

HARVARD'S WOMEN'S LAW ASSOCIATION &
BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

#BLACKGIRLMAGIC

**BLACK WOMEN
REPRESENTING**

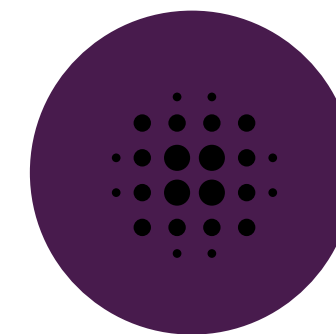
NOVEMBER 13 & 14

ZOOM: [HTTP://BIT.LY/BGMCONFERENCE](http://bit.ly/BGMCONFERENCE) | PW: 648292



#BLACKGIRLMAGIC

BLACK WOMEN REPRESENTING



DAY 1

Friday, November 13, 12 pm – 8pm EST

KEYNOTE: #BGM CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY, POWER, & RESILIENCE OF BLACK WOMEN

12 pm – 1 pm EST

Moderator: Maggie Hagen

Speakers:

- **Tara Conley:** Assistant Professor in the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University
- **Alliyah Allen:** Program Coordinator for New Arts Justice at Express Newark and an Assistant Curator of Monument Lab

The keynote address will engage with the meanings of #BlackGirlMagic, the ways in which Black women and girls have understood themselves through #BlackGirlMagic across digital and non-digital spaces, and what it means to embrace #BlackGirlMagic in a world built around the structural oppression of Black women.

#BGM SAVES LIVES - BLACK WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE

2 pm – 3 pm EST

Moderator: Amber Lowery

Speakers:

- **Nikita Smart:** Co-Founder of SistasCaring4Sistas
- **Loyce Pace:** President and Executive Director of the Global Health Council

This panel will bring together Black women leaders in the healthcare field to reflect upon what it means to live in a world where racism is a public health crisis. Given the disproportionate rates at which COVID-19 has affected Black communities, the extreme disparities in Black maternal death rates, and other forms of historical health-based violence against Black communities, the speakers will discuss how their work saves lives and how they shoulder the responsibility of personifying #BlackGirlMagic in healthcare.

#BGM TRAILBLAZING - BLACK WOMEN ACTIVISTS ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

4 pm – 5 pm EST

Moderator: Ebony Slaughter-Johnson

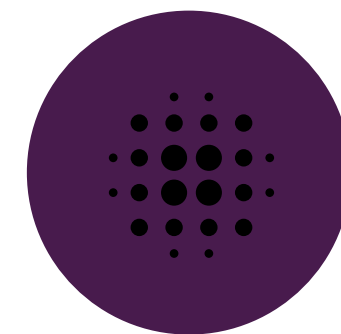
Speakers:

- **Syria Jackson:** President of the Board of Directors of the LGBT Community Center of New Orleans and Empowerment Coordinator/ Facilitator of the New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council
- **Nathalie Nia Faulk:** Cultural Organizing Programs Coordinator of Alternate ROOTS

This panel will examine the pivotal role that Black women have occupied in orchestrating systemic change. Black women have been instrumental in transforming the United States into a more democratic, inclusive, and just nation. This panel will focus on the work that Black women activists are currently pursuing to uproot systems of institutional violence.

#BLACKGIRLMAGIC

BLACK WOMEN REPRESENTING



DAY 1

Friday, November 13, 12 pm – 8pm EST

#BGM ON THE WEB - BLACK WOMEN IN TECH

7 pm – 8 pm EST

Moderator: Mariah K. Watson

Speakers:

- **Bie Aweh:** Senior People Growth Manager (Women and Underrepresented Talent Development) of DoorDash
- **Abby Knowles:** Vice President of Network and Technology at Verizon Wireless
- **Isabel Céspedes:** Creative Director of Sista Circle: Black Women in Tech
- **Ashley Tolbert:** Senior Security Engineer at Netflix and 2020 Assembly Fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University

The world of technology has been historically dominated by white men. This panel will focus on how Black women in the technology field cultivate #BlackGirlMagic in their everyday lives, the ways in which they make space for more Black women to enter the field, and how they continue to make strides in spaces that have historically excluded them.

DAY 2

Saturday, November 14, 10 am – 5 pm EST

#BGM ON THE BOOKS - BLACK WOMEN IN ACADEMIA

10 am – 11 am EST

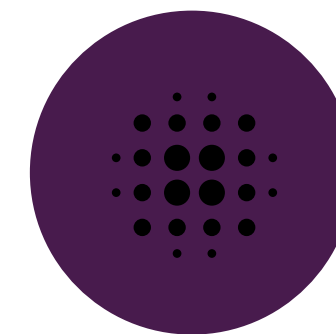
Moderator: Amber Aspinall

Speakers:

- **Marcia Chatelain:** Professor of History and African American Studies at Georgetown University
- **Emilie Townes:** Dean of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School
- **Amalia Dache:** Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Division at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education
- **Intisar Rabb:** Henry L. Shattuck Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, Professor of History at the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard University, and Director of the Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School

The ivory tower has been hostile to Black scholars, especially those passionate about the study of Blackness and Black lived experiences. The speakers will discuss the ways in which they have navigated academia, what it means to cultivate #BlackGirlMagic in academic spaces, how their lives have informed their work, and how their work has informed their lives.

#BLACKGIRLMAGIC BLACK WOMEN REPRESENTING



DAY 2

Saturday, November 14, 10 am - 5 pm EST

#BGM IN CONGRESS & THE COURTS - BLACK WOMEN CHANGING THE LAW

1 pm - 2 pm EST

Moderator: Chinelo Okonkwo

Speakers:

- **Loretta Lynch:** First African-American woman United States Attorney General and Partner in Paul, Weiss Litigation Department
- **Allyson K. Duncan:** Former United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- **Amanda Edwards:** Former Member of the Houston City Council and 2020 United States Senate Candidate
- **Lauren Underwood:** United States Representative for Illinois's 14th Congressional District

Nowhere is #BlackGirlMagic perhaps more on display than in the law, which is a remarkable feat given the extent to which white supremacy undergirds our legal and political traditions. This panel will focus on the outstanding contributions that Black women attorneys have made in changing the laws that govern this nation, their experiences navigating the legal world as Black women, and their ideas on what it will take to redesign a system built on racialized violence.

#BGM IN THE ARTS - BLACK WOMEN ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, & WRITERS

4 pm - 5 pm EST

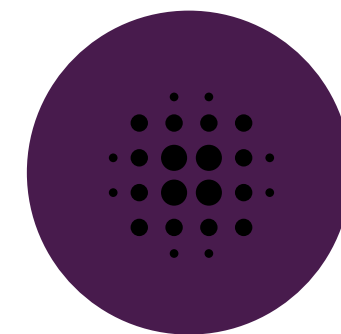
Moderator: Alisha Bruce

Speakers:

- **Sadah Espii Proctor:** Sound Designer and New Media Artist
- **Tracy K. Smith:** Former United States Poet Laureate, Director of the Program in Creative Writing at Princeton University, and Chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University
- **Candice Hoyes:** Singer/Songwriter
- **Xhosa:** Singer/Songwriter
- **Brandie Blaze:** Hip Hop Artist

#BlackGirlMagic thrives in the entertainment world, where sounds, rhythms, and poetry of Black women have defined cultures. However, appropriation and inaccessibility have also run rampant in the entertainment world: Black women have been embraced for their works but castigated for their being. The speakers will discuss what it means to be a Black woman entering the entertainment world; and how their work paves the way for other Black women looking to express themselves creatively.

#BLACKGIRLMAGIC BLACK WOMEN REPRESENTING



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Harvard Women's Law Association (WLA) and the Harvard Black Law Students Association (BLSA) would like to thank Amna Rashid and Emily Chazen, the WLA's Fall Women of Color Conference Committee Co-Chairs, for trusting us with their powerful vision to celebrate the accomplishments of Black women. They organized this conference with love, care, and purpose at every step of the way.

We would also like to thank the WLA's Fall Women of Color Conference Committee members, Anita Alem, Arabi Hassan, Audrey Ortiz, Elizabeth Walsh, Nicole Khamis, Pascale Stain, and Samantha Camy for their work to bring the conference to life.

We are extremely grateful to Ebony Slaughter-Johnson, the WLA's Co-Vice President, for her leadership, time, and attention to detail. We are so lucky to have had her on our team.

We are grateful to Chinelo Okonkwo, BLSA's President, whose partnership and friendship guided the vision and organization of this conference.

We appreciate Haley O'Connor, the WLA's Event Coordinator, for managing Zoom logistics for the conference.

We are fortunate to have benefitted from the artistic talents of Mariah K. Watson, BLSA's Internal Vice President, and Nicole Franklin, BLSA's Communications Co-Chair, who kindly created our gorgeous conference graphics.

Finally, all of our panelists and moderators are superstars. We thank them for their intellect, creativity, generosity, and, of course, #BlackGirlMagic.

THANK YOU!