

**BROTHER**

**DONAVON MCGUIRE, ESQ.**



**ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.**

**DELTA PI LAMBDA CHAPTER**



**AUGUSTUS WITHERSPOON AWARD**

# **QUICK LOOK GUIDE**

## **Professional Experience**

- Assistant District Attorney for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
- Rural Economic Improvement Staff Attorney
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Certified Mediator for the State of Alabama
- Admission to the United States Federal Court for the Middle District
- Admission to the United States Federal Court for the Southern District
- Outreach Coordinator for the Mid-Alabama
- Substance Abuse Case Manager for Cahaba Mental Health
- Group Home Manager for Cahaba Mental Health

## **Contributions to Alpha**

- Alabama District Legal Counsel
- Chapter Advisor to the Upsilon Eta Chapter
- Vice President of the Delta Pi Lambda Chapter
- Scholarship Chair for the Delta Pi Lambda Educational Foundation
- Area 3 Chief Dean for IMDP
- Southern Region Investigation Team
- Hazing Seminar Presenter for the Alabama District Convention
- Hazing Presenter for the NPHC for Tuskegee University
- Alabama District Cannon-Dozier Presenter
- March for Dimes Donor
- Adopt a Mile Cleaner
- Master of Ceremony for the John D. Taylor Scholarship Banquet (3X)

## **Ongoing Leadership**

- Legal Service of Alabama Rural Economic Improvement Program Staff Attorney
- Dallas County Democratic Executive Committee District 1 representative
- Treasurer of the Southside High Alumni Educational Foundation
- President of the Southside High School Class of 2007
- Certified Mediator with the State of Alabama
- AGAPE Community Board Member
- 100 Black Men of Selma Mentor
- Alpha Academy

## **Influence on the Community**

- Legal Service of Alabama
- Tipton Middle School Graduation Speaker
- Tipton Middle School Mentor Brothers in Bowties
- Court Appointed Special Advocate
- Jesus Day Griller
- Hope Dealer Award Winner
- Southside High School Community Partner

- Chairman of the Making our Mark Scholarship
- Top 20 under 40
- Men's Day Master of Ceremony
- Reading is Fundamental Partner
- Corlene, Lowndes County Christmas Partner
- Officiate for Weddings
- Peaceful Sunday Leader
- Alabama Beautiful Cleaner
- #GOAL Founder
- Blackbelt Citizen Fighting for Justice
- Missionary Baptist Convention Donor
- Saving Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP)
- Gear-up Program
- Loads of Love

### **Leadership Mentoring**

- Peaceful Selma
- 100 Black Men of Selma
- Alpha Academy
- Black Law Student Association
- #GOALS Founder
- Beloved Apostolic Church



(334) 407-2334



[dmcuir3@gmail.com](mailto:dmcuir3@gmail.com)



218 Shephard Avenue  
Selma, Alabama 36703

### Community Activities

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA),  
*Volunteer*

Dallas County Democratic Executive Committee  
*District 1*

Making Our Mark Scholarship,  
*Chairman*

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

### Certifications

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
in Mediation  
Guardian ad Litem

### Law School Awards

Greg Allen Mock Trial Competition,  
*Semi-finalist*

Greg Allen Mock Trial,  
*Best Advocate*

National Black Law Student  
*Chapter of the Year*

Southern Regional Black Law Student Association,  
*Chapter of the Year*

Public Interest,  
Probono & Community Service Distinctions

# Donavon McGuire, Esq.

## Education

Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law • Montgomery, AL

•**Juris Doctorate, May 2019**

*Activities:* Black Law Student Association, *President* Faulkner Democrats  
Black Law Student Association, *Vice-President* Capital City Bar Association  
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity Alabama Lawyer Association  
Women's Legal Society Public Interest Fellow  
Military Veteran Legal Association

Auburn University at Montgomery • Montgomery, AL

•**Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice, August 2013**

## Experience

**Assistant District Attorney Fourth Judicial Circuit** Present  
Represent the State of Alabama in the prosecution of crimes; Prosecute circuit and district court matters; Drug Court, Child Support, Child Death Review

**Legal Service of Alabama Selma, AL** 2019 -2021  
*Rural Economic Improvement Program Staff Attorney*  
Represent low income individuals in civil legal matters. Formulate and Coordinate legal clinics throughout the surrounding counties. Increase programs participation with in the Blackbelt counties. Facilitate events that will remove the barriers around access to legal representation.

**Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless • Montgomery, AL** 2014 – 2019  
*Outreach Worker*  
Established contact and a working relationship with unsheltered homeless persons and families. Performed a need assessment on individuals and families to formulate a sustainability plan. Formulated, maintained and submitted accurate reports to executive director. Completed data entry into a state-wide programming system. Performed case management with unsheltered individuals and families.

**Prince Chestnut Law Firm • Selma, AL** 2018  
*Summer Legal Intern*  
Conducted legal research and writing for the lead attorney. Drafted legal memorandums for clients. Interviewed clients and potential clients in an efficient manner. Attended client meetings with lead attorney. Performed clerical duties for the law firm.

**Honorable Judge Marvin Wiggins • Alabama 4th Judicial Circuit** 2017  
*Summer Legal Intern*  
Observed various aspects of the trial proceedings; Focused on the disposition of the attorneys advocating within the courtroom.

**Cahaba Mental Health • Selma, AL** 2010 – 2014  
*Substance Abuse Case Manager & Group Home Manager*  
Worked with individuals who are suffering with a Mental Illness. Maintained knowledge of each client's file. Prepared appropriate documentation of all interactions with clients. Monitored, observed and reported client behavior to supervisor. Transported clients to various locations. Supervised clients performing basic living skills on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

# **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated®**

## **Alabama District Association**

**Cecil Howard**  
Southern Region Vice President

**Donavan McLean**  
Southern Region Assistant Vice President



**Clinton L. Johnson, Jr.**  
Alabama District Director

**John Patterson**  
Alabama Assistant District Director

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March 14, 2022

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
Delta Phi Lambda Chapter  
Montgomery, Alabama

Brother Donavon McGuire,

Congratulations on winning the 2021 Augustus M. Witherspoon Leadership Award of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in the District of Alabama. I appreciate the service and commitment you have provided on behalf of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

I look forward to you representing the District of Alabama as the official Augustus M. Witherspoon Leadership Award representative for the District of Alabama during the upcoming 91st Annual Southern Region Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Thank you for your service to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the District of Alabama.

Sincerely,

*Clinton L. Johnson Jr.*

Brother Clinton L. Johnson Jr.  
District Director  
District of Alabama

**Bro. Donavon J. McGuire, Esq.**

**ADDRESS:** 218 Shephard Avenue, Selma, Alabama 36703

**PHONE #:** (334) 407-2334 (cell)

**EMAIL:** [dmcguire@alps.org](mailto:dmcguire@alps.org)

Personal: [dmcguir3@gmail.com](mailto:dmcguir3@gmail.com)

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**AUGUSTUS WITHERSPOON LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**BRO. DONAVON J. MCGUIRE. ESQ.**

**PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT:** “Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy” We have an obligation to serve our fellow man. God has given me so much that I must help others.

**BACKGROUND:** Brother Donavon McGuire is a lifelong resident of Selma, Alabama. He is a graduate of Southside High School and Auburn University at Montgomery. During his matriculation, he was initiated as a charter member into the Upsilon Eta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on October 27, 2012. After graduating from Auburn University at Montgomery, he entered into law school at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 2016. During his time in law school, he was affiliated in various organizations. Most notably, he served as Vice-President and President of the Black Law Student Association. During his administration, he was able to lead the Chapter to its first Southern Region Chapter of the Year Award and National Chapter of the Year Award. Also, he received an awards as the Best Advocate for the Greg Allen Trial Competition. After graduating from Jones School of Law, he returned back to his hometown to practice law. Currently, he serves as the Rural Economic Improvement Staff Attorney.

**FRATERNAL EXPERIENCES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Brother McGuire’s fraternal experiences include the following: Alabama District Legal Counsel (Present); Southern Region Legal Investigation Team; Chapter Advisor for Upsilon Eta; Charter Member of the Upsilon Eta Chapter; Associate Editor to the Sphinx; Vice President of the Delta Pi Lambda; Area 3 Chief Dean of IMDP; Scholarship Chairman for the Delta Pi Lambda Educational Foundation; Presenter for the Cannon Dozier Project Alabama Winner. Most recently, he was named the Augustus Witherspoon Awards Winner for the District of Alabama.

**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT AND EXPERIENCES:** Professionally, Brother McGuire serves as an Assistant District Attorney for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of the State of Alabama. Also, he has served as the Rural Economic Improvement Program Staff Attorney. Brother McGuire has been admitted to the Alabama State Bar; United States District Court for the Middle District; and United States District Court for the Southern District. Brother McGuire has served as Outreach Coordinator for the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless. During this position, he coordinated services for five counties in the State of Alabama. Also, Brother McGuire has served as a Group Home Manager and Substance Abuse Case Manager. During this position, he would assist individuals who are suffering from either Mental Illness and/or Drug & Alcohol Abuse.

Due to Brother McGuire’s presentation skills, he was named Best Advocate in the Greg Allen Trial Competition.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Brother McGuire has received several appointments to various boards such as the AGAPE Community, Southside High Alumni Educational Foundation, and etc. Brother McGuire is very active in the community he serves in various capacities such as the Dallas County Democratic Executive Committee District 1 representative, AGAPE Community Board Member, 100 Black Men of Selma, Inc. Treasurer of the Southside High School Education Foundation,



## Southside grad joins LSA as attorney



(<https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/author/adam.powell/>)  
By Adam Powell (<https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/author/adam.powell/>)  
Email the author (<mailto:adam.powell@selmatimesjournal.com>)

Published 4:02 pm Tuesday, October 29, 2019

On Monday, Legal Services Alabama (LSA) issued a statement welcoming Donovan McGuire, a 2007 graduate of Southside High School, as the organization's Rural Economic Improvement Project (REIP) Staff Attorney.

Donovan, who has worked for the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless and Cahaba Center for Mental Health, stated that returning to the legal field, as well as his hometown, was always part of his plans for the future.

"My goal was to come back to Selma and support and serve my community," McGuire said. "[LSA] gives me both components of being an attorney and serving my community here in Selma."

McGuire's current areas of practice include cases related to wage garnishment, domestic violence, evictions and social security insurance (SSI) cessation and collection.

"I've always wanted to be a lawyer," McGuire said. "It's been the only career path that I've wanted to pursue. My passion is wanting to serve the public. Public service is befitting for me and still allows me to fulfill my dream of being a lawyer. I live by the credo 'service is the price you pay for the space you occupy.'"

McGuire was the second to youngest of eight children and stated that he drew his biggest inspiration from his mother.

"Just to see my mother battle adversity – growing up, she inspired me," McGuire said. "She always had the motto of 'pursuing education.' My mother has always supported me in that. My mother knew I wanted to be a lawyer at a young age, so she always supported me, pushing me in that direction."

McGuire earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, with an emphasis in legal studies, from Auburn University in 2013 and a law degree from the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 2019.

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Beyond practicing law, McGuire is deeply involved in the community as a member of the Delta Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, which sponsors a number of community service projects throughout the area.

As LSA's REIP Staff Attorney, McGuire will be helping to improve legal services for more than 50 rural counties across the state – the program is designed to address legal economic issues throughout the Black Belt by providing collaboration with community and statewide partners, financial institutions and volunteer lawyers.

LSA also welcomed new Managing Attorney Elizabeth Hollie to its Selma office.

Hollie, who began with LSA in March 2017, worked as REIP Project Staff Attorney before being named to her new position earlier this month.

Hollie's specialty areas include Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure, repossession, housing, divorces, SSI cessation and other public benefits and she already has an eye toward expanding the organization's work in the area.

"My plans are to build long-term relationships with groups and organizations in our area," Hollie said. "Legal Services handles the legal needs while others handle specialty areas. Our goal is to reach as many individuals as possible through our service and the services of others, including private attorneys who would volunteer to represent individuals. I believe all of us working together will create a positive change in the minds, hearts and lives of people, creating a long-lasting ripple effect."

Hollie also offer praise for McGuire, who she says has proven himself to be dedicated to Selma and the entire Black Belt.

"[McGuire] made it clear that he always wanted to return to Selma," Hollie said. "He brings a fresh perspective and new ideas to the program on how to reach the counties our office serves. He has proven himself to be a hardworking attorney in the short time he has been with our office I am looking forward to what I know will be a successful journey for Attorney McGuire with our office."

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# BLSA President looks to help Selma



(<https://selmatimesjournal.com/author/brannon.cahela/>).  
By Brannon Cahela (<https://selmatimesjournal.com/author/brannon-cahela/>).  
Email the author (<mailto:brannon.cahela@selmatimesjournal.com>).

Published 3:37 pm Monday, April 29, 2019

Faulkner University's Thomas Goode Jones School of Law recently announced that their Ernestine S. Sapp Chapter of Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was named as the National BLSA Medium Chapter of the Year.

BLSA at Faulkner University's Thomas Goode Jones School of Law was established to address the community and political concerns surrounding minority law students.

Last week, BLSA held its annual dinner where the announcement was celebrated.

The 2018-2019 BLSA president and Selma native, Donavon McGuire, will be graduating in May and said being recognized was a team effort.

"Receiving this recognition is a great honor, but it is really a team effort of past and present members and those who have supported us along the way," said McGuire. "Being at the national conference where universities from across the nation were represented including Ivy League schools and to hear our name called was amazing. Just to have the platform where our chapter and Jones School of Law was recognition speaks volumes for JSL's and Faulkner's support of minority students."

McGuire said the chapter went a new direction this year and focused everything they did as a chapter around family.

"We wanted every activity to be centered on supporting students' needs both academically and overall personal wellness especially including those who didn't live here locally," he said.

He hopes to return to Selma after graduation as an "agent of justice and change."

"I want to show the young men in the community who are minorities that they can change the narrative," said McGuire. "Maybe seeing me as a lawyer can help them envision themselves as lawyers too and that yes, they can achieve that for themselves."

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Aneus Gary, Zarieana Simpson, Joshua Gourdine, Alexis Blevins, ReNari Wells and Ariel Crosswell. Back row: Chantavia Coleman, Michael Harris, Bryant Gordon, Kaleb Long and Derrick Hatcher Jr. James Jones|Times-Journal

## Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. awards 11 scholarships to Selma and Dallas County seniors



(<https://selmatimesjournal.com/author/james.jones/>)  
By James Jones (<https://selmatimesjournal.com/author/james-jones/>)  
Email the author (<mailto:james.jones@selmatimesjournal.com>).

Published 2:31 pm Thursday, July 9, 2020

The Delta Pi Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity held their 10th annual John D. Taylor Scholarship ceremony Thursday at First Baptist Church.

Eleven graduating seniors, mostly from Selma and Dallas County High Schools, received scholarships the local Alpha Phi Alpha chapter also known as the "Black Belt Alphas."

Selma High had seven scholarship winners: Derrick Hatcher Jr., Aneus Gary, ReNari Wells, Bryant Gordon, Michael Harris, Zarieana Simpson and Chantavia Coleman.

Joshua Gourdine (Dallas County High), Alexis Blevins (Southside High), Kaleb Long (Ramsey High) and Ariel Crosswell (Highland Home High) were the scholarship recipients.

Delta Pi Lambda Chapter President Billy Young presided over the program and praised the seniors and their parents for overcoming COVID-19 pandemic.

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"We had to make an adjustment, but we did not lose focus on making sure the seniors in Selma and Dallas County had scholarships," Young said.

Delta Pi Lambda Chapter Founder Charles Johnson Sr. delivered the greetings and urged the seniors to follow their dreams.

"Whatever your dreams are, make sure you work hard to fulfill and achieve those dreams," Johnson said.

Delta Pi Lambda Chapter scholarship chair Donovan McGuire of Legal Services, Inc. told the seniors that a strong education is a great building block for future success.

"Education is a great engine for personal development," McGuire said. "Education is the most powerful weapon that can change the world."

Delta Pi Lambda Chapter Vice President LeBarron Mack delivered the prayer and gave a brief history of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.

Young also announced during the ceremony that the Black Belt Alphas will be awarding additional scholarships later this summer. Young also said several seniors missed the deadline because of the coronavirus and raised money through several local organizations and other Delta Pi Lambda Chapter members.

"We want to make sure everyone has a chance to get a quality education," Young said.

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## Alpha Phi Alpha to fund scholarships, even amid pandemic



(<https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/author/brannon.cahela/>)

By **Brannon Cahela** (<https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/author/brannon-cahela/>)

Email the author (<mailto:brannon.cahela@selmatimesjournal.com>)

Published 11:51 am Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Saturday, April 25, would have been Alpha Phi Alpha's 10th Annual John D. Taylor Scholarship Banquet.

Held each year at Wallace Community College – Selma (WCCS), the fraternity organization uses the occasion to celebrate higher education amongst area students and award scholarships.

Last year, Alpha Phi Alpha awarded over \$12,000 in scholarships, the most in the event's 10-year history, and despite no banquet this year, the organization hopes to award as much – or more – than last year.

While circumstances forced Alpha Phi Alpha had to cancel the banquet, Alpha Phi Alpha President Billy Young said there are plans to do hold the banquet before the end of the year, if possible.

"This was going to be big," said Young.

According to Young the banquet would also be a 200th anniversary of the City of Selma.

In order to accomodate students during the era of social distancing, Young says the organization will now allow scholarship applications to be submitted via email to Chairman of the Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship Committee, Donovan McGuire, at [dmcguir3@gmail.com](mailto:dmcguir3@gmail.com).

Young said contributions are also being sought to fund scholarships and contributions can be made by seeing any Alpha Phi Alpha member, or by sending a check to 1600 Broad St. 367703.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Young said Alpha Phi Alpha is committed to ensuring students receive the opportunity to recive a higher education.

"COVID-19 does not stop the need for students to finance their higher education," said Young. "We want to do anything we can to ensure all students are not limited or restricted in their pursuit of higher education."

According to Young, education has always been importnt to Alpha Phi Alpha.

"Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on the principle of academic excellence and scholarship," he said. "We are about ensuring the public has the opportunity to receive a higher education."



## Community rallies around Selma University's "Day of Unity"



(<https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/author/james.jones/>)  
By James Jones (<https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/author/james-jones/>)  
Email the author (<mailto:james.jones@selmatimesjournal.com>).

Published 2:26 pm Saturday, November 2, 2019

Selma University hosted a "Day of Unity" on its campus Saturday.

The purpose of the event is to raise funds to pay off the school's more than \$785,000 debt to the U.S. Department of Education and establish an endowment fund.

The event had a strong turnout, as Selma Mayor Darrio Melton and City Council members John Leashore, Susan Youngblood and Jannie Thomas all dropped by.

The city council donated \$1,400 to the cause, while Randall Miller Funeral Home donated \$500.

Several local businesses and organizations attended the event. FBLA students from School of Discovery (SOD) Genesis Center were in front of the school holding buckets and successfully got people to pull over and donate.

"My father went to Selma University and my mother attended R.B. Hudson High School," said Crystal Boykin, FBLA Advisor at SOD.

"Delta Sigma Theta want to help the community," said Elizabeth Hollie, a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "We believe in supporting education."

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Dorothy C. Barnes represented two groups: The Links, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta. Barnes is the Link's president for the Selma chapter.

"It was very happy to see the people come out and support Selma University," Barnes said.

"It means a lot because we're serving the community," Legal Services Alabama Attorney Donovan McGuire said,

Selma University Vice President for Academic Affairs Stanford Angion said he was pleased to see the Queen City backing the college.

"It was very encouraging to see that the community is supporting us," Angion said.

Selma High School band and R.B. Hudson cheerleaders performed at the five-hour event. Also, 105.3 FM hosted an eight-hour radio-thon to raise money for the school.

"Selma University is a pillar of the community," Selma High band director Brandon Williams said.

Selma University's parent organization, the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, is committed to raising \$1 million for the university.

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