The 2918 Rising Star Award winner, Anthony D. Cox Jr., is a 2014 graduate of Old Dominion University, where he received his bachelor’s degree in political science and criminal justice. In 2017, he obtained his law degree from Widener University Commonwealth Law School. While in law school, he was a member of the Widener Journal of Law, Moot Court Honor Society, Trial Advocacy Honor Society and Black Law Student Associations. Anthony currently works for the Department of State Prosecutor’s Division in Harrisburg.

But it is not just about where Anthony has been, but where he is going. Presently, Anthony is serving as assistant editor of the YLD newsletter, *At Issue*, and is also an active member of the Minority Bar Committee. Anthony has written a newsletter article outlining several high-profile cases involving police shootings and black men. I was struck that such a young attorney would use this platform to raise social justice issues as opposed to talking about life as an associate or elevating his private practice. As a young attorney struggling to get the lay of the land and learn all of the things never taught in law school, it is easy to focus inward. So when I saw an attorney less than a year into his practice willing to think beyond practice area expertise, client happiness and billing practices, I knew this was someone we should consider for the Rising Star Award. Anthony is an attorney who exemplifies the spirit of the Rising Star Program because he remains committed to the pursuit of equality and social justice.

It is my hope that Houston’s Rising Star is not merely an award to collect dust on a shelf, but rather a recognition and a call to action. To that end, we are using this space to recognize an up and coming member of the MBC. In turn, Anthony is taking this opportunity to deepen and amplify his thinking on #BlackLivesMatter and his place in this conversation as a young, black man. You see, #BlackLivesMatter is not something that is happening over there to someone else. It is here and present for many of our members.

This is an edited excerpt from an article by Maraleen D. Shields, which appeared in the Fall 2018 issue of *Houston’s Legacy* newsletter.