

Eth Annal Scholarship and Awards Gala

2023

October 12, 2023

The Brownstone Paterson, New Jersey

Spowsogs

Gold



Silver



Bronze





























2023 Executive Board

Agenda

Chai and Conversation
Welcome Remarks
Opening Prayer

Presentation of Public Service Award

Presentation of NJMLA Scholarships

Presentation of Rising Star Award

Presentation of Corporate Trailblazer Award

Oath of Office - New Board Closing Remarks and Prayer



Hoda Rifai-Bashjawish

Hoda is an intellectual property attorney at Lerner David LLP, the biggest intellectual property firm in New Jersey. Her experience includes patent, trade secret, trademark, trade dress, and copyright litigation, as well as IP portfolio counseling, protection, and enforcement. Her practice focuses on litigating complex intellectual property matters. She also supports clients in managing and procuring intellectual property rights, including by prosecuting patent, trademark, and copyright applications, conducting M&A due diligence, negotiating transfer and license agreements, and preparing infringement and invalidity opinions.

Over the last decade, Hoda has litigated in a variety of forums, including district courts throughout the United States, the Federal Circuit, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), the International Trade Commission (ITC), and New York and New Jersey state courts. She is well versed in all stages of litigation, including pre-litigation diligence, inter partes reviews, motion practice, and discovery management. Hoda has significant experience in litigations spanning multiple forums. She understands the interplay between forums and is able to provide support in both offensive and defensive postures to optimize strategy across various venues.

Hoda has been committed to pro bono work for over a decade. Her extensive pro bono practice includes representing a nonprofit organization at zoning board hearings, preparing asylum applications, appearing on behalf of indigent tenants in landlord-tenant court, representing domestic violence victims in family court, representing a former inmate in a prisoner's rights matter, and volunteering at legal clinics. She was recognized with the Pro Bono Service Award from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

In addition to her pro bono work, Hoda was an adjunct professor for the Syracuse Law Innovation Law Center and contributed to the Intellectual Property Owners Association's 2021 amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court of the United States. Hoda also serves as the Corresponding Secretary of the newly launched National Arab American Bar Association.

Amani Taha VICE-PRESIDENT



Amani Taha is an associate at Lowenstein Sandler LLP. Her practice focuses on transactional matters, including domestic and cross-border public and private mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, and other strategic investments, primarily for corporations and private equity investors. Committed to advancing the public interest and serving communities in need, Amani also maintains a robust probono practice that includes representing victims of domestic violence and refugees seeking asylum.

Amani serves as the vice president of the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association. In this role, she focuses on organizing career readiness, mentorship, and interview skills programs for Muslim law students, many of whom are first-generation college graduates and attorneys. Prior to serving as vice president, Amani served as NJMLA's law student liaison. Amani organized NJMLA's

first mentorship program and interview skills series



Bunyad Bhatti TREASURER

Bunyad Bhatti serves as Treasurer for the NJMLA. Bunyad is a Corporate Associate at Fox Rothschild LLP, where she assists clients with transactions and contracts, including entity formation, partnerships, shareholder agreements, acquisitions and mergers, as well as day-to-day guidance on corporate regulatory compliance. She is also a member of the firm's Health Law practice group and she guides health sector businesses in various contracts, and provides advice on HIPAA business associate agreements and privacy policies. Bunyad graduated from Rutgers Law School – Newark in 2021.

Saad Admani SECRETARY



Saad Admani serves as Secretary of the NJMLA.

Saad is an associate at State Tax Law in New York City. He advises clients on a variety of state and local tax matters, including multistate litigation, audit defense, and tax policy. Following law school, Saad clerked for the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray at the Tax Court of New Jersey.

Saad has a B.A. from Rutgers University-Newark and a J.D. from Rutgers Law School. During college and law school, as President of the Muslim Students Association, Saad advocated for the needs of students and diverse faculty hiring.



Faudia Hameed Clemenza

SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

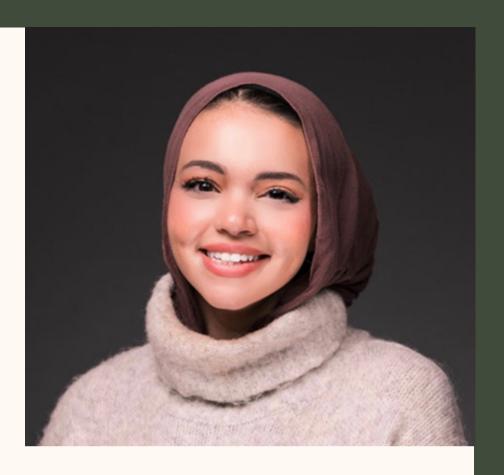
Faudia A. Hameed Clemenza, Esq., is a solo attorney based in Northern New Jersey specializing in family law, mediation and municipal matters. As a Court qualified mediator, Faudia is also often called upon to serve as a mediator or appointed as an attorney for an alleged incapacitated person by the Court on especially high conflict and guardianship matters. Faudia also serves as a Parenting Coordinator, having been admitted to New Jersey Judiciary Roster of Statewide Approved Parenting Coordinators with a domestic violence designation.

AFFILIATIONS and ACTIVITIES

- Recipient of the NJSBA New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law 2019 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award
- Bergen County Bar Association: Co-chair-Diversity in the Profession Committee (2021-present); Family Law Committee (2015- present); Professionalism in the Law Committee (2022-present); Bylaws Committee (2023- present); past Co-Chair Membership Committee (2020-2021)
- New Jersey State Bar Foundation: Trustee (2021-present); Nominating Committee (2022-present);
 Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2021-present); Scholarship Committee (2023-present) and Court Night Committee (2020-present)
- New Jersey State Bar Association: Diversity Committee (2023- present)
- Supreme Court Committee: Family Practice Committee- appointed 2021 2025
- Supreme Court Committee: Gender in the Courts (f/k/a Women in the Courts) 2020 2024
- District IIB Fee Arbitration Committee: Panelist (2022-2026)
- New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association: elected Vice President (2022); Social Media Chair (2018-2021; 2023); Chair of the Gala (2021-2022) and JPAC committees (2021)
- Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women: Chairwoman- (elected 2013-present)
- District IIA Ethics Committee: appointed as an investigator (2014-2018)
- Women Lawyers in Bergen: member, Diversity Committee (2022-present)
- Bergen County Early Settlement Panel: Panelist (2013-present)
- Barry Croland Family Law Inn of Court: Member (2023-present)
- South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey (SABA-NJ): member
- Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ): member
- Northeast New Jersey Legal Services: pro bono and clinic volunteer attorney
- Alternatives to Domestic Violence: pro bono attorney
- Justice Morris Pashman American Inn of Court: 2012 graduate
- Citizens Police Academy: 2011 graduate

Yasmine Hafez

LAW STUDENT LIASON



Yasmine is a third-year law student at Rutgers University School of Law-Newark Campus. During Yasmine's 1L summer, she successfully completed an internship with Verizon, and served as a Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance Fellow, a Contract Law Teaching Fellow, and a Legal Intern for the Community Health Law Project. On campus, she is the MLSA 3L advisor and holds the Executive Editor position for the Rutgers International Law and Human Rights Journal. At law school. Yasmine also worked at the Mental Health Law Project, and was a certified legal intern for the Philadelphia Defenders Association during her 2L summer. She is currently a Criminal Law Teaching Fellow, a Micheal J. Sullivan Defender Fellow, and a clinical law student for the Rutgers Criminal and Youth **Justice Clinic.**



Umar Sheikh CENTRAL TRUSTEE

Umar is a Department Chair and a member of Offit Kurman's Real Estate Law and Transactions Group.

In his legal practice, Umar concentrates on all aspects of real estate law – purchases, sales, financing, development, leasing, evictions, foreclosures, management – and those areas of law that are related to real estate – corporate, tax, asset protection, estate planning and litigation. He regularly represents parties in the purchase, sale and financing of multifamily, mixeduse, commercial and retail properties. Umar also represents family offices, private lenders, private equity firms and borrowers in CMBS transactions.

Umar is well-versed in the principles of Islamic (Shariah-compliant) finance, including the finance of real estate through permitted structures. He has closed numerous transactions under Shariah-permitted structures. Umar has assisted finance companies in building Shariah-compliant transaction documents for use in numerous states for financing both commercial and residential real estate.

Umar currently serves on the Board of Directors for both the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association and Muslims for Peace, Inc. He has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Asian American Bar Association of New York.

Ahsan Jafry SOUTHERN TRUSTEE



Ahsan A. Jafry is a Member of Burns White's New Jersey office. His practice consists of handling a wide range of complex litigation matters, including defending medical professionals, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities in medical malpractice matters.

Outside of private practice, Mr. Jafry was appointed by the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court to serve on its Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges for the 2010-2012 term, and was re-appointed to serve on the 2012-2014 term. In December 2012, Mr. Jafry became an Adjunct Professor of Law at Rutgers School of Law – Camden, where he teaches trial advocacy.

Mr. Jafry graduated from Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law in 2004, and received a B.S. in Public Health from Rutgers University in 2000.



2023 Monogrees



Ahmad T. Aboelezz CORPORATE TRAIL BLAZER

Ahmad is New Jersey through and through, born and raised in New Jersey, earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance, with a minor in Political Science from Rutgers University and a Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers School of Law. He currently resides with his wife, Samah, and their three children, Yusuf, Muhammad & Naydeen, in Franklin Park, New Jersey.

Ahmad is currently Vice President, U.S. General Counsel and Head, Legal for Cipla USA, Inc., a generic and specialty pharma company based in Warren, New Jersey, focusing on providing life-saving and critical medications, especially for patients facing respiratory and oncolytic conditions. Prior to joining Cipla, Ahmad was Head of Legal, Global Pharma for Piramal Pharma Limited, managing the Global legal affairs for Piramal's Complex Hospital Generics business as well as its CDMO businesses. Ahmad started his inhouse career in 2003 and spent 12 years at Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals, where he last held the dual role as Vice President, Business Development and Vice President & General Counsel, North America and served as part of a management team that helped grow the US business from \$100 million to \$1 billion in sales.

He has advised pharmaceutical companies through some of their biggest achievements and toughest challenges, including serving as principal lead for numerous high-level transactions, litigations and investigations before federal and state agencies. Ahmad oversaw numerous legal victories, including in connection with generic versions of Sensipar®, Lipitor®, Nexium®, Diovan® and Aricept®. Ahmad helped guide Ranbaxy through various legal and regulatory challenges to help launch which at the time was the largest generic product launch at that time in the industry. Ahmad also managed a group of in-house and external counsel through the first, and until a couple of months ago only, successful defense jury-verdict in multi-billion dollar, pay-for-day anti-trust case relating to the blockbuster drug, Nexium®, in the so-called Post-Actavis era. He also collaborated with colleagues across the industry to develop arguments to the U.S. Supreme Court which ultimately redefined Federal Preemption law in the area of product liability law for pharmaceutical products.

In addition to his professional work, Ahmad has spent his time working with and developing the next generation of young, Muslim lawyers, including in the hiring and mentoring of lawyers looking to transition from private practice to in-house. But what he has been most proud of has been his work as Attorney-Coach for the Noor Ul-Iman High School Mock Trial program, several of those years working with and supporting the Honorable Judge Dalya Youssef.

Abdul Rehman Khan RISING STAR

Abdul Rehman Khan is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Seton Hall Law School's Center for Social Justice. He directs the Housing & Legal Design Clinic and founded the New Jersey Legal Design Lab, a social change laboratory that shifts power into local movements through co-creation design methods, understanding law as a source of its own design. His interests encompass racial justice, appellate strategy, and the right to an adequate standard of living, particularly focusing on tenant conditions. Professor Khan teaches Torts and has directed the Civil Litigation Clinic.



Prior to joining Seton Hall Law, Professor Khan served as the inaugural Pro Bono Fellow for the City of Newark with McCarter & English. In this capacity, he leveraged the firm's pro bono resources to represent tenants facing eviction and he collaborated with stakeholders to influence public opinion on the critical societal aspects of eviction. He also taught Constitutional Law & Civil Liberties and Research Methods & Social Impact in the Political Science Department at Saint Peter's University. He previously worked as a litigation associate and served as an appellate law clerk.

Professor Khan serves on the Board of Directors for Essex-Newark Legal Services, the primary source of free civil legal assistance for thousands of individuals and families in Essex County. He has been appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court Special Civil Part Practice Committee and was a member of the New Jersey State Bar Pro Bono Committee. Additionally, he has served on the boards of the South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey and the American Muslim Bar Association. Abdul Rehman Khan is a graduate of Rutgers University and Rutgers Law School.



Shama A. Haider PUBLIC SERVICE

Shama Haider started her activism in Pakistan as a college student protesting against military dictatorship. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Punjab in Pakistan. After moving to the United States in 1977, she settled down in the Borough of Tenafly in Bergen County, New Jersey. During her professional career she helped to fundraise for a non-profit focusing on funding arts programs for schools. Shama became an active member of her community by participating in municipal boards and parent teacher associations. She was elected to local council in both 2001 and 2015. Most recently, Shama made history by becoming the first Muslim American elected to serve in the legislature. She serves on both the Assembly state Environment and Transportation committees.



2023 Schologships

NJMLA 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Gineen Abuali, Seton Hall University School of Law



Gineen Abuali is a 3L at Seton Hall University School of Law, where she serves as President of the Muslim Law Student Association, an executive board member of the Seton Hall Law Review, and a Legal Intern in the Civil Litigation and Practice Clinic at the Center for Social Justice. This summer Gineen was a Summer Associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and a Legal Intern at the ACLU-NJ.

Gineen graduated from Saint Peter's University in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science and a minor in Gender & Sexuality Studies. At Saint Peter's, Gineen served as President of the Muslim Student Association, Opinions Editor of Saint Peter's Tribune, and Senator in the Student Government Association. Gineen is a firm believer that all voices should be represented both on campus and in the legal field.

Woorod Atiyat, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Woorod Atiyat is a third-year, pro bono scholar at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. Currently, Woorod serves as a student attorney with the Immigration Justice Clinic at John Jay Legal Services. She is also very active on campus serving as a Senior Associate on the Pace Environmental Law Review, President of the Muslim Law Students Association, and President of the Middle Eastern Law Students Association. Her background and experiences have sculpted her values and instilled a strong sense of responsibility to help her community, particularly vulnerable members who become victims of civil/human rights abuses.



NJMLA 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Najma Hassan, Seton Hall University School of Law



Najma Hassan is a 2L at Seton Hall University School of Law. Najma currently serves as the Secretary for her MLSA's E-Board and is the Content Creator Intern for the Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY). She is a Legal Education Opportunity (LEO) Scholar and a Paula Franzese Leadership Fellow. Najma spent this past summer as a Summer Associate at Archer & Greiner, P.C.. Najma received her B.A. from Rutgers University-Newark. Previously, she worked at the New York City Bar Association as a Senior CLE Program Coordinator. Najma enjoys traveling, pottery, the Oxford comma, and a good cup of coffee.

Rahim D. Mahmoud, Seton Hall University School of Law

Rahim Mahmoud is a 2L at Seton Hall Law Currently, he serves as the Event School. Coordinator of the Black Law Students Association and Member of the Muslim Law Students Association. After attending An-Noor Islamic Academy in middle school, Rahim developed a passion for learning about the Seerah of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Quran and Islamic Jurisprudence. Rahim attain ijaza Islamic aspires to an in Jurisprudence. With a passion to stand for truth, Rahim envisions himself as a fair and impartial defense attorney helping Muslims and



other underrepresented communities. As a former law enforcement officer, Rahim seizes opportunities to educate Black and Muslim youth on how to effectively interact with law enforcement officers and stay informed. This past summer, Rahim had the opportunity to be a summer associate at Morgan Stanley supporting the Information Systems and Wealth Management teams. Rahim values spending time with his wife Nafisah, traveling, horseback riding, and staying on the quest for knowledge.

NJMLA 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Farbod Hadizadeh Moghadam , Rutgers Law School



Farbod Hadizadeh Moghadam is a 2L at Rutgers Law School with roots in Queens, New York. He pursued undergraduate education at Queens College, where he immersed himself in student governance, city/state politics, and academic research. Farbod briefly served as the Budget Director in NYC before embarking on his legal education at Rutgers Law School. Following his IL year, Farbod interned for United States District Judge Zahid N. Quraishi, sparking his interest in trial advocacy. In his second year, Farbod assumed several leadership roles within the law school, including serving as the Treasurer of the Muslim Law Student Association and the VP of Tort Law Society. He also contributes as a Staff-Editor of the International Law Journal and works as a Teaching Assistant. After law school, Farbod aspires to establish a career in plaintiff-side personal injury law, driven by his passion for championing the rights of marginalized communities.

NJMLA extends their sincerest congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

Congratulations to the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association



and Lerner David Attorney Hoda Rifai-Bashjawish NJMLA President

on tonight's 2023 Annual Awards Gala

Best wishes to all those being honored and to the law student scholarship recipients



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Barnes & Thornburg is proud to support the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association. We applaud the achievements of the community's legal trailblazers and celebrate the work of the NJMLA.



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We are proud to support the

New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association

and join in honoring our friend **Abdul Rehman Khan**



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EHSAN F CHOWDHRY, ESQ

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EDUCATION

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- Widener University School of Law. J.D.
- · Rutgers College of Rutgers the State University of New Jersey; Monmouth University, B.A.

CERTIFICATIONS

- · Certified and Recertified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Criminal Trial Attorney
- · Formerly Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a Criminal Trial Advocate
- · Graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy
- · Graduate of the New Jersey State Police Citizens Academy, Class #3
- · Designated Master Advocate by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy

HONORS

- · Super Lawyers for Criminal Defense 2019-2023
- Mentor Award, 2023
- · New Leader of the Bar Award, 2017
- · Professional Attorney of the Year Award, 2015

LANGUAGES

· Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi & Semi-Conversational Spanish

LEADERSHIP

- · Past President of the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association (NJMLA)
- · Trustee for the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey (ACDL-NJ)
- · Co-Chair, Governor Philip D. Murphy's Law & Justice Transition Team

- ALL Bench | Jury Trial Representation
- All Crimes (FELONIES) From 1st Degree Murder to 4th Degree Theft
- · Bail | Detention Hearings
- · Contempt
- Domestic Violence Issues
- · Expungement of Criminal Records
- Forfeiture of Property Matters
- Governor Pardons
- Gun Permit Denials
- ISP Matters
- Juvenile Delinquency Matters
- Municipal Appeals
- Parole Hearings
- Police Investigations
- Pretrial Intervention & Appeals
- Recovery (Drug) Court & Appeals
- SASPA Orders
- Sealing of Records
- Temporary & Final Restraining Orders (TRO+FRO)
- TERPO & FERPO Orders
- · Veterans Court
- Victims of Crime Presentation
- · Violations of Probation

- ALL Disorderly | Petty Disorderly Persons Offenses (MISDEMEANORS)
- ALL Motor Vehicle | Title 39 Offenses
- · Criminal Trespass
- · Driving With a Suspended License
- Drug Offenses
- DUITDWI
- · Failure to Report an Accident
- · Fictitious Plates
- Harassment
- · Improper Passing of a School Bus
- · Leaving the Scene of an Accident
- Municipal Ordinances
- Racing on Highway
- · Reckless | Careless Driving
- Restoration of Driving Privileges
- · Shoplifting
- Speeding
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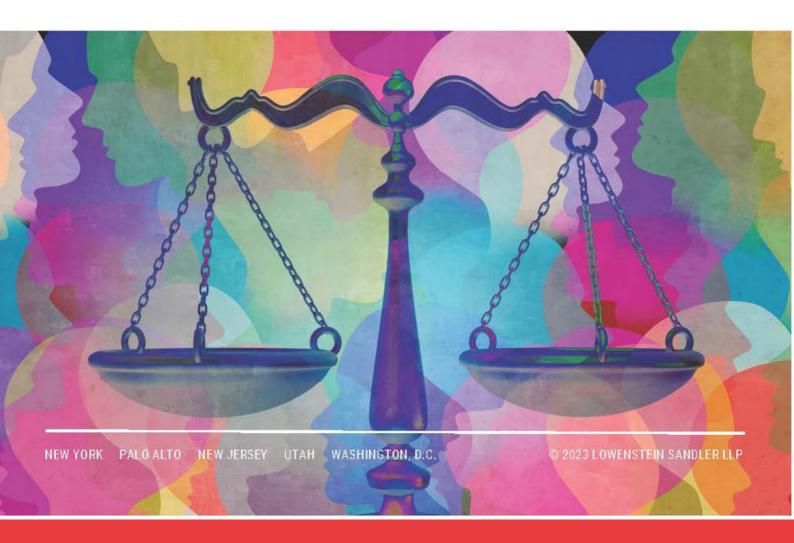




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NJMLA'S ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

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Riker Danzig is pleased to support the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association and warmly congratulates all of the evening's honorees.

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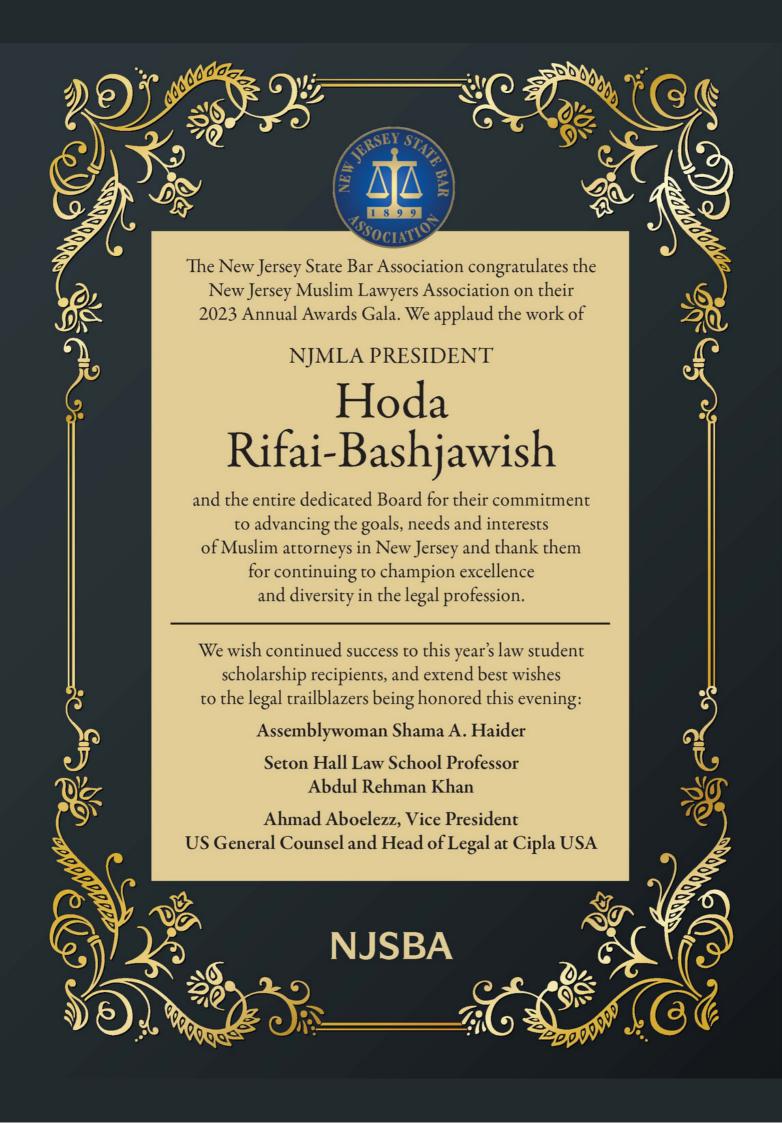


Congratulations to the The New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association (NJMLA) 2023 Gala Honorees



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Wishing continued success to the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association and congratulations to the honorees and scholarship recipients.



Umar A. Sheikh
Principal & Department Chair,
Offit Kurman, P.A.
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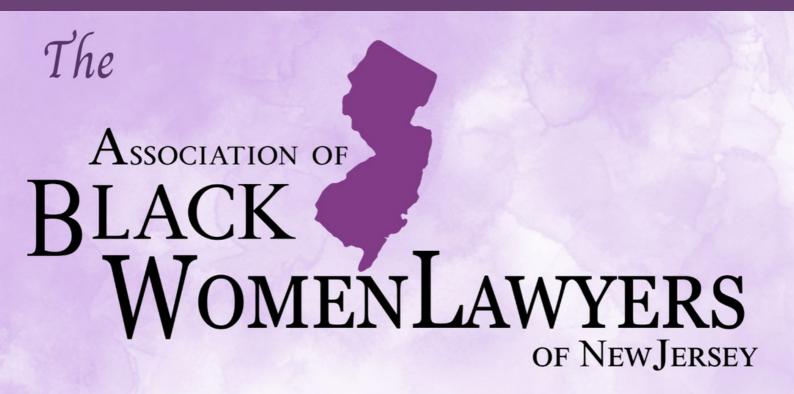




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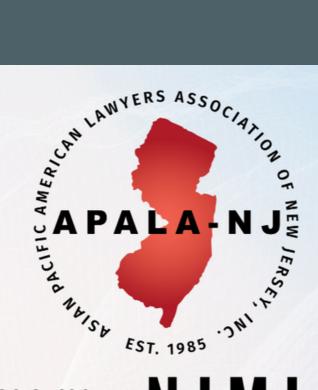
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