

# BESLA

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## BLACK ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

# B U L L E T I N

Spring/Summer 1999



MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR BESLA'S 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Marriott CasaMagna Resort) October 27-31, 1999. Call 301-333-0003 for a brochure and registration information or see our website [www.besla.org](http://www.besla.org).

**NO LIMIT PRODUCTIONS** has agreed to be a major sponsor to the Annual Conference. The company, brought in by BESLA President, Darrell Miller is a new sponsor for BESLA. V. Brown & Company secured by Ed Woods and Joi Rideout, will bring \$25,000 for BESLA. BMG Distribution has granted BESLA \$5,000. This grant was secured by Denis Kellman. The Golf Tournament at the Annual will be sponsored by Roc-A-Wear, a clothing company owned by recording artist Jay-Z.

**NEXT YEAR'S MID-YEAR Conference** will be replaced by a Spring fundraising event. If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact Phyllicia Hatton at our BESLA Office, 301-333-0003.

Board Member Gary A. Watson is the newly elected chair of the Motion Pictures, Television, Cable and Radio Division of the American Bar Association Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries. He will be moderating a panel at their annual meeting entitled "Acquisition, Distribution and Exhibition Deals for Independent Feature Films in Light of Hollywood's Big Budget Blockbusters", October 15-16, 1999, Atlanta, GA, (Swissotel Atlanta). Call 312-988-5580.

Board member **William (Bill) Strickland** and **Larry Bailey** will serve on the panel "Negotiating Contracts for Athletes" at the National Bar Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (Philadelphia Marriott) on Thursday, July 29, 1999.

**EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON TO HOST BESLA'S ANNUAL AWARD'S BANQUET** on October 30, 1999 at the Marriott CasaMagna in

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### **BESLA News**

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Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Keynote Speaker will be **BILLY HUNTER**, Executive Director, National Basketball Players Association. Award recipients will be **The Denver Broncos Football Club**, Corporate Award; **Muhammad Ali**, Legends Award; and **Frederick W. Brown, Esq.**, **Monique Reid Berryhill, Esq.** and **Joseph E. Porter, III** Hall of Fame Award.

Board member **Moraima Kelly-Ivory** is the new Sponsorship Committee Chair to serve as liaison between the Board of Directors and potential sponsors of the Annual Conference's events. Moraima recently took a position with the firm King & Spalding in Atlanta, Georgia. She will be specializing in corporate and entertainment law matters.

The Los Angeles public relations firm of **Public Relations Plus**, headed by **Kenneth Reynolds** was selected by the Board of Directors to handle its publicity for the year. Public relations chairperson, **Gary Watson** will oversee the firm's overall activities. Conference co-chairs, **Joi Rideout** and **Tracy Burnett** will oversee the firm's activities relating to the Annual Conference. **Ken Reynolds**, who has worked on several BESLA conferences, has a long-term relationship with BESLA.

BESLA President, **Darrell D. Miller** expands his firm effective September 1<sup>st</sup> and moves his office to 12300 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA 90035. His new firm name will be **Miller Rance, LLP**. Darrell's new partner, **Malena Rance** specializes in entertainment and corporate law.

**William (Bill) Strickland**, president and CEO of Strickland & Ashe Management, LLC, was awarded "Sports Agent of the Year" by Rainbow Sports, a division of the Rainbow/PUSH Wall Street Project Citizenship Education Fund during its National Sports Conference held in Washington D.C., June 30-July 1, 1999.