



JOHN M.
LANGSTON
BAR ASSOCIATION
OF LOS ANGELES



Los Angeles Area Bar Associations Support Reparations for African Americans

A coalition of bar associations led by the **Japanese American Bar Association (JABA)** and the **John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles, Inc. (Langston)** announced their support for the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

The Task Force issued its interim report in June 2022, which examines the ongoing and compounding harms suffered by African Americans because of slavery and its various permutations of racial oppression and exclusion.

In addition to JABA and Langston, the bar associations supporting the Task Force include the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Mexican American Bar Association, Thai American Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance, Philippine American Bar Association, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, Korean American Bar Association of Southern California, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County, and the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California.

“The Task Force’s Interim Report confronts the horrific and systemic injustice against African Americans today and for the past four centuries,” said Staci Tomita, President of the Japanese American Bar Association. “From our own reparations experience, Japanese Americans know that we create opportunities for our country to advance when it acknowledges its wrongs, repairs them, and becomes more inclusive.”

“We believe the work of the Task Force will lead to innovative solutions based upon a constructive dialogue,” said Daniel Prince, President of the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles. “We can look to the example of the effort led by two of our Langston lifetime members to return Bruce’s Beach to descendants of the Bruce family nearly a century after it was seized through eminent domain by the City of Manhattan Beach.”

The Interim Report identifies some preliminary recommendations aimed at, for example, addressing the racial wealth gap and disparities in the legal system. However, the Final Report, which is expected in July 2023, will include the Task Force's final recommendations based upon further hearings, community engagement, and consultations with experts.

Learn more about the task force interim report at <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/ab3121-reparations-interim-report-2022.pdf>.

Founded in the 1920s as the Blackstone Law Club, Langston seeks to empower leadership, advance the professional development of its membership, and to promote the administration of justice in the African American community and the community at large. <https://www.langstonbar.org>

JABA was founded in 1977 in Los Angeles, California. Over the years, JABA has provided a special forum for members of the legal profession with interests and ties to the Japanese American community to discuss issues, network, and serve our community. <https://www.jabaonline.org>

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