



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEO Announces CLEO EDGE Award Honorees for Diversity Recipients Include Academia, Organizations, and Individuals

Largo, MD – September 12, 2018 – The Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO), widely renowned for its mission to increase the number of lawyers from diverse backgrounds, has announced the recipients of the inaugural CLEO EDGE Award in Diversity. Fifty (50) honorees have been chosen from more than 200 prominent nominees for their accomplishments.

CLEO created these recognition awards to promote its focus on the three pillars or characteristics which undergird the organization’s purpose and in recognition of its 50th anniversary. Those pillars are Education, Diversity, and Greater Equality.

“We are pleased with the response we have received from the legal academy, bar associations, law firms, and other organizations,” said Cassandra Sneed Ogden, Chief Executive Officer of CLEO. “Diversity and inclusion are important to CLEO, the legal profession, and our nation. We believe these 50 leaders appreciate and value diversity in all its forms.”

These honorees along with those who were selected as honorees in the categories of Education and Greater Equality will be showcased during CLEO’s Awards Gala on November 15, 2018, at the Ritz Carlton-Washington. Focused on the theme “The CLEO EDGE: 50 Years of Championing Education, Diversity, and Greater Equality,” the gala will also feature the inaugural CLEO EDGE Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Heritage Award. Mr. Jordan will personally receive

the award in recognition of his more than 50 years of service to the legal profession and the embodiment of all three categories.

For a complete list of the 2018 CLEO EDGE Award Honorees in Diversity, click here: <https://cleoinc.org/50/50-for-50/honorees/>

About the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc.

CLEO, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to diversifying the legal profession by expanding legal education opportunities for persons from traditionally under-represented racial and ethnic groups, low-income, and disadvantaged communities. Founded in 1968, when the number of lawyers of color was less than one percent, CLEO has produced more than 10,000 individuals who have excelled in every area of the legal profession and include judges, corporate attorneys, law school deans and professors, practitioners, politicians, and more. 2018 is CLEO's golden anniversary. More information about CLEO's 50th Anniversary, the Diversity nominees, or how to purchase gala tickets can be found at <https://cleoinc.org/50/>

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The CLEO EDGE



Championing **E**ducation, **D**iversity and **G**reater **E**quality
in the Legal Profession

CLEO EDGE Award *DIVERSITY* Honorees

LAW SCHOOLS

American University – Washington College of Law
University of the District of Columbia – David A. Clarke
School of Law
The University of Mississippi School of Law
University of Missouri School of Law – Columbia
Texas Southern University – Thurgood Marshall School of
Law
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

INDIVIDUALS

Mari Carmen Aponte
Dennis Archer
Ruthe Ashley
Jay Austin
Paulette Brown
Stephen J. Brown
Hon. Laura A. Cordero
John Crump
Hon. David Delgado
Wade Henderson
Tanya Holcomb
Shirley Jefferson
Lisa Parlato LeDonne
Kent Lollis
Michele Coleman Mayes
Roderick A. Palmore
Rachel Patrick
Hon. Hiram E. Puig-Lugo
Arin Reeves
Veta Richardson
Peter Shane
Tracy Simmons
Brad Smith
Michael States
Walter Sutton
Sondra Tennessee
Moises (Moe) Vela, Jr.
Benjamin F. Wilson
Frank Wu
Sandra Yamate

ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Court System Color of Justice
Annual Meeting of Law School Diversity Professionals
(AMLSDP)
Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), Alba Cruz-
Hacker
Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), Robert Grey
Legal Prep Charter Academy
Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA), Jean Lee
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
(NAPABA), Tina Matsuoka
National Bar Institute (NBI)
National Native American Bar Association (NNBA)
New York City Bar Diversity Committee
Pre-Law Advisors National Council (PLANC)
Society of American Law Teachers (SALT)
University Prelaw Program (University at Texas El Paso)
Walmart Stores, Inc. Legal Department

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOREES!!!

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CLEO EDGE GALA
WASHINGTON, DC