the same range of choices that can change their educational and career trajectories. The Court's decision diminishes America's reputation as the land of opportunity, especially if education is the key to advancement. We cannot pretend that young people within our primary and secondary schools in poor and underserved communities have an equal chance to make their way to college, particularly to institutions that are highly selective. Many have overcome hardships not of their own making - hardships that stem from the enduring effects of slavery, Jim Crow, overt and covert discrimination, institutional racism, and implicit bias. They've made the most of what was offered. But yet, somehow, they are expected to compete on equal footing with those, who through birth or circumstance, have been provided with so much more. How can anyone, particularly our learned justices, believe that the playing field is leveled, injustices of the past have been rectified and, thus, there's no longer a need to take race and its intended or unintended consequences into account? We have not morphed into a nation where the color of one's skin is irrelevant and of no consequence.

Yet, despite the decision, those of us who are committed to promoting diversity, closing educational gaps, and paving the road to life-changing opportunities for our youth will persevere. Legal Outreach will double down on its commitment to students who will be adversely affected by this decision. With the support of our partners and supporters, we - working on behalf of our students - shall overcome! It's what we do when our backs are against the wall.



**TAMIKA EDWARDS**  
Incoming Executive Director

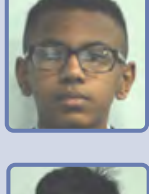
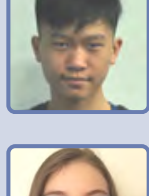

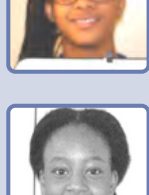

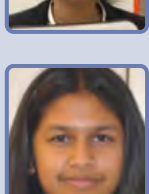
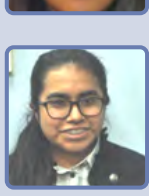



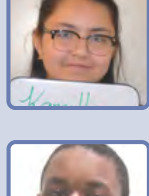
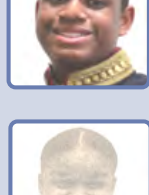
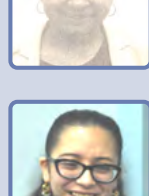
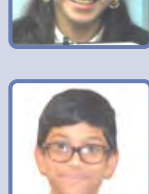
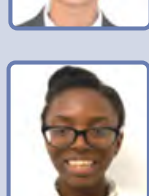

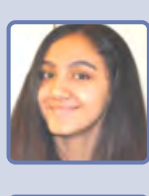

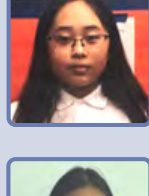
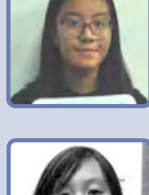

The highest court in the federal judiciary has spoken, but it does not have the final say when it comes to the educational attainment and life outcomes of Legal Outreach's College Bound students. Undoubtedly, the matriculation of our students from underserved communities to the nation's top colleges and universities has been the hallmark of our success as an organization. We are proud that this year alone, 87% of the class of 2023 will be attending selective colleges, including Yale, Princeton, U. Chicago, and many others. To maximize the post-secondary options available to them, our students have made the investment over four years, participating in thirteen different academic, professional, and leadership programs; however, our approach - instilling vision, developing skills, and providing support - is not simply about providing students access to college, but ensuring they are prepared to compete at high levels once they are admitted.


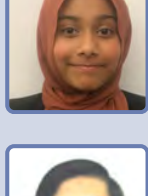


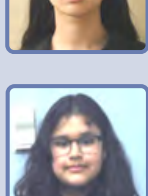
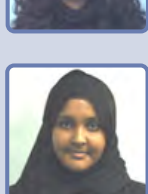
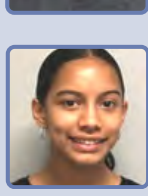

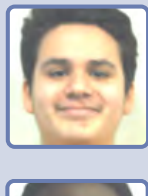
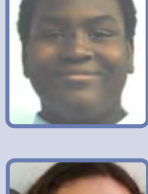
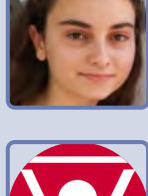
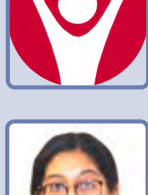
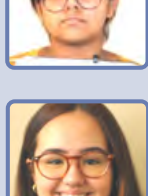

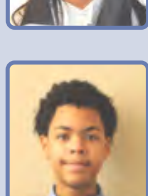



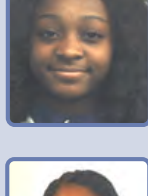

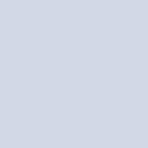
Now, more than ever, we must continue to strive to close the gap that still exists in educational achievement so our students can stand sure-footed against their collegiate counterparts. The reality is that until there is educational equity in our schools and equal opportunity for all students, there is still work for us to do.....even more than before. We need our partners and supporters - alumni, parents, law firms, corporations, law schools, law students, philanthropic foundations, and all those committed to leveling the playing field in educational attainment - to join us in ramping up efforts to prepare our students at the highest levels. Because "the times, they are a-changin'," we cannot afford to stand still and tread water. We must do more. In the coming months, I will be soliciting your assistance as Legal Outreach takes affirmative steps to equip the next generation of changemakers who are primed to lead and succeed at every level and in every sphere of society. Together, we will continue to raise the bar!

For ways to get directly involved, please contact me at [tedwards@legaloutreach.org](mailto:tedwards@legaloutreach.org)



## LEGAL OUTREACH CLASS OF 2023 College Matriculation List

-  **Adam Fatihi**  
Northeastern University
-  **Alex Chan**  
Binghamton University
-  **Arianna Puka**  
St. John's University
-  **Chenelle Clough**  
Washington University in St. Louis
-  **Eden Nerestant**  
University of Chicago
-  **Erica Li**  
Brown University
-  **Fahmida Rahman**  
Baruch College
-  **Jasmine Garcia**  
Mt. Holyoke College
-  **Jaymie Uruchima**  
University of Rochester
-  **Jeremy Rosario**  
Baruch College
-  **Jude Boateng**  
Tufts University
-  **Kamilla Zakirova**  
UNC Chapel Hill
-  **Marcus Nelson**  
Princeton University
-  **Maya Gayle**  
Hunter College
-  **Melissa Campos**  
Mt. Holyoke College
-  **Mohammad Zayd**  
Bates College
-  **Oluwatosin Ibidokun**  
Williams College
-  **Rifat Ahmed**  
Baruch College
-  **Sarah Pirzada**  
University of Rochester
-  **Susan Lin**  
Binghamton University
-  **Tensin Yingsal**  
University at Albany
-  **Tseyang Lhamu**  
Binghamton University
-  **Zoey Eng**  
St. John's University

-  **Adjikene Fate**  
Binghamton University
-  **Alisha Hussain**  
Baruch College
-  **Brian Ly**  
University of Rochester
-  **Daijah Scott**  
Lehigh University
-  **Elizabeth Thamrin**  
Fordham University
-  **Fatima Khan**  
Columbia University
-  **Gabas Yagoub**  
Smith College
-  **Jasminda Madrid**  
University of Pennsylvania
-  **Jennifer Qarri**  
Temple University
-  **Juan David Cardona**  
Baruch College
-  **Kadeem Hagley**  
Hampshire College
-  **Lauren Korsun**  
Emory University
-  **Margaret Dumapit**  
Hampshire College
-  **Mehreen Mouzzam**  
Baruch College
-  **Mia Soret**  
Vassar College
-  **Nila Daniels**  
Boston University
-  **Randy Urena**  
Stony Brook University
-  **Samantha Farrow**  
Wesleyan University
-  **Scarlet Perez**  
Yale University
-  **Tahia Azad**  
Hunter College
-  **Tia Pusey**  
St. John's University
-  **Uwaela Agbontaen**  
Lehigh University