



NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND JOB FAIR
Aurora, Colorado
July 8th, 2018 – July 14th, 2018

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January 3, 2018

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Welcome to 2018!

Hello family,

As I welcome you to the New Year, let me start by saying that I am proud of our organization for our continued efforts in the fields of criminal justice reform, the promotion of black prosecutors in America, and community service. Specifically, our "Real Talk" programs are thriving as they bring the youth of our country into direct conversations with law enforcement and community stakeholders regarding important topics they face on a daily basis. Our conference and job fair provide training and education for our members as well as new opportunities for employers to network with current and future prosecutors from around the U.S. We consider our community service programs, such as "Fall Into Giving" and our multiple coat drives, crucial as we aim to give back to the communities that made us who we are today.

This past year was an extremely successful one! With a focus on expanding our products and brand, we added the Domestic Violence Forum to our annual conference. By reaching beyond prosecution, we were able to share our knowledge with those in the community who help in the fight against domestic violence. We also wrote an Amicus brief on behalf of Marilyn Mosby, State's Attorney for Baltimore, MD, in which we expressed the chilling effect that exposing prosecutors to civil liability would have on the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Although others were compelled to turn down the request to speak up, we remained true to our mission. Furthermore, we spoke out in support of Aramis Ayala, State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, and a prosecutor's discretion to pursue a case as they believe best serves the interest of justice. In 2017, we settled into our seat at the table and ensured we were a part of crucial conversations.

In 2018, the Domestic Violence Forum will take place in Aurora, CO, coinciding with our annual conference and job fair. We expect these events to be even better than previous years. We will continue to be at the forefront of national conversations on criminal justice reform. We will encourage new and innovative ways to affect legislative change and provide critical information to black and brown people. We have begun working with a template for a "Citizen's Academy" that will include topics such as the nuts and bolts of the justice system, knowing one's rights, and public safety. We will continue to develop what the NBPA means as a resource in our communities.

In closing, let the words in Romans 13:3 provide inspiration to you as you keep fighting the good fight:

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same."

Sincerely,

William Jorden
President