

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

# *Achievers Dinner*



COURAGE, COMMITMENT, COMMUNITY RECOGNIZING A QUARTER CENTURY  
OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EXCELLENCE

MARCH 15, 2025

THE GRAND EVENT CENTER



## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES (NOBLE)

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) is a membership group of primarily black law enforcement CEOs and command level officials in local, state, county, and federal government. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, it has 57 chapters in the United States, one in St. Kitts & Nevis and one in the United Kingdom.

**Our Mission:** To ensure EQUITY THROUGHOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE in the provision of public service to all communities, and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to JUSTICE BY ACTION.

**Vision Statement:** The goal of NOBLE is to be recognized as a highly competent, public service organization that is at the forefront of providing solutions to law enforcement issues and concerns, as well as to the ever-changing needs of our communities.

**Our Organization:** NOBLE represents over 3,000 members worldwide that include chief executive officers and command-level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, municipal law enforcement agencies, and criminal justice practitioners. NOBLE serves more than 60,000 youth through its major program components, which include: Mentoring, Education, Leadership Development, and Safety.

Having adopted the motto "Justice by Action", NOBLE has utilized the media, the judicial process, direct correspondence and testimony before national, international, and local legislative bodies to express its opinions and concerns. Among the issues the organization has spoken out on have been:

- Use of /Excessive and Unnecessary Force and the use of Deadly Force.
- Strong stands on Affirmative Action as related to minority hiring and promotion.
- Strong and vigorous positions at all levels, local, county, state and national, in opposition to the manufacturing and sale of Armor-Piercing Bullets and on behalf of the urgent need for appropriate Gun Control Legislation.
- In the forefront of designing and providing consultation and staff support for Victim Assistance Programs in major cities around the country.
- Interaction with youth in the community.
- Strong focus on Urban Violence.
- Driving while Black and Brown.
- Racial Profiling - Racial Justice
- The Law & Your Community by NOBLE
- CEO Mentoring Program
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Violent Crime in America – A Call to Action
- 21st Century Policing

NOBLE has participated in the development of public policy, has collaborated in the structuring of strategies and standards for the accreditation of law enforcement organizations; has been in the forefront of the development and implementation of fundamental policies and procedures which enhances the response to the needs of communities from law enforcement agencies.

NOBLE has served on several Presidential, Congressional, State, County, Private Entities and Educational Institutions Task Force and Commissions. Today, we continue to serve as part of these honorable forums.



# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

*National President*  
**JEFFREY D. GLOVER**  
Colonel  
Arizona Department of Public Safety

DWAYNE CRAWFORD  
Executive Director

March 15, 2025

*National First Vice President*  
**RENEE HALL**  
Chief of Police (Retired)  
Dallas Police Department

*National Second Vice President*  
**MITCHELL R. DAVIS, III**  
Chief of Police  
Hazel Crest Police Department

*Immediate Past President*  
**RODNEY BRYANT**  
Chief of Police (Retired)  
Atlanta Police Department

*Treasurer*  
**ESTELLA J. THOMAS**  
Supervisor (Retired)  
Transportation Security Administration

*Recording Secretary*  
**JUDITH R. HARRISON**  
Assistant Chief of Police  
New York Police Department

*Financial Secretary*  
**TINA P. LAGUNA**  
Assistant Chief of Police  
City of Alexandria Police Department

*Sergeant-at-Arms*  
**JAMES JEFFERSON, III**  
Lieutenant  
Louisiana State Police

*Parliamentarian*  
**BOOKER HODGES, PhD**  
Chief of Police  
Bloomington Police Department

*Associate Members Representative*  
**MICHELLE TEGE**  
Detective 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Retired)  
New York City Police Department

*Region One Vice President*  
**QUOVELLA MAEWEATHER**  
Public Safety Director/OEM Coordinator  
Franklin Police Department

*Region Two Vice President*  
**EASTON MCDONALD**  
Assistant Chief of Police  
City of Alexandria Police Department

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**ROBERT FORD**  
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Georgia Bureau of Investigations

*Region Four Vice President*  
**TIFFANY INSKEEP, PhD**  
Director of Safety & Security  
Columbus Metropolitan Library

*Region Five Vice President*  
**E. JACOB RIEUX, PhD**  
Special Agent/ASSA  
LADPS&C Division of Probation and Parole

*Region Six Vice President*  
**ANISA MCNACK**  
Lieutenant (Retired)  
Bart Police Department

*Federal Assistant to the National President*  
**WILLIAM "BILL" BORDEN**  
Assistant Inspector General for  
Investigation (Retired)  
Defense Intelligence Agency

*Special Assistant to the National President*  
**ANDRE ANDERSON**  
Chief of Police  
Ann Arbor Police Department

*Special Assistant to the National President*  
**YOGANANDA PITTMAN**  
Chief of Police  
University of California, Berkeley  
Police Department

*Special Assistant to the President for  
International Affairs*  
**TREBOR RANDLE**  
Special Agent in Charge (Retired)  
Georgia Bureau of Investigations

*National Chaplain*  
**JOHN HEATH**  
Assistant Chief of Police (Retired)  
Juvenile Detention and Probation-Dallas County

*General Counsel to the National President*  
**SEAN SMOOT**  
Chairman  
Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Bd.

Ms. Chris Waters  
President  
Southern California Chapter  
National Organization Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Dear President Waters:

Greetings from the National Organization Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)!

On behalf of our Executive Board, local chapters, and members, we applaud and congratulate the great Southern California Chapter for supporting and delivering the mission of NOBLE. Through your leadership, the chapter has demonstrated its commitment to ensure equity in the administration of justice and to help ensure that all citizens are equally protected under the law.

We acknowledge and celebrate the Southern California Chapter's 25th Annual Achievement Awards Dinner. Your annual event reflects the chapter's unwavering support to the community and to its constituents.

We join the Southern California Chapter and your fellow members across this nation in celebrating over 49 years of "Justice by Action"!

Sincerely,

Dwayne A. Crawford  
Executive Director

Jeffrey D. Glover  
National President

NOBLE WORLD HEADQUARTERS

5285 SHAWNEE ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312 (703) 658-1529 FAX: (703) 658-9479, [www.noblenational.org](http://www.noblenational.org)



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

March 15, 2025

Dear Friends,

With great pleasure, I extend my warmest congratulations to the **Southern California Chapter of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)** on hosting its **25th Annual Achievers Awards Dinner**, with the theme of *Courage, Commitment, Community: Recognizing A Quarter Century of Law Enforcement Excellence*, at the Grand Long Beach Event Center, celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of African Americans working in federal, state, and local law enforcement.

Founded in 1976, NOBLE aims to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to “justice by action.” NOBLE consists of community leaders united in the mission of promoting justice, equity, and excellence in the administration of justice. I commend NOBLE for its enduring commitment to building trust and respect between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

I would like to congratulate this year’s distinguished honorees:

**Winds Beneath My Wings Award Recipient**

- ❖ Zedar E. Broadus, Community Activist

**Law Enforcement Achievers Recipients**

- ❖ Chief Laurretta F. Hill,  
University Department of Public Safety
- ❖ Chief Joseph “Joe” Paulino,  
San Bernardino City Unified School  
District Police Department

You have my best wishes on a memorable event!

Sincerely,





# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 5, 2025

National Organization Black  
Law Enforcement Executives  
Southern California Chapter  
Post Office Box 4281  
Culver City, California 90231

Dear Friends:

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ACHIEVER'S AWARDS DINNER

On behalf of the men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I am honored to extend my congratulations and welcome all to the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Achiever's Awards Dinner sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of National Organization Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). This year's theme is *"Courage, Commitment, Community Recognizing a Quarter Century of Law Enforcement Excellence"*, and I am pleased to add my best wishes as you recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of local, state, and federal law enforcement personnel. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the recipients of the college scholarship awards, and wish you well as you embark on investing in your future.

Los Angeles County has one of the largest populations in the United States and public safety is of the utmost importance. It is always rewarding when members of the law enforcement community are recognized for their outstanding efforts. It is an honor for me to join with your organization and congratulate this year's award recipients for their noteworthy achievements.

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

*A Tradition of Service*  
— Since 1850 —

*Law Enforcement Achievers Recipients*

*Lauretta F. Hill, Chief of Police*

University of Southern California Department of Public Safety

*Joseph Paulino, Chief of Police*

San Bernardino City Unified School District Police Department

*Wind Beneath My Wings Recipient*

*Zader E. Broadous*

Community Activist

*Keynote Speaker*

*Yogananda D. Pittman, Retired Chief of Police*

United States Capitol Police

We wish you much success with your event and may your organization continue its efforts in recognizing the contributions of members of the law enforcement community who serve the Southern California area.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA  
SHERIFF

# LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

## BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

DR. ERROLL G. SOUTHERS  
PRESIDENT

RASHA GERGES SHIELDS  
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MARIA LOU CALANCHE  
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MARIA SILVA  
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT II



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

DJANGO SIBLEY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FLORENCE YU  
ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
POLICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
100 WEST FIRST STREET, SUITE 134  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4112

(213) 236-1400 PHONE  
(213) 236-1410 FAX  
(213) 236-1440 TDD

March 15, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of the Southern California Chapter—National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Achievers Award Dinner. This year's theme, "*Courage, Commitment, Community Recognizing A Quarter Century of Law Enforcement Excellence*," reminds all of us of the trailblazing, contributions, and numerous sacrifices made by African-Americans in law enforcement. My fellow Police Commissioners and I are continuously reminded of the many positive impacts you make through your participation both as members of your law enforcement agencies and as members of your communities.

As we move forward, we must work collectively for equity in the administration of justice and to continue to advance opportunities for all in the law enforcement field. It is important that we continue to invest in our communities and each other. Together we can affect the continued growth that we wish to see in our communities.

We thank you for the brave, unselfish commitments you make towards your profession, your agencies, and your communities.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "E. G. Southern".

DR. ERROLL G. SOUTHERS, President  
Board of Police Commissioners

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**JIM McDONNELL**  
Chief of Police



**KAREN BASS**  
Mayor

P.O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
Telephone: (213) 486-0150  
TTY: (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 1.1

March 15, 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), I am pleased to welcome you to the 25th Annual Achievers Awards Dinner of the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Today, NOBLE recognizes a quarter century of law enforcement excellence. It is an honor to stand alongside them as they advance their mission to promote fairness in the administration of justice and dedicate themselves to serving all communities.

I proudly extend my heartfelt congratulations to the recipient of the *Homer L. Garrott Community Service Award* and to all those being honored with awards for their exceptional contributions to law enforcement. Your dedication and effort to better our communities truly deserve recognition, and I applaud you for it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim McDonnell".

**JIM McDONNELL**  
Chief of Police





March 15, 2025

National Organization Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)  
Southern California Chapter  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Achiever's Award Dinner

Dear NOBLE 25th Annual Achiever's Award Dinner Attendees:

On behalf of the men and women of the Long Beach Police Department, it is my great honor to welcome you back to Long Beach, and to once again have this event hosted in our beautiful city.

The Long Beach Police Department employs 1,200 sworn and professional staff to serve approximately 450,000 residents and millions of visitors each year. Our core values are service, respect, compassion, integrity, and accountability. We provide 24/7 response to emergencies and calls for service, investigate crimes in our community, and provide contract services to the Port of Long Beach, Long Beach Airport, Long Beach Transit, and Long Beach City College.

The Department and our personnel are dedicated to professional, proactive, and innovative policing. We are committed to building and maintaining positive relationships with the diverse community we serve.

We value our partnership with NOBLE and wish you all the best in your visit and stay in Long Beach!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Hebeish', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wally Hebeish  
Chief of Police



*Social Hour*

*6:00 PM*

*Doors Open*

*6:40 PM*

*Dinner & Program*

*7:00 PM*

*Welcome*

*Chris Waters*

*President Southern California Chapter National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (SCCNOBLE)*

*Presentation of Colors*

*National Anthem  
and*

*Negro National Anthem  
(Lift Every Voice and Sing)*

*Police Administrator Betty Collins  
Los Angeles Police Department*

*Blessing  
Chaplin, Leon Hines  
Sergeant California Highway Patrol  
Senior Pastor of Vessels of Honor Ministries.*

*Swearing in of Board Officers  
Term 2025 – 2027*

*Pamela J Dansby, Officiant  
Superior Court Judge*

*Chris Waters – President*

*Felicia Ferrell – Secretary*

*Stan Henderson – Sergeant At Arms*

*Janet Williams Scholarship Recipient*

*Board Room Scholars  
(LAWA Assistant Chief  
Latasha Wells - Amerson)*

*N.E.W. (Natalie Elizabeth Williams) Scholarship  
Foundation  
(Retired LAPD Captain Bill Williams)*

*Albert and Roberta Reddick Scholarship*

*Young Black Scholars,  
100 Hundred Black Men of  
Los Angeles*

*Kappa Alpha Psi Kappa League Program*

*Bessie Morris Foundation*

*Homer L. Garrett Community Service Award Finalists*

*Hawthorne PD - K9 Specialist  
Lameka Bell.*

*CHP Baldwin Park  
Officer Corey McCoy*

*Pasadena PD  
Community Service Officer  
Hilda Jurado*

*76  
Keynote Speaker  
Chief Yogananda Pittman*

*Wind Beneath My Wings Recipient  
Zedar Broadous  
Executive Minister for the Adonai Covenant International Ministries*

*Law Enforcement Achievers*

*Assistant Vice-President and Chief of Public Safety  
University of Southern California.  
Chief Lauretta Hill*

*Chief of Police  
San Bernardino City Unified School District Police Department  
Chief Joseph G. Paulino*

*Closing  
Chris Waters*

*Benediction  
Chaplin, Leon Hines*





# YOUNG BLACK SCHOLARS

The Young Black Scholars (YBS) program emerged in response to the 1983 California Post Secondary Education Commission study, which revealed a concerning gap in college readiness among African American high school graduates in Los Angeles. Launched in 1986, YBS targeted promising 9th graders, offering academic workshops, enrichment activities, and support services to enhance their college preparation. This initiative led to more than 70% of its participants meeting or exceeding national college admission standards by their high school graduation. Operated by the 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, Inc., YBS has since become a cornerstone college preparatory program, aiding over 21,000 students in navigating the complexities of college admissions. Annually, the program engages over 1,000 students from more than 170 high schools across Los Angeles in over 30 workshops, seminars, and conferences, alongside providing essential one-on-one activities for scholars and their parents.

YBS's impact transcends its impressive statistics, fostering a generation of motivated and intelligent leaders who contribute positively to their communities and society at large. The program not only elevates individuals and families but also strengthens the social fabric, inspiring future generations through the success stories of its participants. As YBS scholars advance to college and evolve into responsible citizens, they inspire a virtuous cycle of motivation, achievement, and communal upliftment.





# NATALIE WILLIAMS N.E.W.

The Natalie E. Williams (NEW) Scholarship Foundation was established in 2019 to honor Natalie E. Williams, a cherished Cerritos, California resident renowned for her faith, familial devotion, compassion, and remarkable talent in basketball. Natalie's athletic journey included playing for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams—Long Beach Lady Warriors, Olympic Girls Development League (OGDL), and California Storm—during her middle and high school years, and contributing significantly to the varsity teams of Artesia High School and Saint Anthony High School.

An outstanding student, Natalie's academic and athletic excellence secured her a full basketball scholarship at Cal State University Fullerton, where she became one of the top shot blockers in the history of the university's women's basketball program. Graduating in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, she worked at the Challengers' Boys & Girls Club, interned with the John Wooden Award Committee, and in the Cal State Fullerton athletic department. Natalie pursued post-graduate studies at the University of San Francisco but tragically passed away in 2018 due to surgical complications.

To perpetuate Natalie's legacy of kindness and support, the N.E.W. Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, assists female students from Cal State Fullerton, University of San Francisco, and other institutions in their undergraduate and postgraduate pursuits, embodying Natalie's spirit of generosity and community upliftment.



# THE BOARDROOM LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Latasha Wells Amerson Leadership Institute is a 501 3 (c) (3) non-profit organization. The organization was founded in 2012 by Latasha Wells Amerson, Esq. The Boardroom Leadership Academy is the flagship grassroots initiative aimed at making a difference in the community through training, exposure, and dedication to the youth. It is designed to cultivate teens, and young adults into world-class leaders. The program's all-encompassing outreach redefines the journey to success through multi- disciplined guidance and character building. Members of The Boardroom Leadership Academy assimilate into board assignments such as the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. This Junior Board of Directors performs the same professional tasks and responsibilities of corporate board members worldwide using Roberts Rules of Order. Each year of scholar participation is highlighted by the Annual Boardroom Leadership Youth Conference where the theme and the fun are life changing experiences. From Diversity and Inclusion while cruising abroad, or the simple pleasures of nature and teamwork in the mountains, gaining the University experience at UCLA, or our personal favorite Camping with Cops; the annual conference is an unforgettable experience that stretches the scholar beyond his or her personal point of reference and expands the mind on the endless possibilities of who they can be and what they can become. Eighty percent of our scholars attend college. We are proud to have scholars and graduates of UCLA, Grambling State, Southern University, Arizona State University, California State University Northridge, Whittier College, and Los Angeles Trade Technical College.





# KAPPA LEAGUE

Kappa League is a subset of the Guide Right, our National Service Initiative. Under the chairmanship of Mel Davis, the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter's Social Action Program took the form of training activity for young men of the Alain Leroy Locke High School. Called the Kappa Instructional Leadership League, it was designed to help young men grow, receive, and develop their leadership talents in every phase of human endeavor. It provided both challenging and rewarding experiences, which richly enhanced their lives. Membership was open to male students from the tenth through the twelfth grades. The fraternity sought to help these young men to achieve worthy goals for themselves and make constructive contributions to their community when leadership roles become the responsibility. Kappa League was founded on Thursday, February 12, 1969, by the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi® Fraternity, Inc., at Alain LeRoy Locke High School. Kappa League was adopted by the Grand Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi® Fraternity, Inc. at the 56th Grand Chapter which was held August 12-15, 1970. The founders of the Kappa Instructional Leadership League were Mel L. Davis and Edgar H. Bishop, an Elder Watson Diggs Awardee. Kappa League is a program for the educational, occupational and social guidance of male students in grades 6th-12th



# BESSIE MORRIS FOUNDATION

Named in honor of her grandmother, the Bessie Morris Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2005 by Ivory Freeman, a Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officer. The organization is dedicated to inspiring young women to realize their dreams by emphasizing the importance of academic performance, self-esteem, and self-sufficiency. The non-profit provides leadership development, mentoring, personal development, and character-building programs to underprivileged, at-risk girls. The foundation offers four key programs that target Los Angeles County students:

- Prom Dreams Scholarships provide financial assistance to low-income high school girls for attending their high school proms, including the purchase of prom dresses, shoes, accessories, hairstyling, manicures, and pedicures.
- The Leadership Academy is an after-school program for middle school girls that runs for eight weeks, focused on self-esteem, college preparation, financial planning, and wellness. The goal is to empower the young ladies to value themselves and realize they can attain greatness.
- Book Fairs were created to engage Los Angeles Unified School District elementary students in the joys of reading. The aim is to inspire them to reach their potential through storytelling.
- The Academic Scholarship Program was launched by the generous donation of the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. We are honored to partner with SOC NOBLE to identify scholarship candidates who are both worthy and in financial need of assistance while pursuing higher education.

# HOMER GARROTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



The Homer L. Garrett Community Service Award is presented to employees—sworn non-management or professional staff—who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary service and dedication, both on and off duty. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for others is demonstrated through long-term involvement in community service.

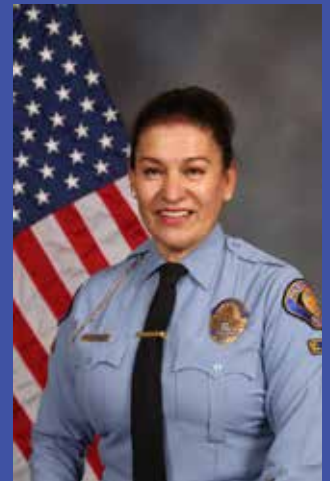
Many of our employees actively participate in or orchestrate events to enhance the value and quality of life in the communities they live or serve. However, we currently lack adequate occasions to publicly recognize their dedicated service. The Southern California chapter, based on recommendations from several department executives, has taken this opportunity to identify three outstanding community-oriented employees.



COREY MCCOY  
OFFICER



LAMEKA BELL  
OFFICER



HILDA JURADO  
OFFICER





# Keynote Speaker

## Dr. Yogananda Pittman

Chief Pittman previously served as the assistant chief of the United States Capitol Police (USCP), where she had served for more than two decades. Over her career, she has been recognized with ever-increasing responsibility and assignments.

includes providing for United States dignitaries, super-officers, leading President Obama's inauguration, and chief for protective operations. She of USCP in the aftermath of the Capitol on

Throughout her career, Chief Pittman has demonstrated her abilities in the areas of innovation and change management; partnership and collaboration with the community; demonstration of the values of inclusion, belonging, and justice, and she has developed subject matter expertise in modern policing principles. The combination of Chief Pittman's experiences, values, and skills meet the vision for crucial safety roles. Her experience at the U.S. Capitol service the tens of thousands of daily users that share many safety challenges.



Her experience in providing protective details for senators and visiting dignitaries, including serving as assistant chief for protective and intelligence operations during the inauguration of President Obama, and her role as interim chief of the USCP in the aftermath of the events of Jan. 6, 2021.

Throughout her career, Chief Pittman has demonstrated her abilities in the areas of innovation and change management; partnership and collaboration with the community; demonstration of the values of inclusion, belonging, and justice, and she has developed subject matter expertise in modern policing principles. The combination of Chief Pittman's experiences, values, and skills meet the vision for crucial safety roles. Her experience at the U.S. Capitol service the tens of thousands of daily users that share many safety challenges.

While this is Yogananda's first assignment in higher education, she is a lifelong scholar who is excited to become part of Berkeley's community of learning. She is a graduate of Morgan State University in Maryland, obtained her master's degree in public administration from Marist College in New York, and received her Ph.D. in public administration from West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, a member of Women in Federal Law Enforcement and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

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Los Angeles' First  
Black Deputy District Attorney  
**Leon L. Whitaker**  
By John Thomas



Born on August 14, 1904, in Rome, Georgia, Leon Leroy Whitaker made history on March 15, 1930, when he was appointed the first Black Deputy District Attorney in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office at just 26 years old.

As part of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century Great Black Migration from the South, an infant Leon Whitaker and his family moved to Los Angeles from rural Georgia. He was educated in the Los Angeles public schools and graduated with honors from Los Angeles High School. He would graduate with an undergraduate degree from the Southern Branch of the University of California (UCLA) before continuing his graduate education at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 1925. He graduated with honors from all three.

An October 5, 1928, story from the California Eagle, the Black Los Angeles newspaper from that period, praised Whitaker, "We at the Eagle have long had a special interest in this talented young man. We observed him become impatient with his high school studies and enlist in the United States Navy during World War I when he was only 14. We then saw him return and plunge into his high school studies, graduating with honors from Los Angeles High School." Like many American teenage youths did during both

WWI and WWII, he lied about his age to enlist and serve during the "Great War".

As an undergrad, he was a gifted student/athlete excelling in basketball, baseball, track and field, and boxing. He was a member of the UCLA Boxing Team from 1923-1925 and was the Pacific Coast Conference Welterweight Champion of 1924 and 1925.

He was also one of the 13 Charter Initiates of the Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on April 25, 1923. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Delta Sigma Theta

sorority (also chartered in 1923) were the first Black Greek Lettered organizations established at UCLA.

As a law student, Whitaker was the First Black member of the Editorial Staff of the California Law Review and the Board of Governors of the Boalt Hall Law Association. Whitaker graduated from Law School in May, 1928 and was the only one of the eight blacks from throughout the state taking the exam to pass the California Bar Exam later that year.

Upon graduating from Law School, Whitaker married a UCLA classmate, Hazel Gottschalk. Their partnership was a testament to their shared commitment to education and equality. Hazel would also earn a Master's degree from USC and advanced teaching certificates from

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*"A Great Spirit Whose  
One Ambition Was to be of  
Service to Mankind"*

Columbia University, becoming one of the First Black women to teach at the secondary level in Los Angeles. She also taught the Los Angeles Unified School District's first class in "Negro History" at Jefferson High School.

After spending about a year and a half in private practice representing Black Angelenos and essentially making a name for himself by successfully handling criminal cases and working with the Los Angeles Chapter of the NAACP fighting against racial housing covenants restricting where Blacks could purchase homes in the city, in 1930, 26-year-old Leon Whitaker took the Civil Service Exam for Deputy District Attorney (DDA) and ranked #9 overall on the qualifying list.

On March 7, 1930, Los Angeles County District Attorney Buron Fitts announced that Whitaker would be appointed to fill one of the Office's vacant DDA positions. This marked the first time in the then 80-year history of the Office that a Black person had achieved such a position. Upon announcing the appointment, Fitts made it clear that "Whitaker's duties are to be confined to cases only involving persons of his own race." He also acknowledged that Whitaker earned the appointment and was not granted it for "political expediency but merit established by

the competitive examination".

Whitaker's historic appointment was applauded as he was well known and active in Los Angeles' growing Black community. In addition to his notoriety as a lawyer, he was also active in the Benjamin Bowie American Legion Post #228 (still located on Central Avenue), the chairman of the Community Better-

ment Committee, and on the Board of Directors for the L.A. Chapter of the NAACP serving on its Legal Defense Committee, the Black American League, and the Los Angeles

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*On March 7, 1930, Los Angeles County District Attorney Buron Fitts announced that Whitaker would be appointed to fill one of the Office's vacant DDA positions.*

Forum.

While the appointment was historic, it was not without challenges resulting from the prevalent racist attitudes. Newspaper reports highlighted the biased concerns of many of his white colleagues in the office, as well as those from local law enforcement agencies. In one interview, a very vocal LAPD detective expressed his sentiment clearly to the reporter by stating, "I won't work for no Damn Nigger!"

Less than six months after his appointment, Whitaker was assigned to handle the preliminary portion of a case that profoundly affected the Black community in Los Angeles. On the evening of Saturday, August 7, 1930, two LAPD Officers, John Powers and Luther Weyant, both



assigned to the relatively new 77th Street Station, were on patrol in an alley at 115th Street and Wilmington Avenue. They observed a group of Black male teens shooting dice. Upon seeing the officers, the teenagers ran from the location.

According to witness statements, Officer Powers grabbed 17-year-old Willie Teems, who managed to break free from his grip. In response, and without warning, Weyant fired three rounds from his service revolver. One round missed Teems, and the second one struck him in the leg, and the third shot fatally hit him in the head, killing him instantly.

While detectives were still on the scene of the shooting, Whitaker arrived, interviewed witnesses, and monitored the crime scene. Whitaker filed a first degree murder charge against Officer Weyant, and following arraignment on that charge, Weyant was ordered to be remanded to jail without bail. Less than a week later, Whitaker presented the prosecution's case at a preliminary hearing and defendant Weyant was ordered to stand trial for the murder of Willie Teems. After the preliminary hearing, the judge hearing the case in denying the defendant's motion to be released on bail stated that the "slaying of Teems" by Officer Weyant was "unnecessary" and that "the shooting of a person who attempts to flee from an arrest on a misdemeanor charge is unjustifiable."

On September 19, 1930, the trial began in Division 26 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, with Judge William T. Aggeler presiding over the proceedings. Deputy District Attorney John Oliver represented the People of the State of California for the prosecution. The jury consisted of seven men and five women,

all of whom were White. Although California removed racial restrictions on jury service in 1872, jury commissioners and court clerks frequently excluded Blacks through discretionary selection processes. Factors such as voter registration and property ownership were selectively used in ways that disproportionately excluded Black Angelinos, reflecting systemic racial discrimination.

On September 30, 1930, following the presentation of evidence, closing arguments by the attorneys, and instructions by Judge Aggeler, the case was submitted to the jury. After deliberating a little over nine hours, the jury returned a verdict acquitting Officer Weyant, buying the defense's argument that the killing was "accidental." Throughout the trial, local newspaper accounts generally reported that the defense's case was "weak" and the prosecution's "strong and conclusive; proven beyond a reasonable doubt."

Following his acquittal, Weyant was restored to full duty on the department on October 1, 1930, but was suspended by the Police Commission a month later with the commission declaring that his actions in "shooting a fugitive who had only committed a misdemeanor constituted conduct unbecoming of an officer". However, that decision was overturned by the Civil Service Commission, an action vehemently opposed by the Black Community and the Los Angeles Chapter of the NAACP. Weyant was restored to duty, received back pay and reassigned to LAPD's Wilshire Division.

Tragically, Leon Whitaker passed away on January 4, 1931 due to complications during emergency surgery for appendi-



citis. He was only 26 years old, and his potential as a legal expert and civic leader in Los Angeles was never fully realized.

Leon Whitaker's life was brief, but its impact was immeasurable. As Los Angeles County's first Black Deputy District Attorney, he shattered barriers through hard work, a brilliant legal mind, unwavering integrity, and a deep commitment to justice. In the face of systemic racial adversity, he carried on his shoulders the hopes of the city's Black community that had historically been denied representation in the halls of power. His pursuit of fairness was not just his chosen profession, it was his life's calling and a responsibility he bore with dignity and purpose. Though his legal career was tragically cut short, his legacy endures in the generations of dedicated Black Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorneys who would follow through the door he opened for them in 1930.

Inscribed on his headstone in Evergreen Cemetery where he is interned are these words, "A Great Spirit whose one Ambition was to Be of Service to Mankind." And, so he was. In service, in sacrifice, and in his unshakeable belief that the law could be a force for good for all people, including his own. Leon Whitaker's short life as a scholar, Navy Veteran, Lawyer and Civic leader stands as a beacon of possibility...a life dedicated to serving others, forever remembered in the annals of justice and, in Los Angeles' History.

### Final Note:

Following Whitaker's death, District Attorney Buron Fitts appointed attorney, Charles Matthews, to a Deputy District Attorney position in November 1931. Matthews would serve in that role from

1931 to 1945. In 1945, he became the first Black person appointed to serve on the Los Angeles Police Commission.



Los Angeles' First Black Deputy District Attorney



## 25th Anniversary Message: Celebrating a Legacy of Excellence and Service

For 25 years, the Southern California Chapter of NOBLE has proudly upheld a tradition of honoring exceptional law enforcement professionals and community leaders through the Achiever's Dinner. What began as a visionary idea from Albert and Roberta Reddick in the late 1980s has flourished into a momentous annual event—one that not only recognizes outstanding contributions to law enforcement but also empowers the next generation through educational scholarships.

From its inception as the Achiever's Luncheon in 1987 at the Proud Bird Restaurant to its transformation into a distinguished dinner event in 2001, this gathering has remained steadfast in its mission: to highlight excellence, uplift the community, and advance the values of leadership, service, and justice. With the addition of the "Wind Beneath My Wings" and "Homer L. Garrott" awards, we have deepened our commitment to recognizing those who support law enforcement and those who make a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

As we celebrate this milestone 25th anniversary as a dinner, we honor the legacy of those who have paved the way and the many individuals who continue to inspire and lead with integrity. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated members of NOBLE, our honorees, sponsors, and supporters who have contributed to the success of this event.

May this celebration serve as a reminder of our collective responsibility to champion justice, promote diversity in law enforcement, and invest in the future of our youth. Here's to 25 years of excellence—and to many more years of impact, inspiration, and progress.

Southern California Chapter of NOBLE  
25th Anniversary Achiever's Dinner



The underlying principle of this award is to recognize a non-law enforcement, individual, business, service, or institution behind the scenes sustaining law enforcement. The recipient cannot be a member of the justice system nor have a direct nexus to the justice system. Members of local, state or federal government are not eligible for this award. This person or organization has supported law enforcement time and again. They have bolstered our profession during our darkest and brightest days. Their patronage has occurred consistently throughout the years. Support can be in a combination of many forms: financial, moral, courageous, or emotional.

FINANCIAL: This person or business throughout the years has stepped forward and assisted law enforcement providing funding in achieving their visions and missions.

MORAL: The person or business has been ethical in their dealings with law enforcement. There has been no expectation of personal gain as a result of their collaboration. Partnerships with the justice system to improve the quality of life were their main objective.

COURAGEOUS: Out spoken, spirited and willing to be a buttress to law enforcement during good times as well as the bad times. The recipient continues to befriend law enforcement, acknowledging that no profession is without flaws.

EMOTIONAL: Has provided the intuitive support necessary for law enforcement and its members to achieve professional and personal goals. The person or entity had unvarying belief law enforcement were heroes before it was an accepted or popular concept.

The "Wind Beneath My Wings Award" is a long overdue acknowledgement to the men and women behind the scene who support the justice system without accolades.

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# ZEDAR BROADOUS

## WIND BENEATH MY WINGS

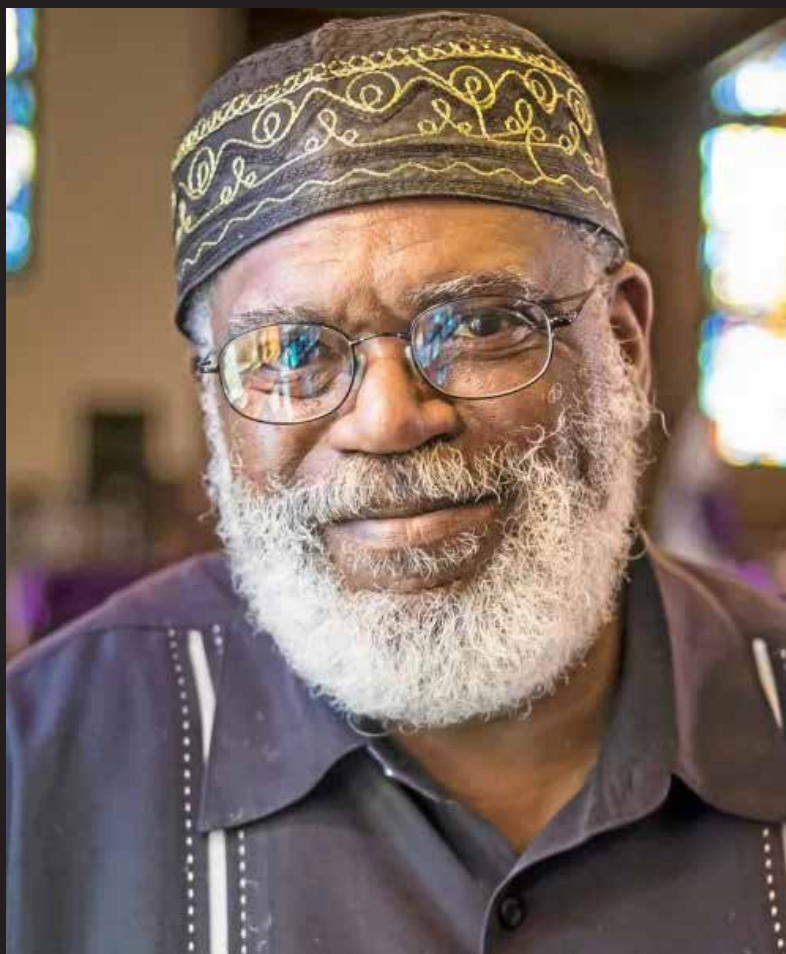
\*\*Reverend Zedar E. Broadous, USN, Retired, serves as Executive Minister of Adonai Covenant International Ministries, Inc. Affectionately called “Reverend Zedar,” he answered his call to the Gospel ministry in 1966 and was ordained into the Baptist ministry at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Pacoima in 1990.

Born in Burbank, California, he was raised by renowned civil rights activists Rev. Dr. Hillery T. Broadous and Mother Rosa L. Broadous. Their example instilled in him a strong commitment to spiritual, social, and civic work. After graduating from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School, he studied Political Science at California State College, Northridge (now CSUN). During his college years, he served as West Coast Secretary of Muhammad’s Temple No. 27 (Nation of Islam), managing its businesses.

He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1986 as Petty Officer Second Class, earning numerous honors, including two separate selections as Sailor of the Quarter. Upon returning to civilian life, he operated a successful printing and graphics arts business while earning his Bachelor’s degree at Golden Grain Bible College and Seminary.

In pursuit of economic empowerment, Rev. Zedar spurred the founding of a valley chapter of the National Black Chamber of Commerce (now the San Fernando Valley Black Chamber of Commerce) and formed The Chronicle Business Group, a business incubator for emerging entrepreneurs. He co-founded the Media Development Center with Time Warner Cable, creating training and employment pathways in media. He established the San Fernando Valley African American Leadership Forum, co-founded the San Fernando Valley Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Free Community Breakfast, and worked closely with the Youth Violence Prevention Network.

Appointed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Rev. Broadous served on the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission beginning in 1996, acting as President from 2002 to 2004. He also completed five terms as President of the San Fernando Valley NAACP. In 2014, he was elected Board Chairman of the World Cultural and Sports Foundation.



Throughout his ministry, Rev. Zedar has fostered strong community-police relations. He has participated in the Los Angeles Police Clergy and Community councils since 1992, receiving recognition from the Los Angeles Police Commission for his valuable counsel. In 2016, he organized a Law Enforcement Community Revival/Prayer Service, inviting local and federal officers to share testimonies and prayer with the public.

Rev. Zedar’s service also extends to emergency relief and community-building efforts. After the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, he ensured that vital resources reached the African American community in the San Fernando Valley. In 2019, he founded the San Fernando Valley Juneteenth Committee, joining his cousin Ms. Opal Lee in her annual campaign for a federal Juneteenth holiday—now recognized nationwide.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Adonai Covenant International Ministries, under his leadership, secured and distributed free PPE to more than 3,000 valley residents, while hosting “Healthy & Wise Community Gatherings” that provided accurate health information, vaccination pop-ups, and flu shots to over 8,000 community members.

Renowned for uniting diverse groups, Rev. Zedar continues to serve on numerous boards and committees locally and internationally. He is married to Constance Taylor Broadous, and together they share seven children, ten grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.



# LAURETTA HILL

## CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY USC

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Lauretta Hill's dedication to the law enforcement profession spans more than 30 years. She is an energetic, ethical, and accomplished executive leader. Lauretta is a team builder and transformational leader who continues to shape the policing culture. In December 2022, Lauretta was selected as Assistant Vice-President and Chief of Public Safety for the University of Southern California (USC). As the first female Chief in the 77-year history of the University of Southern California DPS, Lauretta leads an organization of over 300 public safety employees.

Before accepting the position with USC, Lauretta was appointed as the first Police Chief for Dallas College in August 2016 and the second African American female chief in the State of Texas.

She combined seven separate police departments into one functional police agency. She restructured the department, developed new policies, and hired new staff to align with District priorities. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her dedication to policing.

Her previous experience includes the Miami Beach Police Department, where she served as the Deputy Chief of Police. She reorganized the entire department to align with the department's vision, mission, and values. In addition, she reemphasized the value of community policing and introduced concepts of police legitimacy. Lauretta spent over 20 years with the Arlington Texas Police Department and retired as Assistant Chief of Police. During her tenure in Arlington, Lauretta was responsible for security operations and command of all special events, which included Super Bowl XLV (2011), the NBA All-Star Game (2010), the MLB World Series (2010 and 2011), and the NCAA Final Four Men's Basketball games (2014). Lauretta was the first and highest-ranking African American female in the department's history.

Lauretta has a master's degree from Texas Christian University and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. She graduated from the FBI National Academy and the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management School.

Lauretta has received numerous awards for her dedication to law enforcement. Outside of her career, she is guided by her faith and family. Married to Maurice Hill for 26 years, she is the proud mother of two sons, Jeremiah and Jonathan. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and attending sporting events.





**CHIEF JOSEPH G. PAULINO**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE SAN BERNARDINO CITY**  
**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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On July 1, 2010, Chief Joseph Paulino was sworn in as Chief of Police for the San Bernardino City Unified School District Police Department. On October 1, 1997, he was hired as a “lateral” police officer from the Los Angeles County Safety Police Department. He is a graduate of Rio Hondo Police Academy.

Prior to his law enforcement assignments, he served in the Army for 10 years; his last three years as a Sergeant in the 10th Mountain Division, 1-87 Infantry. Chief Paulino is currently in the process of working on his Doctoral Degree at Liberty University. He has earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. In June, 1998, he earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice at San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino, CA. His extensive law enforcement leadership training includes graduation from the prestigious FBI Na-

tional Academy, POST’s Role of the Chief Course and Executive Development Course. In addition, he has been awarded the POST Basic, Intermediate, Advance, Management and Executive Certificates.

During his tenure with the department, Chief Paulino has served as an Assistant Director, Lieutenant, Watch Commander, Patrol Sergeant and Patrol Officer. In 1999, he was selected by his peers and the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce as “Officer of the Year” and in 2013 received the National We Tip Award of “Chief of the Year”. He has also served as the Chair for the Safety Training Association Representing San Bernardino County (STARS). He is an active member of the following organizations: Kappa Alpha Psi, Thinkwise Credit Union Executive Board, NOBLE, San Bernardino Chaplains Board, FBI-NAA, FBILEEDA, WeTip National Executive Board, Inland Empire Lighthouse for the Blind, First Tee Inland Empire Board Member, American Legion-Post 14, Kiwanis and San Bernardino Countywide Gang and Drug Taskforce Executive Board. He and his wife, Elsie, reside in Colton and have three children - Jay, Joey and Zana.



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**Congratulations President Waters and the Southern California Chapter of NOBLE on your 25<sup>th</sup> Law Enforcement Achievers Awards Anniversary**

**-Jeff Schlanger, President and CEO**

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