

Who We Are

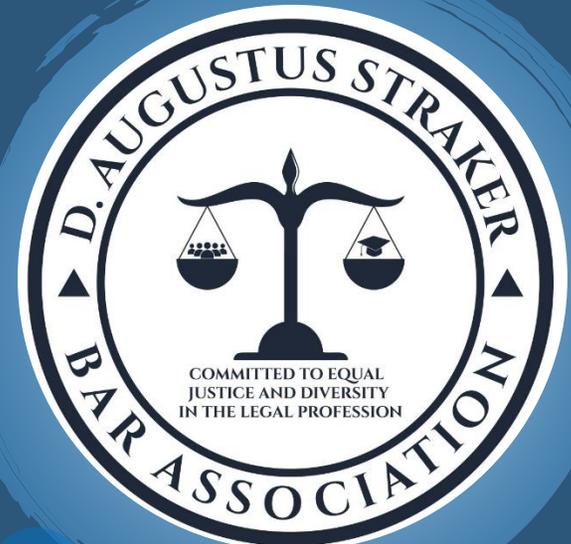
The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association is named after David Augustus Straker, who was the first African American to appear before the Michigan Supreme Court.

The bar association was formed on October 4, 1990, as a special purpose bar association recognized by the State Bar of Michigan. It is also an affiliate of the National Bar Association. The mission of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association is to increase minority representation in the legal profession, support and encourage legal practice opportunities for minorities, and facilitate equal justice for all citizens. Membership includes a racially diverse coalition of lawyers, judges, in-house counsel and other legal professionals.

Upcoming 2019 Events:

- Corporate Counsel Breakfast - **April 25**
- MLK Drum Major for Justice Oral Advocacy Competition – **May 18**
- 26th Annual Trailblazer Award & Scholarship Dinner - **June 6**

SCHOLARSHIPS



22200 W. Eleven Mile Road #357

Southfield, MI 48037-0357

(734) 707-7115

strakerlawba@gmail.com

<https://strakerlaw.org>

The D. Augustus Straker Bar Public Interest Fund

This newly-created fund will provide \$3,000 stipends to law student members of the bar association, who are entering their second or third year of law school and accept unpaid summer internships in the public sector.

A. Kay Stansfield Spinks Law Student Scholarship Program

This scholarship encourages law students to excel in their legal studies, with the ultimate goal of increasing African American representation within the practice of law. To qualify for the Straker Scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in a certified law school program and entering their second or third year of law school in the fall of 2019. The deadline for applications for the A. Kay Stanfield Spinks Law Student Scholarship is **Friday, May 17, 2019**.

Martin Luther King Drum Major For Justice Advocacy Competition

The purpose of the MLK Advocacy Competition is to promote oral advocacy among 11th and 12th grade high school students and encourage students to develop and improve their analytical and writing skills. The competition is held in two phases. Essay submissions are due by **April 9, 2019**. Typically, five finalists are selected from the essay portion. All finalists must compete in the oral advocacy portion of the Competition, scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on **Saturday, May 18, 2019** in the Wayne State University Law School, Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium.

Harry J. Pearce Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship

On May 16, 1989, Harry Pearce, former general counsel of General Motors, authored a letter to GM's outside counsel requesting that diverse lawyers be utilized on GM's legal matters. On April 28, 2017, the Straker Bar Association honored Mr. Pearce for his efforts and recognizing the "butterfly effect" his letter had amongst other general counsels and law firms.

To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be enrolled in an ABA certified law school program, a Straker Bar member, and in their third year of law school in 2018-2019 school year. Applications should be submitted no later than **Sunday, April 21, 2019**.

Successful applicants must demonstrate scholarly dedication, be involved in school and community activities and be able to clearly articulate their vision for advancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.