

RUN OF SHOW

September 24–27, 2026 · Raleigh–Durham, North Carolina



Internal Participant Run of Show Documents for the 2026 Summit. These replace all earlier versions — all timings are subject to change prior to the event, so always check this page for the latest version before your session.

2026 National HBCU Pre-Law Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Awards Presentations and Aspiring Lawyers Pinning Ceremony

Day 3 · Saturday · Saturday, September 26, 2026 · 6:30 – 8:30 PM EDT · NCCU Student Center | Second Floor | Event Hall · 500 Nelson Street, Durham, NC 27707 · Hall of Fame induction ceremony, awards presentations, and aspiring lawyers ceremonial pinning · All registered attendees · 120 minutes

Honoring Legacy. Affirming Purpose. Inspiring the Next Generation.

KEY DETAILS

- Ceremony at a glance: Special guest remarks by Ashley Weathers and Jennell Loper, six Hall of Fame inductees honored by aspiring lawyers, official group photograph, Legal Eagle reflection by Evangeline M. Mitchell, the Aspiring Lawyer Success Pledge, and attorney-led ceremonial pinning.
- Hard end: 8:30 PM Eastern Time.
- Induction protocol: Each honoree receives a joint introduction, approximately three aspiring-lawyer tributes, a Hall of Fame medal, an award plaque, an official photograph, and acceptance remarks. The posthumous honoree is represented by a designated representative.

PARTICIPANTS

- Ashley Weathers, Esq. — Special Guest Speaker — President-Elect, Young Lawyers Division, National Bar Association; Raleigh, North Carolina
- Jennell Loper, Esq. — Special Guest Speaker — Associate Attorney, Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.
- A. Scott Bolden, Esq. — 2026 Hall of Fame Inductee — Partner, Reed Smith LLP
- Xavier R. Donaldson, Esq. — 2026 Hall of Fame Inductee — Criminal Defense Attorney
- DeWarren K. Langley, J.D., M.P.A. — 2026 Hall of Fame Inductee — Posthumous Legacy Award; Founder of the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation
- S. Lee Merritt, Esq. — 2026 Hall of Fame Inductee — Civil Rights Attorney and Founder, Merritt Law Firm
- Otto O. Meyers III, J.D., M.B.A. — 2026 Hall of Fame Inductee — Attorney, Senior Executive, Consultant and Advisor
- L. Chris Stewart, Esq. — 2026 Hall of Fame Inductee — Managing Partner, Stewart Miller Simmons Trial Attorneys
- Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M. — Legal Eagle Reflection & Pinning Ceremony — Founder, National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo
- Chelsi C. Edwards, Esq. — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — Attorney | General Civil Practice | Durham
- Dawn Baxton, Esq. — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — Chief Public Defender, Durham County
- Hon. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — District Court Judge, Judicial District 16
- Kehinde Watford, Esq. — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — Attorney and Founder, Watford Law Firm
- Myra Griffin, Esq. — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — Vice-Chair and Commissioner, NC Industrial Commission
- Hon. Rashad Hauter — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — District Court Judge, Wake County
- Satana Deberry, Esq. — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — District Attorney, Durham County Prosecutorial District 16
- Hon. Shamieka LaCher Rhinehart — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — Superior Court Judge, NC Superior Court, District 16A, Durham
- Tyler L. Williams, Esq. — Ceremonial Pinning Attorney — Of Counsel, Martineau King PLLC, Charlotte

PRE-SHOW & CALL TIMES

- 5:45 PM — Production team call: MC, stage manager, AV, awards, photography and pinning leads check in.
- 6:00 PM — Room and stage reset: Pre-set awards in order; test lectern and music; stage pins by seating section.
- 6:15 PM — Doors open: Ambient music; ushers seat honorees, presenters, attorneys and students.
- 6:25 PM — Participant hold: Confirm the master and mistress of ceremonies, special guest speakers, first presenter and first honoree are ready.
- 6:28 PM — Two-minute warning: House-to-half; music fade; lectern microphone live.

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PROGRAM RUN OF SHOW

6:30 – 6:32	Invocation and gratitude (2 min) — Open program.
6:32 – 6:37	Welcome and opening remarks (5 min) — Master and mistress of ceremonies frame the evening.
6:37 – 6:39	Introduction of special guest speaker (2 min) — Master and mistress of ceremonies.
6:39 – 6:54	Special guest address — SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER (15 min) — Ashley Weathers, Esq., President-Elect, Young Lawyers Division, National Bar Association (Raleigh, NC).
6:54 – 6:55	Introduction of special guest (1 min) — Master and mistress of ceremonies.
6:55 – 7:03	Special guest remarks — SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER (8 min) — Jennell Loper, Esq.
7:03 – 7:06	Hall of Fame introduction (3 min) — Explain the honor and induction sequence.
7:06 – 7:14	A. Scott Bolden induction (8 min) — Joint introduction • 3-student tribute • Medal • Plaque • Photo • Acceptance.
7:14 – 7:22	Xavier R. Donaldson induction (8 min) — Joint introduction • 3-student tribute • Medal • Plaque • Photo • Acceptance.
7:22 – 7:30	DeWarren K. Langley induction (8 min) — Posthumous Legacy Award; designated representative receives medal and plaque.
7:30 – 7:38	S. Lee Merritt induction (8 min) — Joint introduction • 3-student tribute • Medal • Plaque • Photo • Acceptance.
7:38 – 7:46	Otto O. Meyers III induction (8 min) — Joint introduction • 3-student tribute • Medal • Plaque • Photo • Acceptance.
7:46 – 7:54	L. Chris Stewart induction (8 min) — Final inductee; inaugural 2014 Summit keynote speaker.
7:54 – 7:57	Honoree group photograph (3 min) — All six honorees and posthumous-award representative to center stage.
7:57 – 8:00	The Significance of the Eagle (3 min) — Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M. explains the Legal Eagle and meaning of the pin.
8:00 – 8:04	Aspiring Lawyers Success Pledge (4 min) — Students stand, raise right hands and recite in unison.
8:04 – 8:07	Eagle pin distribution (3 min) — Ushers hand every participating student a pin.
8:07 – 8:13	Attorney call and encouragement (6 min) — All licensed attorneys come forward; each ceremonial pinning attorney receives up to 30 seconds.
8:13 – 8:25	Ceremonial pinning procession (12 min) — Release students by section; celebratory music plays.
8:25 – 8:30	Closing acknowledgments (5 min) — Recognize participants and dismiss the gathering.

PRODUCTION & SPEAKER NOTES

- Times are target cues. The stage manager may tighten transitions to protect the 8:30 PM hard end.
- Display one strong, full-screen photograph of each honoree throughout the joint introduction and student tribute.

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- Hold the next three-student presenter group and honoree at the designated stage-entry side during the preceding acceptance remarks.
- The medal presenter stands on the side that allows the medal to be placed safely over the honoree's head without blocking the photographer.
- Official photographer remains at the center-stage sightline; do not take additional posed photos during the live sequence.
- Display the pledge in readable type; stage pins by seating section; open multiple pinning lines and keep center and side aisles clear.