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Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association Members Donate Time, Stories, Muscle by Heather Thomas

Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association members, friends, and family donated their time and talents to different projects.

On Saturday, February 28, 2015, about 12 members and friends of WMBA lent a hand and some muscle to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento. Habitat is a nonprofit organization that advocates for fair and equitable housing policies and strives to eliminate substandard housing. Habitat was readying a 1,200-square-foot Del Paso Heights house for a single mother, and her two children, who had been living in a small apartment that also housed her salon business. Her new home is an environmentally friendly, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-approved house. WMBA volunteers helped put the finishing touches on the Del Paso Heights building. The crew installed the mulch in the front yard, helped fill and compact decomposed granite for the patio, filled wooden planters with soil, used pickaxes to create beds for wildflowers, and touched up exter-



Lincoln Law School students Brandy McDowell, Monique Benjamin, & Anna Brown-Dawson, along with attorneys Sandra Talbott, Heather Thomas, & Alana Mathews-Davis were among those who volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento in February

ior and interior paint. Volunteers included Lincoln Law School students and Black Law Student Association board members **Monique Benjamin, Brandy McDowell, Joseph Abhulimen, and Anna Brown-Dawson**, attorneys **Sandra Talbott and Alana Mathews-Davis**, court reporter and business owner **Cheryl Kyle**, Wiley Manuel President **Carlton Davis** and First Vice President **Heather Thomas**, along with other friends and family. Thomas organized the event. The house was dedicated the following weekend, on March 7.

WMBA also administers the *Contracts for Success* program. *Contracts for Success* attacks the achievement gap between African-American students and other students by offering role models of success. At each event, lawyers and judges share their stories with middle school and high school students, and in turn the students talk with professionals about their career goals. WMBA President Carlton Davis organizes the program, which presents 7-10 events

annually. On February 21st, C.K. McClatchy and Florin High Schools hosted *Contracts for Success* events. Speakers included Judge **Troy Nunley**, Lincoln Law Student **Christina Lighter**, and attorneys **Justin Ward, Adrian Carpenter, Maggie Stern, and Thien Ho**. About 60 students attended.

The Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association, named after Justice Wiley William Manuel, is an association of African-American legal professionals in and around the greater Sacramento region. Its stated goal is to provide an organized bar affiliation to represent the professional interests of the legal community in Sacramento, with special emphasis on Black attorneys; to promote the administration of justice; and to make use of legal tools and legal discipline for the advancement of the economic, political, educational, and social interest of Sacramento, especially the Black community. Membership is open to any interested legal professional. For more information or to join, please visit wileymanuelbarassociation.com.



Lincoln Law School student **Joseph Abhulimen** prepares a wheelbarrow for another load of mulch