

Black Journalists Association of Southern California

June 1, 2004

Request for NABJ Professional Chapter Grant
Amount Requested - \$500

Event: **Justice & Journalism Seminar**
An off-the-record discussion of
“Celebrity Justice & Media Coverage”

Tentative Date: **Late July or Late August 2004**

Place: Los Angeles Times Auditorium
Downtown L.A.

The BJASC plans to co-host this event with the John Langston Bar Association this summer.

We co-hosted a very successful program in 2002 and based on that success, and the requests of members from both organizations, plan to hold another one this year. (See attached 2002 program.)

We plan to have 6 panelists—3 journalists, 3 lawyers. Each will make brief remarks then a moderator will guide the discussion and open it up to the audience for questions. We host a reception then have the panel discussion for about 2 hours. Each organization invites a list of guests. In 2002, the event attracted about 150 people.

Besides members, that event in 2002 attracted reporters, lawyers, judges, politicians, police officers, community activists and many members of the public at large. The discussion was spirited and lively and concerned how the justice system and media handle issues and cases involving African Americans. Many participants chatted for a long while after the event ended. It was an enlightening and thought provoking evening.

We expect the same type of response this year. With so many high profile cases in the media, the title of “Celebrity Justice” seems appropriate. There’s the Kobe Bryant case, the re-trial of

Jayson Williams, Michael Jackson's child molestation trial to name a few. How are these cases presented to the public? What influences the public's perceptions of the defendants? Is race a factor? How did the O.J. Simpson case affect juries, judges and the public? Is justice different for celebrities and, if so, why is that? These are the issues we will raise during the program.

Both groups share expenses equally. We estimate the cost will be approximately \$2,400. So the BJASC portion would be \$1,200. Our board member, Gayle Pollard Terry can secure the Times venue at no cost. However, they require that we use their caterers, cleaning staff and security. We also have to print and mail invitations.

Committee members take care of phone calls, contacts, letters and scheduling panelists, moderators etc. We have been having meetings to coordinate this already. We all volunteer to work on BJASC projects and monthly meetings. Most of the funds we have are designated for scholarships. Our dues go for basic monthly expenses and web site maintenance.

Projected Budget

Room costs	0
Reception - Food	\$1, 800
Invitations-printing/postage	400
Program printing	100
Security/Parking fees	<u>100</u>
Total	\$2,400

We would appreciate NABJ's support of this worthwhile event.
Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lois Pitter Bruce
President