



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Lawsuit filed by University of Maryland Eastern Shore National Alumni Association, Inc. against Schulte Hospitality Group alleges racial discrimination in contracting and treatment of HBCU Alumni

Baltimore, Maryland – Tuesday, August 8, 2023 - Today, a lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court of Maryland naming Schulte Hospitality Group, doing business as Courtyard by Marriott and Residence Inn by Marriott, both in Salisbury, Maryland, as a defendant in civil rights violation claims.

The complaint alleges that Schulte Hospitality Group discriminated against the organization's alumni based on race in connection with booking hotel rooms for their Homecoming at Courtyard by Marriott in Salisbury, Maryland, and Residence Inn by Marriott in Salisbury, Maryland in November 2023. The Association alleges that the Defendant also refused to contract with them for room blocks in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and other state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations.

"Discrimination is not new to us, and neither is taking a stand against it," said Teonna Wallop, President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore National Alumni Association.

In the Complaint, the Association claims that in November 2022, Courtyard by Marriott in Salisbury, Maryland advised that they would be hiring security for the UMES Alumni group's gathering to ensure that there was no underage drinking occurring in the lobby and accusing unnamed alumni of stealing an item from the refrigerator at a previous gathering. The organization claims that the quoted rates for hotel stays at the Marriott properties during the 2022 Homecoming reached up to \$876.00 per night compared to a previous group rate in the range of \$95.00-\$98.00.

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