Our Story:

The African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) was formed in 2011, when a group of corporate, nonprofit and philanthropic executives and leaders came together to develop a pipeline of qualified African American candidates to serve on governing boards--nonprofit, for-profit or public commissions. The reason was compelling: African Americans continue to be underrepresented on the majority of governing boards. Many trustees across the country are engaged in important discussions about how best to deliver services to communities of color. The absence of African Americans on these boards affects the quality and efficacy of policy decisions, program design and program implementation.

Boards whose memberships lack diversity tend to elect individuals who share the same personal networks, potentially limiting opportunities to reach beyond their boundaries and examine other means of recruitment. AABLI quickly discovered that many organizations did not know where to search for qualified African American candidates. Clearly, the time had come to connect forward-looking organizations with excellent candidates. We are proud that AABLI has stepped up to the task.

African American professionals who wish to engage in board leadership also need thoughtful counsel. Where to begin? What are the expectations? Since our inaugural class in 2012, AABLI has provided answers and invaluable mentorship, training hundreds of talented African American candidates for board service. It has reached thousands more through its workshops and digital communications.

Our Mission:

The mission of the African American Board Leadership Institute is to strengthen nonprofit, public and private organizations through recruiting, preparing and placing African American professionals on a broad range of governing boards.

Our Leadership:

Virgil Roberts (Chair) ........................................... Managing Partner, Bobbitt & Roberts
Carl Ballton .............................. President and CEO, MUFG Union Bank Foundation (Ret.)
Eugene Boykins .................................. President, Boykins Business Consulting Group
Paul Hudson ..................................... Founder, Paul C. Hudson Consulting
Vincent Jones ................. Founding CEO and Chief Strategist, Reinvent Communications
Beverly Ryder .............................. President, The Wellington Ryder Group
Yvette Chappell-Ingram ......................... President and CEO, African American Board Leadership Institute