ACBA to Honor New Voices Pittsburgh, Attorney Morgan Moody at Black History Month Celebration

Annual Event Slated for Feb. 28 at Olive or Twist in Downtown Pittsburgh

WHAT: Allegheny County Bar Association Homer S. Brown Division’s 14th Annual Black History Month Celebration.

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

WHERE: Olive or Twist, 140 6th Street, Second Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DETAILS: Each February for the past 14 years, members of the Allegheny County Bar Association have gathered to celebrate Black History Month. The event – which is organized by the ACBA Homer S. Brown Division – will include live music, cocktails, light hors d’oeuvres and the presentation of the 2018 HSBD Spirit Award to New Voices Pittsburgh and the 2018 HSBD Young Leader Award to attorney Morgan Moody.

“Black History Month is an important celebration in the community overall and especially in the legal community where so many attorneys are fighting for equal rights and social justice for all, African Americans included,” said Ron Jones, chair of the ACBA Homer S. Brown Division. “We are excited to present these awards to New Voices Pittsburgh and to Morgan Moody. With the work they’ve done in the community, each is more than deserving of this recognition.”

HSBD SPIRIT AWARD: The Spirit Award is presented annually to an individual or organization who has exhibited leadership and a commitment to the promotion of equality and the advancement of justice in the African-American community. The 2018 recipient is New Voices Pittsburgh, a grassroots human rights organization dedicated to the health and wellbeing of African American women and girls in Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

“It is our honor to receive the Spirit Award,” said La’Tasha D. Mayes, founder and executive director of New Voices. “This award is a reflection of New Voices’ commitment to reproductive justice and to the promotion of the complete health and wellbeing of black women and girls in Pittsburgh, and across Pennsylvania and in Ohio. We continue to honor the legacy of those we serve and our ancestors through our work to protect our right to control our bodies, sexuality, gender, work, reproduction and ability to form our families.”

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HSBD YOUNG LEADER AWARD: The Young Leader Award is presented each year to an attorney under the age of 40 who is a member of the Homer S. Brown Division and has exhibited leadership qualities and a commitment to the promotion of equality and the advancement of justice within the African-American community.

The 2018 recipient is attorney Morgan Moody, a staff attorney at KidsVoice, an organization that represents children involved in the child-welfare system in Allegheny County's Juvenile Court. She previously was a staff attorney at the Neighborhood Legal Services Association, a civil legal aid organization that helps low income individuals in the Pittsburgh region.

“In addition to her work helping disadvantaged children in her position at KidsVoice, Morgan is always volunteering to help with any Homer S. Brown Division program or project,” said attorney Tyra Oliver, who nominated Moody for the award. “She is enthusiastic in her support for the division, and she is active in other areas of the bar association as well. Morgan became active in the ACBA while she was still in law school, and now she works to give back to current law students and the community at large.”

Moody said she is humbled to receive the honor.

“I was extremely surprised to hear I was winning this award. I was speechless to a degree,” said Moody. “When I look at the past recipients, to be nominated and be included with people of that class, I am certainly humbled by it. It's also a ‘call to arms’ for me, to continue doing what I've been doing in Homer S. Brown, taking on more leadership opportunities, and maybe one day I will feel like I deserve to be recognized with this award.”

ADDITIONAL INFO: For more information, visit www.ACBA.org.

MEDIA INFO: The event includes numerous photo and interview opportunities. Please make arrangements in advance by contacting Brian Estadt, the ACBA’s director of communications and publications, at 412-402-6682 or bestadt@acba.org.

About the ACBA
Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with approximately 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators and paralegals.