

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Adara L. Combs**

*President*

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office  
president@phillybarristers.com

**Jahlee Hatchett**

*President-elect*

Southeastern PA Transportation Authority  
presidentelect@phillybarristers.com

**Lakeisha Fields**

*Vice President of Administration*

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.  
vpadministration@phillybarristers.com

**Kristin Johnson**

*Vice President of Finance*

The School District of Philadelphia  
vpfinance@phillybarristers.com

**Aaron Dunbar**

*Treasurer*

Kline & Specter, P.C.  
treasurer@phillybarristers.com

**Salena Jones**

*Recording Secretary*

Delaware County District Attorney's Office  
recording@phillybarristers.com

**Reginald Streater**

*Corresponding Secretary*

Berger Montague, P.C.  
corresponding@phillybarristers.com

#### ELECTED MEMBERS

**Courtney Munnings**

Troutman Pepper Hamilton & Sanders L.L.P.  
elected2@phillybarristers.com

**Courtney Richardson**

*Kilkenny Law*

elected1@phillybarristers.com

#### APPOINTED MEMBERS

**Sherrell Dandy**

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office  
appointed2@phillybarristers.com

**Angelica Hendricks**

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School  
appointed3@phillybarristers.com

**Kwambina Coker**

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office  
appointed1@phillybarristers.com

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Dominique B.E. Ward**

*Lincoln Financial Group*

pastpresident@phillybarristers.com

#### ADVISORY BOARD

**Ade Galloway**

**Monique Myatt Galloway\***

**Deborah Watson-Stokes**

**Charles Gibbs\***

**Dexter Hamilton**

**Damien Jackson**

**Carlton L. Johnson**

**Charisse Lille**

**Rep. Joanna E. McClinton**

**Kevin Mincey\***

**Kenneth Murphy**

**A. Nicole Phillips**

**A. Michael Pratt\***

**Marcel S. Pratt**

**Riley H. Ross III**

**The Hon. Kai Scott**

**The Hon. Karen Y. Simmons**

**Rhonda Hill Wilson**

**Lilton Taliaferro, Jr**

\* Past President



The  
**Barristers' Association**  
of Philadelphia, Inc.  
An Affiliate of the National Bar Association

Addressing Your Concerns! Serving Your Needs!  
1735 Market Street, Suite A234, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
[www.phillybarristers.com](http://www.phillybarristers.com)

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
Committee of the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

To The Honorable Richard Durbin:

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. was founded in 1950 to address the needs of African- American attorneys in Philadelphia. Since then, we have been a committed catalyst for change and a voice of advocacy correcting historical injustices in this City. We have played an intricate role in elevating Black voices and addressing the needs of our community.

The American judicial system has a history littered with negation of equality and noble attempts of correction thereafter. The road for Black law students, practitioners, judges, and legal scholars is filled with obstacles presented as a result of the systemic barriers designed throughout history to prevent and discourage our inclusion in the legal profession. Organizations such as the Barristers' Association located in every major city demonstrate the existence of excellent Black attorneys in every area of practice. Yet, our courts are a poor reflection of diversity in practice. In recent years, conversations of equality and inclusion have been on the forefront of every industry. While we stand in this very moment of history, more definitive steps must be taken to put words to action and demand that representation on the bench reflect reality.

To that end, the Barristers' applaud President Biden's recent nomination of the highly qualified Arianna J. Freeman to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. During her career, Ms. Freeman has regularly practiced before the very Court for which she has been nominated. In addition to litigating many cases in Federal District Court, Ms. Freeman has been lead or co-counsel in twenty-eight appeals in the Third Circuit. Additionally, she has argued before the Third Circuit on seven occasions, including once to the *en banc* Court. A graduate of Yale Law School, she has also clerked for two Federal Judges, The Honorable James T. Giles and the Honorable C. Darnell Jones. Her background, commitment to justice, and record of excellence make her an outstanding candidate to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. If confirmed, Ms. Freeman will be the first Black woman to serve in the Third Circuit's 131-year history.

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. unequivocally supports the nomination of Arianna J. Freeman, Esq. Her confirmation will not only serve as a step towards adequate representation, but also as recognition of her stellar career.

Respectfully,

Adara L. Combs, Esq.  
President  
Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc.