Advisory: Prosecutors to Host Panel on Civil Liberties July 20th at National Black Prosecutors Association’s Annual Conference

Panel will feature speakers from the ACLU of Florida and the Color of Change

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MIAMI, FL - The National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) will host a panel discussion named “The Importance of Civil Liberties for Prosecutors”, featuring speakers from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida and Color of Change during the NBPA’s 34th Annual Conference and Job Fair. The panel will take place on Thursday, July 20 from 2:00 – 3:30pm, at the Westin Downtown Cleveland.

Focusing on providing education and leadership in the legal profession, the panel will discuss the responsibility of prosecutors to defend civil liberties and its role in reforming the criminal justice system. Melba Pearson, NBPA’s Immediate Past President and Deputy Director of the ACLU of Florida, will be moderating the panel.

The Importance of Civil Liberties for Prosecutors
Panel discussion at 2017 NBPA Annual Conference and Job Fair
Thursday, July 20, 2:00-3:30pm
Westin Downtown Cleveland

Moderator: Melba Pearson, ACLU of Florida deputy director and immediate past NBPA president

Panelists: Rashad Robinson, Executive Director of Color of Change; Professor David Harris, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Consultant Whitney Tymas; Ian Friedman of Friedman and Nemecek LLC, and volunteer attorney for the ACLU of Ohio.

“I hope for us to have a robust discussion regarding some of the biggest challenges facing our country and our criminal justice system today,” said Pearson. “The role of the prosecutor of color as an agent of change continues to be critical now more than ever.”

“The dialogue between communities and their prosecutors is essential,” stated Rashad Robinson, Executive Director of Color of Change and featured panelist. “Though far too few, we applaud the prosecutors across the country who are finally putting an end to the racially-biased and discredited policies that largely define our criminal justice system today.”

“Laws are ever changing and justice isn’t one size fits all,” stated William Jorden, National President of the NBPA. “Therefore, a deeper understanding of personal freedoms is paramount to what a prosecutor does daily,”
For further information, please contact Melba V. Pearson, Immediate Past President, at 305.491.2404. To learn more about the NBPA, please visit www.blackProsecutors.org

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The National Black Prosecutors Association is the only professional membership organization dedicated to the advancement of prosecutors of color. Founded in 1983, the Association's membership is comprised of over 800 prosecutors nationwide. It includes both elected and line prosecutors nationwide. In addition to prosecutors, the association's membership includes law students, former prosecutors, members of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel.