

Foster Garvey and JMMP Announce Launch of Stone Scholars Class Honoring Rafael Stone

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Foster Garvey Newsroom

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Foster Garvey and the firm's [Opportunity & Progress Council](#) are proud to announce that the Washington Joint Minority Mentorship Program (JMMP) will be commemorating long-time Foster Garvey attorney [Rafael Stone](#) for his 50-plus years of impact on the profession of law and community more broadly.

Beginning in 2024, JMMP law student and new lawyer mentees who complete its one-year mentorship program will be named “Stone Scholars” in honor of Mr. Stone’s steadfast commitment to championing access to opportunity throughout the legal profession nationally, and especially in Washington state.

JMMP Founder and King County Superior Court Judge E. Rania Rampersad stated that “Mr. Stone has been a trailblazer, mentor and guide for diverse attorneys in the Washington state legal community for decades. By acknowledging his legacy, we hope our mentors will be moved to follow his example of service, and our mentees will be inspired to pay it forward.”

JMMP is a groundbreaking collaboration between [16 of the major Washington bar associations](#), through which the state’s minority bar associations, alongside the King County Bar Association, Washington State Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association, all host an annual mentorship program for law students and new lawyers in Washington state.

Each year, JMMP pairs minority law students/new lawyers with experienced mentor attorneys and judges to support them through a full year of mentorship programming. The program has served more than 230 law students and new lawyers over the last five years and will launch again in March 2024 with an additional 50 mentor-mentee pairings—the first class of Stone Scholars.

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Mr. Stone is the Co-Chair of Foster Garvey and its Investment Management practice group. He has served as chair of the board of directors of one of the nation's largest newspapers and has been recognized extensively for his work with institutional investors, ranking both nationally and globally by Chambers & Partners for investor representation, while also being regarded as one of the most influential Black attorneys in the country.

Mr. Stone has long been recognized as a pioneer. During his breaks from being a star point guard for the University of Washington and stunning crowds with his assist records and scoring on the likes of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, he was tearing down social barriers by becoming the first Black man to join a Greek Row fraternity, Psi Upsilon. He would continue his career being the first in several other aspects of his life, including being the first Black man to have been hired, promoted to owner, and then to manage a major Seattle firm.

For more than 50 years, Mr. Stone has driven Foster Garvey and the broader legal community to provide access to opportunity with a talent-first approach. He was instrumental in launching one of the first law firm diversity hiring programs in the country at Foster Garvey, and over the course of his career, he has supported and mentored many, making sure that a diversity of lived experiences would have a seat at some of the most important decision-making tables.

JMMP's annual mentor-mentee pairing kickoff event is taking place on Wednesday, March 27, from 6:00-8:30 p.m., at Foster Garvey's Seattle office: 1111 3rd Avenue, Suite 3000, Seattle, WA 98101. For registration details and to learn how to become a 2024 JMMP Stone Scholar, visit the [online application page](#).

Foster Garvey looks forward to welcoming the first class of Stone Scholars and continuing our support of JMMP and these vital mentoring relationships.

Foster Garvey PC, a preeminent law firm with offices on both coasts, offers an extended national and international reach to serve many influential and innovative companies, government entities and individuals across a full spectrum of legal services. The firm's attorneys are consistently recognized for their deep industry knowledge and superior client service by prominent legal industry publications, including Best Lawyers in America[®], Chambers USA, Chambers Global and "Best Law Firms." In addition to providing efficient and effective counsel, Foster Garvey upholds a strong commitment to community service, pro bono representation, diversity and inclusion efforts and a collegial and equitable work environment. The firm has offices in [Seattle](#), [Portland](#), [Washington, D.C.](#), [New York](#), [Spokane](#) and [Tulsa](#).