Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy Mission Statement:

Through collaboration with the five national affinity bar associations and the National LGBT, the CBLA will strengthen the pipeline of diverse bar association leaders through leadership training and professional programs. The CBLA benefits current and future bar leaders, the bar association community, and the legal profession overall, and lays the foundation for further collaborative efforts by the sponsoring bar associations to foster diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.
The 2016 Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy brought out some of the best and brightest minds working and creating success in the legal profession today. Graciously hosted by Perkins Coie in Seattle, Washington, the fourth annual CBLA attendees spent two days as audience to some of Seattle’s most talented and influential minds in the profession.

The Collaborative Bar Leadership is a partnership between America’s most prestigious affinity bars. Hosted by Seattle’s very own Perkins Coie, leaders from the National LGBT, Hispanic National Bar Association, National Bar Association,
National Native American Bar Association, and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, as well as the American Bar Association, spoke to an audience of attendees about some of the challenges facing diverse leaders in the profession today. Topics ranging from the effective use of personal planning and strategic visioning, to collaboration with partner organizations and reciprocity at the state and local levels, to crisis management and public response, the 2016 CBLA program held a strong focus on leadership preparedness and collaboration.

Special Guest Speakers such as Seattle Seahawks General Counsel Ed Goines, and Hossein Nowbar, Vice President & Deputy General Counsel were in attendance at two day academy to speak on their rise in the profession and how they were able to usurp various challenges presented to them not only as leaders in their profession but personal challenges that often work hand in hand with success for diverse professionals.
Beginning with a kick-off tour of the Seattle Seahawks Stadium, CBLA attendees converged from all parts of the country for the leadership academy which is very quickly becoming a shining light of the GOAL III working group of the American Bar Association. ABA leaders such as President Linda A. Klein and Immediate Past President Paulette Brown were on hand to lend their exceptional voices to an already success filled program.
Supreme Court Justice Steven Gonzales addressing CBLA attendees

The Honorable Raquel Montoya-Lewis, Superior Court Judge at Whatcom County, Wendy Shiba former President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association as well as Supreme Court Justice Steven Gonzales were just a few of the guests on hand who spoke of their personal challenges, achievements, and outlook for the future during their panel discussions.
With CBLA, our most important function is to not only create an environment of a “town hall” meeting where attendees are free to correspond with panelist, but also to create a haven to networking with fellow diverse peers in the profession. A program which is large enough to warrant the attention and time of so many successful leaders but also intimate enough to ensure personal attention and to foster meaningful and long-lasting professional relationships. Mentoring need not end at the door.

This year’s CBLA promises to be no different with many returning alumni as well as new talent being added to the pool.

Join us this summer in Minneapolis, MN at the 2017 CBLA.
(From Left to Right): National LGBT President Eduardo Juarez, HNBA Immediate Past President Robert Maldonado, NAPABA Immedite Past President Jin Hwang, ABA Immediate Past President Paulette Brown, NNABA President Jennifer Weddle, ABA President Linda A. Klein, HNBA President Pedro Torres-Diaz, NAPABA President Cyndie Chang, The Honorable Peter M. Reyes.

Applications for the 2017 CBLA are now being accepted!!