



Dear OCWLA Community,

As part of OCWLA's mission statement, the organization is dedicated to raising awareness of discrimination and bias. The events in our recent history have not only brought racism to the forefront of our conversations, but along with it a range of emotions from anger to fear, frustration to disappointment, and helplessness to a desire to act.

Part of raising awareness is to listen and to learn. This month, OCWLA is using its monthly message and platform to amplify the voices of Black Lawyer associations throughout California.

Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

The Thurgood Marshall Bar Association of Orange County was founded in 2012 and is Orange County's only Black Lawyer association. It has published a [Statement](#) on the death of George Floyd, Continued Systemic Racism, and Injustice in America and Demands for Immediate Change. Please take the time to read the message from Orange County's Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

California Association of Black Lawyers

Take a moment to read the history of the organization of the [California Association of Black Lawyers](#) in 1977. The objects and purposes of the organization included "the stimulation of black lawyers in organization bar activities, to seek out and eradicate the roots and causes of racism, and to prepare the high standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession."

Women's Organizations

There are several Black Women Lawyers associations throughout California.

[Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles](#) - Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles co-founded the Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, which has evolved into one of the primary provider of pro bono family law services in Los Angeles County.

[Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association \(San Diego\)](#) - The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association has an excerpt from The Journal of San Diego History highlighting San Diego's Black legal community from 1890 to 2013.

[Black Women Lawyers Association of Northern California](#) - The Black Women Lawyers Association of Northern California began with in home gatherings until they officially formed in 1979. These women were some of the first Black women admitted to the California Bar.

OCWLA will continue its work to raise awareness of discrimination and bias, work to amplify the voices of those that can help us learn, and advocate for a society where there is justice for all.



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