




BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

Saluting our Sisters



The theme of this Black History Month 2023 was “Saluting our Sisters” and as a Chambers we want to ensure that Black History is more than a month. To that end we are focusing on creating more spaces and events dedicated to the Black experience for our members and staff. We have many ideas stemming from engagement with our community and look forward to these being realised throughout the year.

We put out a call to staff and members of chambers with African-Caribbean heritages to spotlight the Black women that have impacted their lives, and the following flyers and posts reference the women integral to them.





Abimbola Johnson

Abi was the inspiration I had been yearning for. She was one of the first black female barristers that I got to interact with, and she helped me see myself in the profession and gave me the hope and confidence to continue on my path to the bar.



Ife Kubler-Agyemang Pupil Barrister



Ife Kubler-Agyemang

Abimbola Johnson

“I would like to spotlight our very own Abimbola. I first met her in 2018 at a BPTC advocacy residential weekend. Abi was the inspiration I had been yearning for. She was one of the first black female barristers that I got to interact with, and she helped me see myself in the profession and gave me the hope and confidence to continue my path to the bar. Since then, Abi has created beautiful safe spaces for black legal professionals and aspiring professionals to find community and joy and I am endlessly inspired by her poise, warmth and intellect.”



Sally Mugabe

She was the mother of the nation when Zimbabwe gained independence and she symbolised stability to a new nation and to the then Robert Mugabe.




Terrance Munduru
Head of Facilities



Terrance Munduru

Sally Mugabe


“She was the mother of the nation when Zimbabwe gained independence and she symbolised stability to a new nation and to the then Robert Mugabe. Her traits became more apparent after her passing in the way that Mugabe himself and his leadership changed. She was the power behind the throne.”



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“Nova Reid
How do you love, celebrate,
pour into, consider, and care
for the Black women in your life?
- Nova Reid

Edwina Koroma
Chambers and Pupillage Executive



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Edwina Koroma

Nova Reid

“The anti-racism campaigner and author is a fearless voice and implores other communities to do the work and confront their own biases. Nova is very clear in her mission and as a result on social media is often confronted by people who want to centre themselves on her platform. She doesn’t allow them to, and she constantly urges people to interrogate themselves and why they feel comfortable in showing up in ways that are downright disrespectful at times. Nova focuses on all the intersections of Black people, the issues and environments that affect us (healthcare, work environments) and how we engage. She teaches an anti-racism course and regularly highlights other people’s platforms. At a time when anti-blackness can be prevalent particularly in viral moments, Nova is a beacon and I greatly admire how she continues to show up and ensures Black people centre our wellness regardless.”



Teyana Taylor
A bad ass in the music and production industry with songs like 'A Rose in Harlem' and 'Never Would Have Made It' Teyana is a force.



Amanda Pannell
Front of House Assistant



Amanda Pannell

Teyana Taylor

“A bad ass in the music and production industry with songs like ‘A Rose in Harlem’ and ‘Never Would Have Made It’, Teyana is a force. Her production company, The Aunties, are responsible for Queen Naija’s ‘Lie to me’ video and most recently she put her creative hand on ‘Closer to God’ with P Diddy. If you have not seen these videos or listened to any of her music, then you are missing out! This female genius deserves her flowers!”

“
Kelechi Okafor

Her ability to articulate my thoughts and her unwavering courage to call out the injustices is truly remarkable.



Chantel Holgate
Project Accountant



Chantel Holgate

Kelechi Okafor

“I am nominating Kelechi, a black British actress, author and public speaker, for her fearless platform where she speaks out against the systemic racism and atrocities happening in the world. Her ability to articulate my thoughts and her unwavering courage to call out the injustices is truly remarkable.”



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Michelle Obama

The first African American woman to serve as first lady; a role model for women advocating for education, physical activity, healthy eating, nutrition, and poverty awareness.

Evelyn Cole
Head of People



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Evelyn Cole

Michelle Obama

“I nominate Michelle Obama - the first African American woman to serve as first lady; a role model for women advocating for education, physical activity, healthy eating, nutrition, and poverty awareness. One of her quotes that personally resonates with me is “Value everyone’s contribution and treat everyone with respect.” She is a true inspiration-encouraging women to dream big and never give up!”



Harriet Tubman

She is a true hero, what she accomplished speaks for itself. She escaped slavery at the age of 27 and went back to help more assisting over 300 people.



Amanda Pannell
Front of House Assistant



Amanda Pannell

Harriet Tubman

“I nominate Harriet Tubman as she is a true hero, and what she accomplished speaks for itself. She escaped slavery at the age of 27 and went back to help more assisting over 300 people, she was the first female to lead an assault in war freeing over 750 slaves in one raid and was an activist for women’s suffrage. A TRUE BAD ASS!”



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Beyoncé
She's one of one,
she's number one...
(if you know you know)

Edwina Koroma
Chambers and Pupillage Executive



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Edwina Koroma

Beyoncé

“There was a quote from a Grammy voter this year, as to why they were not voting for Beyoncé for album of the year and it really felt to me as someone trying to put a Black woman in their place. “With Beyoncé, the fact that every time she does something new, it's a big event and everyone's supposed to quake in their shoes — it's a little too portentous.”

She is a big deal, she really is that girl! I was lucky enough to experience Renaissance the tour this summer and I truly felt satiated. The album is a joy and to see in person a three-hour show (where she was her own opening act) which is the culmination of so many genres and her hard work was immense. Immaculate vocals, amazing outfits, choreography, she has it all in spades. Beyoncé is truly in her prime and I for one am overjoyed to have grown up with her music. Renaissance is a celebration and shows how much the culture truly owes the black and brown LGBTQ+ community, with its nod to Ballroom culture and the vernacular alone. We should protect the community at all costs, and Renaissance makes that clear!”



Liz Pemberton

Liz is an anti-racist trainer in the early years sector and does remarkable work.



Chantel Holgate
Project Accountant



Chantel Holgate

Liz Pemberton

“I would like to nominate Liz Pemberton, who runs the Instagram account [@theblacknurserymanager](https://www.instagram.com/theblacknurserymanager). Liz is an anti-racist trainer in the early years sector and does remarkable work. She provides great resources and can tackle difficult conversations with ease. Liz is truly a gem.”



Rihanna

She's using her talent to realise her dreams and has not been afraid to be who she is no matter what!



Terrance Munduru
Head of Facilities



Terrance Munduru

Rihanna

“She’s using her talent to realise her dreams and has not been afraid to be who she is no matter what! In doing so, she has inspired others to be themselves. Fenty Beauty has been a game changer, previously Black women never had the range of colours she’s brought to the make-up range.”



Williette Perry

I nominate my mum Williette Perry who has inspired and motivated me to be the woman that I am. Her belief in me through the years has allowed me to grow without barriers.



Evelyn Cole
Head of People



Evelyn Cole

Williette Perry

“I nominate my mum Williette Perry who has inspired and motivated me to be the woman that I am. Her belief in me through the years has allowed me to grow without barriers. It is a true honour to have a mother that not only trusts you but allows you to flourish without limits. She’s instilled in me discipline that is invaluable. Her unconditional love is second to none. I’m truly grateful to have an incredible, wise, patient and smart individual as my mum! I have learnt so many sayings from her like “nor lef yu os messy wen yu prezant glamour na treet” meaning “don't leave your house messy while you present glamour outside”. Mummy, you are my hero.”



Zora Neale Hurston
“If you are silent about your pain, they will kill you and say you enjoyed it”
- Zora Neale Hurston



Edwina Koroma
Chambers and Pupillage Executive



Edwina Koroma

Zora Neale Hurston

“‘Their Eyes Were Watching God’ was one of the first times in my early teens that I was completely engrossed with a book with a Black woman at its centre. Janie had layers and the story gave space for her to be a full person. Too often as a Black woman we are the addition to a story or our pain is mined for entertainment, but I loved this book with all of my being, and still do. Zora Neale Hurston was a phenomenal writer and is the author of one of my favourite quotes (above). It reminds me to speak up and stay true otherwise people will write/change your narrative. Read her work, hold space for other Black female authors, the worlds they speak on are rich and deserve to be centred always...”