

NAMC Stands Strong for Minorities in Construction Amid Legal Challenges

As federal programs supporting minority-owned businesses come under increasing legal attack, the **National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC)** continues to lead the charge for equity and inclusion in the construction industry.

At its **56th Annual National Conference** (June 17–19, 2025, Cleveland, Ohio), hosted with the **Northern Ohio NAMC Chapter**, NAMC reaffirmed its national leadership in advocating for inclusive growth, equitable contracting, and workforce development. This year's theme — *Unity: One NAMC – Building Equity and Protecting Our Future* — reflected the urgency and clarity of NAMC's mission. Across three powerful days, NAMC brought together contractors, elected officials, agency leaders, and advocates for strategic dialogue, training, and action.

NAMC reasserted its role as a national thought leader and policy advocate for inclusive economic growth, workforce development, and equitable contracting practices. From the Women in Construction Luncheon to the Legacy Contractors' Roundtable, NAMC demonstrated its unmatched capacity to bridge legal action, history, policy, practice, and advocacy. TIME Magazine named **Skye Perryman, President and CEO of Democracy Forward**, to the **2025 TIME100 annual list** of the most influential people in the world. She recognized **NAMC President Wendell R. Stemley** for being on the front lines of the fight for minority businesses' right to participate in government and private contracting programs. Mr. Stemley works directly with Democracy Forward **Senior Counsel Brooke Menschel** in the case involving Mid-America Milling, LLC and Bradshaw Trucking, Inc. v. the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Kentucky.



(Left to Right) **Brooke Menschel**, Democracy Forward, Senior Counsel; **Wendell R. Stemley**, NAMC, President; and **Skye Perryman**, Democracy Forward, President and CEO



Aaron D. Ford, State of Nevada Attorney General

Nevada Attorney General Aaron D. Ford, this year's Awards Gala keynote speaker, reaffirmed his commitment to protecting corporate diversity initiatives and combating efforts to roll back progress. He stood against a letter issued by 13 conservative state attorneys general that sought to intimidate Fortune 100 companies away from implementing lawful diversity and inclusion programs. Attorney General Ford led a coalition of over 20 State Attorneys General in issuing a formal rebuttal, defending DEI efforts as both legal and essential to economic opportunity and diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

NAMC remains committed to protecting the future of minority contractors and building a more just and inclusive economy.