

**The New York State Association of
Black & Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc.
39th Annual Conference Weekend
Workshop Schedule
Saturday, February 13, 2010**



Hon. Assemblywoman Inez Barron
Co-Chair

Hon. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Co-Chair

REVISED Schedule of Seminars – Saturday, February 13, 2010

Location	10:15 am– 11:45 am	1:00 pm– 2:30 pm	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Hearing Room A	Minority and Women Owned Business	Education: Towards A People Board of Education and Are Alternative “Fixes” Meeting Student’s Needs	Broadband and Advanced Communication
Hearing Room B	Executive Budget	Census 2010: Be Counted and Redistricting	Wrongful Convictions: An American Tragedy
Hearing Room C	Health Care Reform The Impact on New York	Education: Race To The Top	Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care
LOB 104A	10:15 am -11:15 am Do Black Greek Letter Organizations Still Matter	11:20 am-12:20 pm Liberty Partnerships	ARTWORKS!!
LCA 130	10:15 am-11:15 pm The Face of Domestic Violence	11:20 am– 12:20 pm Turning the Tide: Educating Black and Latino Males in New York State	Higher Education In and After Prison
Meeting Room 1	10:15 am -11:15 am GED Assessment Program	Veterans Town Hall: Call To Action	Help Making Ends Meet
Meeting Room 2	Impact of the State Budget on Long Term Care for New Yorkers	Parents & Consumers: Identifying Needs and Finding Alternatives	Community Partnerships & Serving LEP
Meeting Room 3	Charter Schools: Community Perspective on Public School Choices	Green Jobs and The Minority Community	Public Defense: Representation from the Clients Point of View
Meeting Room 4	HIV/AIDS: The Saga Continues/Capacity Building Assistance	Community-Based Economic Development in Action	Housing
Meeting Room 5	Charting a New Course: Juvenile Justice Report	Higher Education	Prevailing Wage
	10:15 – 11:15 am	1:00 – 2:30 pm	3:00 – 4:30 pm
Meeting Room 6	Haiti: An Update	NYSERDA	Understanding Family Law

Saturday, February 13, 2010
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

SEMINAR TITLE - “Executive Budget”

SPONSOR- Assemblyman Carl Heastie, 83rd A.D.

DESCRIPTION - This workshop will discuss the financial health of the state.

PANELISTS - Assemblyman Carl Heastie, Robert Megna; Frank Mauro; Dean Fuleihan; Steve Allinger, Director of Legislation, NYSUT

LOCATION – Hearing Room B, Legislative Office Building (LOB)

SEMINAR TITLE – “Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise”

SPONSOR - Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, S.D., 35th S.D. /Sen. Antoine Thompson, 60th S.D.

DESCRIPTION - This workshop will discuss Article 15A & NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli’s role to increase participation in minority and women owned businesses.

MODERATORS - Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Sen. Antoine Thompson

PANELIST - Grisel-Cuprill-Davis, Project Coordinator Comptroller’s Office; Angela S. Dixon, Deputy Comptroller for HR & Administration; Michael Garner, MTA Chief Diversity Officer, Bruce M. Girigorie, MWBE Specialist; NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli; Larry Norville, Thruway Authority; Michael Clay, Dormitory Authority; Michael Jones Bey, Dir. Division of MWBO Development., Empire State Development Corp; Linda Terrell, Pres. Upstate NY Minority Supplier Develop. Council; Yomika Bennett, Dir. State & Local Relations, NYS Dept. of Transportation; Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, Member of Congress; Robin L. Douglas, Pres./CEO/Founder, African American Chamber of Commerce (Westchester & Rockland Counties); Raymond Walker, Pres. Rayben Enterprises, Inc. (Albany); Bill Brigham, Dir. The Small Business Develop. Center, (Albany).

LOCATION – Hearing Room A, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE – “The Face of Domestic Violence”

SPONSOR - Senator Eric Adams, 20th S.D.

DESCRIPTION - Will define domestic violence as per the NYS Penal Law, the NYC Police Department’s extended definition, elder abuse, and victim services. Participants will also learn about the primary and secondary physical aggressor, what a Domestic Incident Report (DIR) is and police follow-up involvement.

PANELISTS - Lamona Knight

LOCATION – Meeting Room 2, Empire State Plaza (ESP)

SEMINAR TITLE – “Health Care Reform: The Impact on New York Programs, Providers, and Patients.”

SPONSOR - Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 54th A.D.

DESCRIPTION - Each panelist will discuss the impact of federal health care reform legislation on their respective areas.

PANELISTS - Budget Division; Medicaid; Civil Service/Governor’s Office of Employee Relations; Empire State Medical Association President Daniel Laroche; AstraZeneca Health

Economist, and Robert DuBois, Director of Employee Benefits Division/ Department of Civil Service

LOCATION – Hearing Room C, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE – “Haiti: An Update”

SPONSOR – Assemblywoman Inez Barron, 40th A.D. / Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, 25th S.D.

DESCRIPTION – First person accounts of the current conditions in Haiti following the January, 12 earthquake disaster.

PANELISTS – Dr. Ron Daniles, Founder, Institute of the Black World.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 6, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Charter Schools Community Perspectives on Public School Choice”

SPONSOR- Assemblyman Michael Benjamin, 79th A.D.

DESCRIPTION- This workshop will present participants with several community perspectives on charter schools from leaders who have experience with these public schools from the local, state, and national levels.

PANELISTS- Dr. Howard Fuller, Co-Founder and Board Chair, Black Alliance for Education Options; Director Institute for the Transformation of Learning, Marquette University; former Supt., Milwaukee Public Schools; Peter Gruff, Esq., Director of Faith-Based Initiatives; U.S. Department of Education; former President, Colorado State Senate; Rev. Ray Rivera, Director, Latino Pastoral Action Center, Bronx; Valerie Babb, Executive Director, Charter Parent Action Network, (CPAN); former Senior Associate, Abyssinian Development Corporation; Parent Association President; Harlem Link Charter School.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 3

SEMINAR TITLE – “The Impact of the Executive Budget On Long Term Care for NY”

SPONSOR - Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat, 72nd A.D.

DESCRIPTION - With the number of seniors increasing, and Governor David Paterson proposing \$150 million in Medicaid cuts, how will long term care be effected?

PANELISTS - Michael Riskin, Exec. VP, SEIU – 1199; Nelson Valdez, VP, Long Term Care SEIU 1199; Jacqueline Kennedy-Sadler, Corp. Director , Government & community Affairs, Beth Abraham Family of Health Services; Jessica Shearer, Exec. Director, Healthcare Education Project; Diane Barrett, Dir. Government Relations, Continuing Care Leadership Coalition.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 2, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE – “HIVAIDS: The Saga Continues/Capacity Building Assistance”

SPONSOR - Senator John Sampson, 19th S.D. /Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 54th A.D.

DESCRIPTION - Discussion on the impact of HIV/AIDS on communities of color.

Discussion on Harm Reduction, a national advocacy organization; Capacity Building Assistance for Community Based Organizations.

MODERATOR – Dr. Dexter McKenzie

PANELISTS - Capital District African American Coalition on AIDS; NAACP, Divinah Bailey, President Watchful Eye; Lorraine Hart, Brooklyn NAACP; Samantha Franklin, HARM Reduction Coalition, C. Virginia Fields; Dr. Monica Sweeney, Asst. Commissioner of Health; Rona Taylor; Chris Norwood.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 4, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE - “Charting A New Course: A Blueprint for Transforming Juvenile Justice in New York”

SPONSOR: Senator Velmanette Montgomery, 18th S.D.

DESCRIPTION - Discussion of the report calling on state officials to reinvest in community-based, rehabilitative, treatment-focused services that can improve outcomes for youth and their families while also ensuring greater public safety.

PANELISTS - Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College and Taskforce Chairperson; Joyce Burrell, OCFS Deputy Commissioner

LOCATION – Meeting Room 5, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Breaking The Myth About Black Greek Letter Organizations”

SPONSOR - Sen. Antoine Thompson, 60th S.D. / Assemblywoman Michele Titus, 31st A.D.

DESCRIPTION - For most of the twentieth century, Black Greek-letter organizations (BGLO’s) united individuals dedicated to excellence, fostering kinship ties, and uplifting African Americans. Despite the profound influence of BGLO’s, many now question the continuing relevance of these groups, arguing that their golden age has passed, in part, due to the influence of hip-hop culture; the image of BGLO’s has been unfairly reduced to a stereotype- a world of hazing and stepping without any real substance. This workshop is to inform the public about these groups, and to give a deep understanding of their history and culture, as well as discuss issues facing their organizations.

MODERATORS - Chris Ellis, Alpha Phi Alpha; Andrea Parham, Alpha Kappa Alpha

PANELISTS - Denard Cummings, Senior Budget Analyst, NYS Div. of Budget; Mikki Ward Harper, Assoc. Commissioner Human Resources, NYS Office of Children & Family Services; Jihad El-Amin, Outpatient Lab Director, Albany Medical Center; Dr. Harl’O Fisher, President, Partners, Inc.; Gary Bobb, School Monitor, Troy City School District; Brandi Davis, 2nd Grade Teacher, Albany Community Charter School; Joy Taylor, Coordinator, Faculty Technology Resources, University at Albany.

LOCATION – 104-A, Legislative Office Building (LOB)

11:20a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

SEMINAR TITLE – Educating Black & Latino Males in New York State

SPONSOR – Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, 85th A.D. / Senator Eric Adams, 20th S.D.

DESCRIPTION - This workshop is an interactive discussion exploring both challenges and solutions for supporting Black and Latino males in the education system.

PANELISTS - Richard R. Buery, President and CEO of Children's Aids Society; Dr. William L. Pollard, President of Medgar Evers College; Selina Durio, Pres. No. Babylon Teachers Assn.; Sterling Roberson, Vice President, United federation of Teachers; Rev. Brinson Walston, King Emmanuel Baptist Church (17 year old youth pastor); TBD, Youth Leader, Urban Youth Collaborative; TBD, Assistant District Attorney, Bronx County
LOCATION – **LCA Room 130, LOB**

SEMINAR TITLE- “Liberty Partnership Program”

SPONSOR- Senator Eric Adams, 20th S.D.

DESCRIPTION- Liberty LEADS is guided by the principle that all children have gifts, talents, and great potential and can contribute to one another's social and academic growth. The program works to ensure that urban youth with few economic resources have access to the supports necessary to realize their potential, acquire leadership skills, graduate from high school, enter the workforce or go to college, and make positive contributions to society. The majority of students come from low-income families, entering the program in the fifth, seventh, or ninth grade.

PANELISTS - Farhad Asghar, Associate Dean for Continuing Education at Bank Street College of Education, Liberty LEADS/Liberty Partnership program at Bank Street College, Akilah Rosado-McQueen

LOCATION – 104-A, LOB

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

SEMINAR TITLE - “Education: Race To The Top”

SPONSOR - Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, 33rd A.D.

DESCRIPTION - Examination of perspectives and meaning of Race To The Top to our nation and our state.

PANELISTS - Commissioner David Steiner (NYSED); Maria Neira, Vice President, NYSUT; Michael Griffith, Education Commission of the States, Sr. Policy Analyst; Kathy Christie, Education Commission of States, Chief of Staff

LOCATION – **Hearing Room C, LOB**

SEMINAR TITLE – “Education: Towards a People’s Board of Education/Are Alternative Fixes Meeting Student’s Needs”

SPONSOR - Assemblywoman Inez Barron – 40th A.D.

DESCRIPTION - To discuss school closings, Charter School invasions, Parent Advocacy Centers, Protecting our youth, temporary reassignment centers (rubber rooms)

MODERATOR - Ms. Jamilliah Salahuddin

PANELISTS - Mark Torres, Educator, Harlem Coordinator, CPE; Sam Anderson, Educator, People’s Board of Education Coordinator; Michael Mulgrew, President, United Federation of Teachers; Veronica Montgomery Costa, President Local 372-Board of Education Employees of New York City; Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford, former NYS Regent, Olinake Alabi, Member, Seed and Public Education

LOCATION – Hearing Room A, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE- “Census 2010 “Be Counted” and Redistricting”

SPONSOR- Sen. Martin M. Dilan, 17th S.D. /Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries, 57th A.D.

DESCRIPTION- This workshop is to inform the public about the 2010 Census

PANELIST- Sen. Eric Schneiderman; Monifa Bandele; Carmen Perez, Census 2010; Hulbert James; Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries; Sen. Martin M. Dilan; Esmerelda Simmons, Esq.

LOCATION – Hearing Room B, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE- “Community Based Economic Development in Action”

SPONSOR- Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, 141st A.D.

DESCRIPTION- This workshop’s purpose is to inform the public about the strategies that have been implemented thus far to move the “Super Market Project” forward as well as future steps that are needed to build neighborhood capacity.

PANELISTS - Kennel Antoine; Patrice Chang, Walter Dixie, Sol O. Salahou

LOCATION – Meeting Room 4, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Higher Education”

SPONSOR- Senator Kevin Parker, 21st S.D.

DESCRIPTION- Examining the Executive's proposed cuts and policies for higher education and their impact on students, faculty and communities of color.

MODERATOR – Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA),
Capital District Chapter

PANELISTS - Raul Huerta, SUNY Morrisville; Senior EOP Advisor; United University Professions, Morrisville Chapter Vice President for Professionals; Candelario "Kiko" Franco, SUNY Old Westbury Chapter President, United University Professions; Steve London, Vice President, Professional Staff Congress; Paul Washington, Director of Re-entry, Male Development and Empowerment Center and Director of Outreach, Black Male Initiative, Medgar Evers College.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 5, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE - “Immigration Fraud”

SPONSOR – NYS Office of Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo

DESCRIPTION- Immigration fraud is pervasive in New York State, and indeed across the Country. Many organizations and individuals falsely claim that they are capable of providing assistance on immigration matters, even though they are not licensed as attorneys or otherwise authorized by the federal government to provide these services. The consequences for immigrants and their families can be disastrous including but not limited to deportation and loss of legal status. This seminar will discuss the New York State Immigration Services Law, pending cases filed by the Attorney General's Office, training opportunities for authorized organizations and individuals, and the process for individuals to report immigration fraud.

MODERATOR - Mylan Denerstein, Executive Attorney General for Social Justice

PANELISTS - Alfonso David, Bureau Chief Civil Rights Bureau; Elizabeth De Leon, Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Bureau; Thomas J. Shea, Esq, Director Training and Technical Assistance, NY Immigration Coalition

LOCATION – 104-A, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE- “Veterans Town Hall Call to Action Meeting”

SPONSOR- Assemb. Annette Robinson, 56th A.D. /Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, 35th S.D.

DESCRIPTION- The goal is to inform develop, enhance and secure comprehensive services both medical & financial to veterans, their families and the communities in which veterans reside.

PANELISTS - NYS Division of Parole; NYS Division of Veterans Affairs; National Coalition of Homeless Veterans; Legislators (invited)

LOCATION – Meeting Room 1, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE - “ARTWORKS!”

SPONSOR - Senator Jose Serrano, 28th S.D.

DESCRIPTION - The economic impact of cultural arts organizations of color in underserved communities.

PANELISTS - Marta Moreno Vega, Founder/CCCADI; Michael Unthank, Harlem Arts Alliance; Laurie Cumbo, MOCADA; Sandra Garcia, NOMAA; Yasmin Ramirez, EL CENTRO

LOCATION – Meeting Room 3, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE – “Eminent Domain”

SPONSOR- Sen. William Perkins, 30th S.D.

DESCRIPTION- This workshop will review the current status of eminent domain laws and discuss reforms.

PANELIST- Christina Walsh, Director of Activism & Coalitions, Institute for Justice; Amy Lavine, Government Law Center, Albany Law School; Anna Adler, NYS Trial Lawyers Assn.; Tara Quinlan, NYS Trial Lawyers Assn.

LOCATION – LCA Room, 130, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE – “Parents & Consumers: Identifying Needs and Finding Alternatives”

SPONSOR - Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell, IV, 68th A.D.

DESCRIPTION - To disseminate information concerning developmental disabilities issues. Topic will include medical services, aging out, residential development, early intervention, day treatment/day habilitation services, intensive medical care facilities and community outreach.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 2, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE – “Assisted Home Performance With Energy Star”

SPONSOR – The Association

DESCRIPTION – Explains a whole house / building approach to energy efficiency improvement to reduce energy costs in low and moderate income households.

PANELISTS - NYS Energy Research Development Authority
LOCATION – Meeting Room 6, ESP

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SEMINAR TITLE- “Understanding Your Rights in Family Law Matters”

SPONSOR- Sen. Velmanette Montgomery, 18th S.D. & District Council 37

DESCRIPTION - This seminar will provide knowledge on issues that affect clients who proceed without an attorney, on how to navigate NYS Family Courts on issues of child support, domestic violence, neglect and abuse.

PANELISTS – Linda Keller, Sr. Atty.; Jacqueline Pointdujour, Sr. Atty.; Kaiesha Scarborough, Atty.; Tessa Hackett-Vieira, Social Worker.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 6, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Community Partnerships & Serving Limited English Proficient (LEP)”

SPONSOR- Assemblyman William Scarborough, 29th A.D.

DESCRIPTION- This workshop will give a brief overview of LEP population, their challenges and services available, highlight importance of maximizing resources through collaborative partnerships.

PANELIST- NYS Department of Labor, Bureau of Immigrant Workers Rights; Director, Northside Collaboratory, Dominic Robinson, Director, Make the Road NY; Deborah Axt, Deputy Director; Labor Council for Latin American Advancement/CSEA, Guillermo Perez, Capital District, President

LOCATION – Meeting Room 2, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Help Making Ends Meet”

SPONSOR- Assemblyman Keith Wright, 70th A.D.

DESCRIPTION- This seminar will provide information about the major work supports including earned income tax credits, food stamps, home energy assistance and health insurance programs.

PANELIST- Frances Shannon-Akstull- Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA)

LOCATION – Meeting Room 1, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Public Defense Representation from the Clients Point of View”

SPONSOR- Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, 32nd A.D.

DESCRIPTION- Members of the Client Advisory Board of the NYS Defenders Association (NYSDA) will describe current problems in the state’s public defense system and what you can do to bring about change, build reform, and help develop client advisory boards.

PANELISTS - Jay Coleman, Chair NYSDA Client Advisory Board: Life Skills Educator, Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) and formerly incarcerated person; Jonathan Gradess, Executive Director, NYSDA; Alice P. Green, Ph.D, Director, Center for Law and

Justice; Darryl P. King, Wrongfully convicted incarcerated person with 22 years of experience in prison system; former Director Criminal Justice Project, Fifth Avenue Committee, Brooklyn.

LOCATION – Meeting Room 3, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE – “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: What Can We Do to Address It?”

SPONSOR - Assemb. Crystal Peoples-Stokes, 141st A.D. /Assemb. Carl Heastie, 83rd A.D.

DESCRIPTION - (Citizen Action of New York): Address what is happening in NYS to address racial disparities in health care from the federal, state and local levels. (Bronx Health Reach): Discussion will include addressing the ways in which major academic medical centers in New York City, through their structures and policies, exacerbate such racial and ethnic disparities

PANELISTS - Mary Clark, NYS Coordinator, Health Care for America Now and Health Care for All New Yorkers, (invited); Dr. Toni Lewis health care practitioner SEIU 1199 (invited); -- Nisha Agarwal, Director, Health Justice Program, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest; Charmaine Ruddock, Project Director, Bronx Health Reach

LOCATION – Hearing Room C, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE – “Broadband and Advanced Communications: What are the Best Ways to Drive Broadband Adoption in Minority Communities. As Public Policy Makers, Why Should We Care.”

SPONSOR - Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson, 36th S.D. / Assemblyman Nick Perry, 58th A.D.

DESCRIPTION - This panel will discuss the transformative power of broadband and the need for a call to action that will ensure minorities are beneficiaries of broadband and Internet technologies.

PANELISTS- Comcast Representative, CTIA Representative, NCTA Representative, AT&T Representative, Verizon Representative.

LOCATION – **Hearing Room A, LOB**

SEMINAR TITLE- “Higher Education In and After Prison”

SPONSOR- Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, 35th A.D.

DESCRIPTION- Workshop topics include: The campaign to increase Access to Higher Education, barriers to higher education in prison and after prison, current programs that are working to remove barriers-existing higher education in prison programs around the country, and legislative vehicles that can be used to decrease barriers to higher education in prison.

PANELIST- Vivian Nixon, Exec. Dir. College & Community; Glenn Martin, Director David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy; Divine Pryor, Deputy Exec. Director Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions; Sean Pica, Executive Director Hudson Link

LOCATION – Meeting Room 5, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE- “Wrongful Convictions: An American Tragedy”

SPONSOR- Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, 141st A.D.

DESCRIPTION- This is a workshop to discuss wrongful convictions of minorities.

PANELISTS - Jeffrey Deskovic, John Walker, David Kaczynski (Exec. Director-NYADP), and others

LOCATION – Hearing Room B, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE - “Green Jobs & the Minority Community”

SPONSOR - Senator Antoine Thompson, 60th S.D.

DESCRIPTION - The workshop will focus on what the minority community in New York State should be doing in terms of education, policy and planning and job training to prepare its citizens to take advantage of the much anticipated green job revolution of the 21st Century

PANELISTS - Robert H. Robinson, VP for Sustainability Halsey Street Green Solutions; Bruce G. Herman, Deputy Commissioner, NYS Department of Labor

LOCATION – 104-A, LOB

SEMINAR TITLE – “Housing”

SPONSOR - Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, 35th S.D.

DESCRIPTION- This workshop will provide information about the free services available to constituents across the state.

PANELISTS - Bernell Grier- CEO Neighborhood Housing Services of NYC

LOCATION – Meeting Room 4, ESP

SEMINAR TITLE - “Prevailing Wage/32BJ”

SPONSOR - Assemblyman Nick Perry, 58th A.D.

DESCRIPTION - The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the problems and solutions of the working poor in New York State.

PANELISTS - Camille Rivera, Asst. Political Director 32BJ; Hector Figueroa, Secretary/Treasure 32 BJ Anna Maria Archila, Exec. Dir. Make the Road New York Deborah Axt, Dept. Director, Make the Road New York

LOCATION – Meeting Room 5, ESP

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