

National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL)  
**40th Annual Conference**



**'til Victory is Won!**  
**October 9-12, 2008 • Detroit, Michigan**

*Hotel St. Regis*

The National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) is an association of lawyers, scholars, judges, legal workers, law students and legal activists. Our mission is to serve as the legal arm of the movement for Black Liberation, to protect human rights, to achieve self-determination of Africa and African Communities [in the Diaspora] and to work in coalition to assist in ending oppression of all peoples. NCBL is a bar association but its program concerns matters of critical concern to the broader Black community.

***NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
BLACK LAWYERS***  
***40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference***

**Thursday, October 9, 2008**

12:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Registration**

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**“BECOMING A PEOPLE’S LAWYER WHO CAN ALSO  
AFFORD TO EAT”**

Paying the bills and handling cases that are important to the Black community are not mutually exclusive. In this workshop, experienced practitioners will guide new and veteran lawyers through the intricacies of opening a law office, handling administrative details, generating clients and remaining true to progressive political principles.

Moderator: Maya Watson, Esq.

Panelists: Marisa Benton, Esq., Tatanisha Reed, Esq.; Tanisha Davis, Esq.; Boyd White, III, J.D.; Jared Hocker, Esq.; and Ethan Dunn, Esq.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

***NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
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**Friday, October 10, 2008**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Registration**

8:00 am – 9:00 am

**Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**“TO SNITCH OR NOT TO SNITCH: WHEN KEEPING IT  
REAL GOES BAD”**

In this workshop, criminal defense lawyers will engage in a dialogue with the community about “snitching.” The term will be defined and there will be discussion of the ethics and contradictions of the practice. Panelists will also analyze several criminal textbook examples of snitching.

Moderator: Marisa Benton, Esq.

Panelists: Rukia Lumumba, Esq. and Florence Morgan, Esq.

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

**“IN THE CROSS-HAIRS OF THE EMPIRE’S BIG GUNS:  
AFRICA, IRAQ AND PALESTINE”**

Western governments, working in tandem with multi-national corporations have stepped up their ongoing campaign to secure global strategic advantage and control of vital natural resources like petroleum. With increasing frequency, military aggression has been the favored tactic. Panelists will provide updates and analyses of developments in Africa, Iraq and Palestine. Special attention will be given to Africa Command (AFRICOM), a new project of the U.S. military designed to militarize Africa through the use of U.S.-directed proxy forces. Legal strategies to curb imperial aggression will also be considered.

Moderator: Mark P. Fancher, Esq.

Panelists: Saja Raoof, Esq. and Doraid Elder, Esq.

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

**Lunch**

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**Friday, October 10, 2008 (cont'd)**

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

**“IS THE DRUG WAR THE NEW JIM CROW?”**

We must understand the connections between the policies of the past and those of the present. Segregation was outlawed in the 1960's. Was it replaced by the drug war? National drug policy is not only racist, but an abject failure. Black imprisonment for drug offenses is 13 times that of the rate for Whites, despite equivalent rates of drug use. Just as policies of yesterday's Jim Crow era were harmful, the adverse impacts of today's drug policies on employment, housing, education, families, health care and the franchise are also damaging. This session will address these issues and identify practical ways to ameliorate the harm.

Moderator: Nkechi Taifa, Esq.

Panelists: Deborah Small, Executive Director, Break the Chains: Communities of Color and the War on Drugs; Ron Hampton, Executive Director, National Black Police Association; and Jeffrey Edison, Esq., trial lawyer and private practitioner

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm

**“THE LEGACY OF TORTURE – THE SAN FRANCISCO 8 AND THE WAR AGAINST THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT”**

After a brief video presentation, panelists will discuss the conspiracy and murder charges against former Black Panthers and associates based on confessions extracted under torture. COINTELPRO and its use of torture to quell political dissent will also be examined.

Moderator: Prof. J. Soffiyah Elijah

Panelists: Ray Boudreaux and Francisco Torres

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Screening of the documentary film “Banished”**

8:00 pm – until

**Social/ Cultural Outing**

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**Saturday, October 11, 2008**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Registration**

8:00 am – 9:00 am

**Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**“HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT: WHAT PASSAGE  
OF HR 676 MEANS TO BLACK PEOPLE”**

Panelists will analyze health care as a human right under international law and the challenge of urging passage of HR 676, a congressional bill sponsored by U.S. Rep. John Conyers that would create a national single-payer health care system in the U.S. that is based on the principle that health care is a human right. Consideration will be given as well to the state and national movement for a national single-payer health system.

Moderator: Mark P. Fancher, Esq.

Panelists: Dr. Scott Mial; Hon. JoAnn Watson, Detroit City Council; and a Representative from Congressman John Conyers' Office

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

**“REMEDIES FOR HISTORIC CRIMES”**

This session will explore the current campaigns and legal strategies to redress civil and human rights violations suffered by African descendants from the time of slavery through the Civil Rights Era. It will include a dynamic, candid, productive and practical discussion of the legal strategies, political standing and theoretical underpinnings of the reparations movement and related initiatives, such as the U.S. Truth and Reconciliation proceedings and the revival of civil rights era cold cases.

Moderator/ Panelist: Associate Professor Adjoa Aiyetoro, Esq.

Additional Panelists: Prof. Margaret Burnham and Prof. Paula C. Johnson

12:15 pm – 2:30 pm

**LUNCHEON /  
INTER-GENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION**

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**Saturday, October 11 (cont'd)**

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**“BREATHING WHILE BLACK: ON THE ATTACK  
AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM”**

Huge profits are made daily at the expense of our right to live and breathe on this Earth. This panel will address environmental and food security issues that are adversely impacting the vitality, health and well-being of Black and poor communities globally, with special focus on legal and activist strategies for change being employed in and around Detroit.

Moderator: Desiree Ferguson, Esq.

Panelists: Alice Jennings, Esq.; Prof. Charles Simmons;  
Rhonda Anderson, community activist; and Malik  
Yakini, educator and community activist

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**FOUNDERS’ RECEPTION**

8:00 – until

**BANQUET**

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**Sunday, October 12**

8:00 am – 9:00 am

**Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**General Membership Meeting**