




**SARITA AND CLAIRE WRIGHT
LUCAS FOUNDATION**

www.saritaandclairefoundation.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



To Achieve Justice, Representation Matters

The underrepresentation of women and Black individuals in public prosecution is significant: 95% of prosecutors are white, and most are men. Only about 2% of elected prosecutors are Black women.

But what if we could change how prosecution looked? Starting with the prosecutors? The Sarita and Claire Wright Lucas Foundation is inspired by Sarita Wright Lucas, a young Black woman who was working as a prosecutor in the Delaware Department of Justice when she died unexpectedly. In her honor, our distinct goal is to increase the representation of Black women working as prosecutors.

This initiative aims to educate, motivate, and assist Black women in becoming prosecutors. Equally important, it seeks to build a leadership pipeline of Black women who understand the lived experience of both victims and defendants. These women can bring diverse and meaningful cultural values to the needs of a diverse criminal justice system.

The SCWLF provides financial support to young women committed to public service through scholarships, fellowships, and employment incentives. Our scholarship awards total \$10,000, while our fellowships offer \$7,000. Your assistance is crucial in enabling us to sustain and expand our impactful initiatives.





AT THE SCWLF, WE ARE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT DIVERSITY – WE ARE INVESTING IN THE TRAILBLAZERS WHO EMBODY IT

This year, the Sarita and Claire Wright Lucas Foundation (SCWLF) opened our scholarship program to Black women law students nationwide. We received a record number of applications from highly qualified candidates.

As a result, we have awarded scholarships and fellowships to six remarkable women who are paving the way for their careers in prosecution.

Our growth is not limited to expanding our scholarship program. In addition to our existing Fellowship program in Massachusetts, this year, we expanded our Fellowship program to Dekalb County, Georgia. These traditionally unpaid summer internships allow our awardees to gain substantive experience and develop their legal skills in the justice system, including mentorship, skills development, and courtroom experience.

These trailblazers embody our mission, and we are honored to welcome them into our community. Their unique perspectives and lived experiences will undoubtedly shape the future of our justice system, making it more inclusive and equitable for all.

The Faces of Change

“I recognize that being a prosecutor entails more than just securing convictions; it requires a steadfast commitment to **fairness, integrity,** and the **protection of individual rights.**”

Aliyah Stokes, Scholarship Awardee 2024

2024 Scholarship Awardees



**Candidate for Juris Doctorate J.D. May 2024
North Carolina Central University School of Law**

Quieysha McDougle earned her J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law in May 2024. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and Justice Studies from Winston-Salem State University. Currently, she serves as a Third Year Practice Prosecutor with the Durham County District Attorney's Office. Her prior experience includes roles as a Fair and Just Prosecution Legal Fellow in 2023 and a Forward Justice Legal Intern in 2022.

During law school, Quieysha was highly active in the NCCU community, serving as a 3L Representative for the Student Bar Association, an Admissions Ambassador, and the Law Review's Primary and Managing Editor. Her dedication earned her several honors, including the 2024 Black Law Student Association Advocate of the Year and the Research and Writing Award at Winston-Salem State University.

**Candidate for Juris Doctorate J.D. May 2024
Suffolk University Law School**

Myriah Young earned her J.D. in May 2024, and Masters in Government and Applied Politics, from Suffolk University Law School, following a BA in Political Science from Bridgewater State University. She serves as a Victim Witness Advocate and 3:03 Student Prosecutor with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Her experience includes internships with Senator Elizabeth Warren's office and the Brady Campaign for the Prevention of Gun Violence.

During law school, Myriah was active in her community and school, serving as a scholar at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Society, a Volunteer Coordinator for the Violence Intervention & Prevention Program, and more. She held leadership roles in Suffolk's Black Law Student Association, Woman of Color Law Student Association, and Immigration Student Law Association. Her accomplishments earned her the Distinguished Oral Advocate Award in 2021.





**Candidate for Juris Doctorate J.D. May 2024
University of Baltimore School of Law**

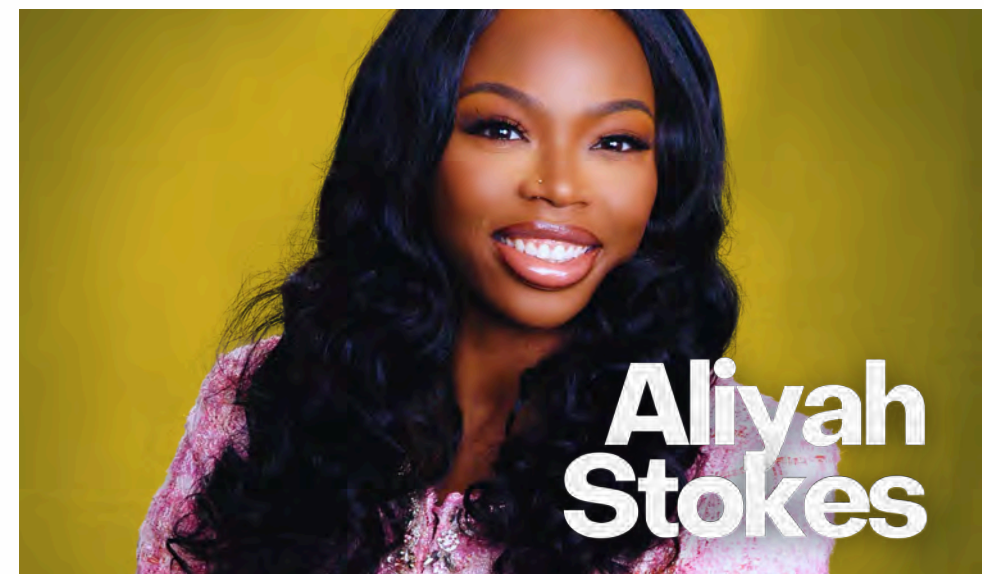
Cameron Craig earned her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law in May 2024, after completing a B.A. in Legal Studies and a B.S. in National Security Studies at the University of New Haven. She has interned with various criminal justice departments, including the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She serves as a Law Clerk in the Felony Unit of the Montgomery State's Attorney's Office.

Cameron has been an active member of the UBalt community, holding roles such as National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Law Student Liaison, Secretary of the Government and Military Law Association, and serving on the Student Involvement Committee for the NBA – Women Lawyers Division. Cameron will join the New York County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan in September.

Widener Delaware Law School

Aliyah Stokes, from Philadelphia, follows her sister Brittany Stokes, a 2021 SCWLF scholarship recipient. Aliyah earned her J.D. from Widener Delaware Law School in May 2024, after obtaining an M.S. and B.S. in Criminal Justice from Saint Joseph's University in 2021 and 2020, respectively. She has interned with the U.S. Liability Insurance Co., Judge Charles Hayden, and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Currently, she is a Certified Legal Intern at the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

At Widener, Aliyah founded the Eight Percent Club to address the challenges faced by women of color in the legal profession. She also served as Social and Fraternal Chair of Phi Alpha Delta and was part of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Student Council. Her work earned her several honors, including the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Diversity Scholarship, and the First State Merit Scholarship.



2024 Fellowship Awardees

“The Sarita and Claire Wright Lucas Foundation represents a **beacon of hope and opportunity** for young Black women aspiring to become prosecutors.”

Aka Magnin Alexandra Ehoule, Fellowship Awardee 2024



2L Law Student Georgia State University Law School

Alexandra Ehoule is a 2L at Georgia State University College of Law, where she also earned her Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Political Science. During law school, she worked as a Contract Analyst/1L summer intern with Accenture, LLP, and is currently a Legal Extern in the Criminal Justice Division of the Georgia Attorney General's Office. This summer, she will also work with the DeKalb County Attorney's Office.

An active member of the Georgia State law community, Alexandra is on the Mock Trial Team, the Rising President of the Disabled Law Student Association, and the Secretary of the Christian Legal Society. She also volunteers with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, receiving its "Best Volunteer" award in 2022. Her achievements have earned her various scholarships, and she made the President's List in 2020.

2L Law Student Boston University School of Law

Josianne Hamilton is currently a 2L Law Student at the Boston University School of Law. She previously received her B.A. in Political Science and Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies from the University of Connecticut. Josianne has extensive law experience, including work with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, a Research Assistant to Dean Onwuachi-Willig, the Legislative Drafting Clinic, and the Capitol Consulting Firm. She has been offered a position to work with the Middlesex DA's office again in the summer of 2024.

Josianne has been an active contributor to the BU Law community, serving as the President of the Women's Law Association, an editor for the Public Interest Law Journal, and an Antiracist Scholars for Progress, Innovation, and Racial Equity (ASPIRE) Scholar. In addition, she received a Presidential Scholarship from the University of Connecticut, as well as attaining the Dean's List for the 2021-2022 academic year.





This year, with your help, we awarded \$54,000 in scholarships and fellowships. However, there is still much more to be done.

We received sixteen outstanding and qualified scholarship applicants from across the US, yet we could only award four.

We need the resources to do so much more.

Eliminating gender and racial disparities in prosecutors' offices nationwide will improve the quality of justice for everyone. Your partnership has been crucial in advancing our efforts. As we prepare for a more impactful 2025, we seek your ongoing support to move toward a justice system that authentically represents our nation's diversity.

Launching New Initiatives Black Women's Prosecutor Project

Black women are often taught to be strong, work harder, and constantly prove themselves to avoid scrutiny of their credentials and worth. Black women prosecutors must do this while striving to administer justice fairly, advocate for victims, and serve our communities. This balancing act often becomes increasingly unsustainable.

We developed the Black Women's Prosecutor Project (BWPP) using an online platform to establish a supportive and empowering community for Black women prosecutors. The platform aims to offer wellness strategies and create a supportive network of women with shared objectives. It also includes articles, chats, and live seminars led by leaders in the wellness field.

We launched this project on August 8, 2024, at the National Black Prosecutors Conference in Boston where the Sarita and Claire Wright Lucas Foundation sponsored a "Resilience" workshop for Black Women Prosecutors, led by Dr. Myisha Rodrigues. With over 200 participants, the workshop aimed to empower and inform Black women prosecutors about strategies for maintaining resilience in the face of their careers' demanding nature.

This workshop and the Black Women Prosecutors Project mark the beginning of what we hope will be an impactful and valuable resource for Black Women Prosecutors.

Sponsored by the Sarita and Claire Wright Lucas Foundation

more like sarita means:

Providing free programs for Black women prosecutors to come together and learn from one another.

[HTTPS://SARITAANDCLAIREFOUNDATION.ORG/THE-BLACK-WOMEN-PROSECUTOR-PROJECT/](https://saritaandclairefoundation.org/the-black-women-prosecutor-project/)

WANT RESOURCES TO HELP YOU MASTER YOUR MONEY?

Register for our Black Women Prosecutor's project workshops and seminars today at the link in our bio.



The Growth of our Organization

Our donors are the key to our foundation's strength and growth. Together, we are empowering a new generation of Black women prosecutors.



Our Donors

2023, individual donors supported us by contributing \$43,200.

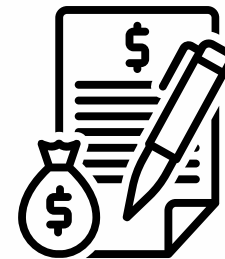
Grants

In 2023 we received grants totaling \$12,500. Eastern Bank \$2,500 and Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation \$10,000.



Scholarships and Fellowships

With the \$55,700 in individual and grant donations collected in 2023, we awarded \$54,000 in scholarships and fellowships in 2024.



New Funders

August 2024: The MacArthur Foundation has pledged a \$50,000 grant for the SCWLF's general operating costs for fiscal years 2025 through 2026.

ANNOUNCING:

The Delaware Department of Justice Sarita and Claire Wright Lucas Foundation Clerkship



Deputy Attorney General Sarita Wright Lucas joined the Delaware Department of Justice in 2008 where she worked tirelessly as a prosecutor for the citizens of Delaware, standing on the principle, "do the right thing." She quickly rose through the ranks to become one of the youngest attorneys, and the first African American attorney, to lead a criminal unit in the DOJ. She supervised colleagues and continued to prosecute homicides, robberies and assaults, taking more felony cases to trial in 2013 than any other prosecutor. Outside of the office, she was highly regarded and respected by law enforcement, judges and her colleagues.

Sadly, in 2014 Sarita and her unborn child tragically passed away in her home. But her work ethic, skill and passion for the law remain a legacy imprinted on this office. To that end, we strive to attract and recruit law clerks which embody the same passion and work ethic as Sarita.

LAUNCHING:

The SCWLF Mentorship Program in Partnership with the National Black Prosecutors Foundation

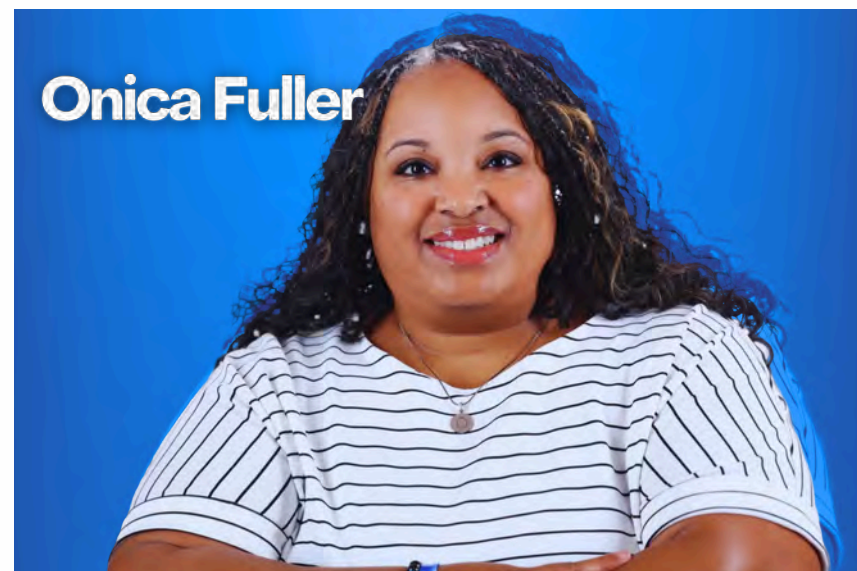
Launching fall 2024, this program aims to provide mentorship to emerging Black women prosecutors. Meet our incredible Leadership Team.



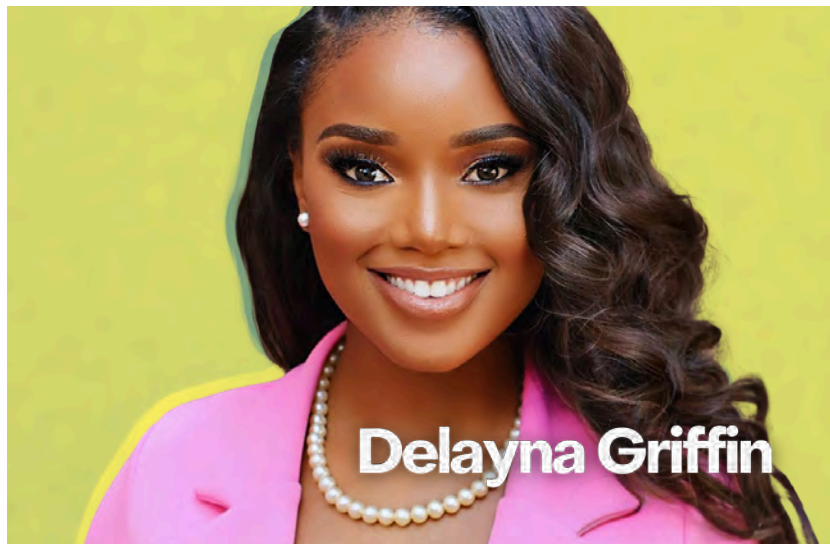


Shareema Gadson-Shaw, Deputy Chief of the Litigation Training Bureau at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, has over 18 years of experience as a legal educator with NITA, training professionals globally in trial advocacy. She has taught at institutions like Hofstra and CUNY, and previously served as Special Counsel to the MTA Inspector General and for Ethics, Risk & Compliance in New York State. A former Bronx Assistant District Attorney, she holds a J.D. from Hofstra University and a B.A. from SUNY Binghamton.

Onica Fuller is an Assistant District Attorney in Guilford County, North Carolina, with over 22 years of experience in criminal law. She prosecutes serious felony cases, including murders and sexual assaults, and is actively involved in community initiatives like the Sexual Assault Response Team and child protection efforts. Onica mentors young prosecutors and teaches at Elon University's School of Law. She holds a J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law and is a member of the National Black Prosecutor's Association. Outside of work, she enjoys football, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.



Deborah Watson-Stokes, a Detroit native and long-time Philadelphia resident, is a Senior Advisor at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office with over 30 years of service, including 18 years in the Homicide Unit. She is also the mother of SCWLF awardees Brittany and Aliyah Stokes. A Michigan State University and Catholic University of America Law School graduate, she has earned numerous awards for her dedication to justice, including the NBPA Norman Early Award and the WLD Amber Racine Legacy Award. Deborah is a respected mentor and trainer in homicide prosecution and trial advocacy, known for her skill, compassion, and leadership in handling violent crimes.



Delayna Griffin is a prosecutor with nearly eight years of experience in the Crimes Against Children Unit, successfully trying cases such as murder, aggravated assault, and DWI. A Thurgood Marshall School of Law graduate, she mentors aspiring legal professionals and actively educates the community on the prosecution process and the importance of diversity in the legal system. As a member of her local Black Prosecutors Association chapter, Delayna is dedicated to empowering the next generation of legal talent and making a positive impact in her community.



Abolore Oshodi is a Deputy Attorney General within the Community Engagement Unit at the Delaware Department of Justice, and a 2015 SCWLF awardee. She has been with the department since graduating from Howard University School of Law in 2016, and has served in multiple units. She is passionate about bridging the gap between the system and the community, and protecting and uplifting our youth.

Bruce Marshack, a graduate of Middlebury College and Howard University Law School, has had a diverse legal career spanning civil rights activism, corporate law, and public service. His early work included civil rights campaigns with CORE and assisting during the 1963 March on Washington. He served as an attorney for the SEC, an Assistant U.S. Attorney in D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Deputy Attorney General for the Virgin Islands. Bruce is also a Harvard-trained mediator and arbitrator, providing legal counsel, mediation, and arbitration services in the Virgin Islands, Oregon, and Washington.



Friends

Sherry Mansfield

Karen Green

Naomi Fink

Brenda Geer

Phyllis Geer

Brenda Sanchez

Clayton Smith

Leslie Harris

Abolore Oshodi

Corinne Mitchell

Justine Morgan

Claretta Oshodi

\$101 - \$249

Donald Scott

Sarah Gordon

Anita & Peter Handy

Geraldine Hines

James Rogers

Erin Hadley

Kathleen Jennings

Kirby Mack

Cristen Moore

Patrick Van Gorder

Diane Juliar

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Erin Gregg

Robert and Martha

McCahill Cowden

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Elizabeth & Robert Smith

John & Donna Downs

Madeleine Pannell &

Brendan Morrison

**(Pannell Family Charitable
Fund)**

\$2,500 - \$2,551.26

Eastern Bank

Murray-Maloney

Family Fund

Gregory Strong

\$5,000+

**Walter & Wanda
Geer**

Joanne Hilferty

**Thank You
2023
Donors**



Thank You Funders

John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation

