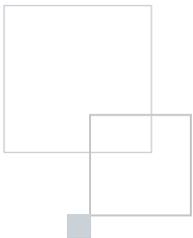


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# NATION'S BEST <sup>2019</sup>

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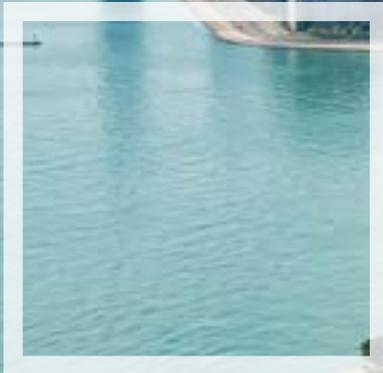
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# Foley proudly commends our friend and colleague, Jeanne M. Gills, for being honored among Lawyers of Color Nation's Best list.

We congratulate Jeanne and all of this year's honorees for this well-deserved honor!

For more information about Foley, please contact:  
Jeanne M. Gills in our Chicago office at [jmgills@foley.com](mailto:jmgills@foley.com)

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*Congratulates*

FIRM PRINCIPAL

**TONY PHILLIPS**

ONE OF THE "NATION'S BEST"

Anthony J. "Tony" Phillips is a Principal in McKool Smith's Houston and Washington, D.C. offices. He represents clients in white-collar defense, investigations, and compliance matters. Tony is a graduate of Harvard Law School and earned an Air Force ROTC commission at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology prior to serving as an Air Force JAG officer.

We salute Tony and all the  
Lawyers of Color  
2019 Nation's Best Honorees

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**Christopher Nelson – Gabriela Martinez –  
Kaitlyn Williamson – Yolanda Young**

**Lawyers of Color is a 501(c)(3) devoted to promoting diversity in the legal profession and advancing democracy and equality in marginalized communities.**

**We conduct and commission research and studies regarding the intersection of the legal profession and social justice. We also create and curate articles, blogs, studies, and videos. Our global online community advocates for the well-being of our peoples, especially marginalized communities. We mobilize to eradicate injustice. We give change agents a vehicle to respond quickly and forcefully to oppressive and damaging policies and systems. We motivate business, political, and community leaders to effect change and advance equality.**

**Editorial Calendar**

**Nation's Best Lawyers – August 2019**

**Caucus Issue – September 2019**

**Power Issue – February 2020**

**Black Student's Guide to Law Schools & Firms  
– March 2020**

**Hot List – July 2020**

A portrait of Martiné ('Marty') R. Dunn, a Black man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a suit and tie, smiling against a blue background.

Accomplish m<sup>ô</sup>re<sup>SM</sup>

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# IMPACT

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING NAMED TO THE LAWYERS OF COLOR  
"2019 NATION'S BEST LIST."

**MARTINÉ ("MARTY") R. DUNN**  
DINSMORE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE CHAIR

"At Dinsmore, diverse ideas are freely expressed in our culture, impacting our own relationships as attorneys AND the value we provide to our clients. We applaud Lawyers of Color and all organizations devoted to promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession."

Dinsm<sup>ô</sup>re

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Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Nation's Best list is presented by Major, Lindsey, and Africa with the support of the Diverse Partners Network. The Nation's Best list recognizes law firm partners and high ranking in-house counsel for their exceptional accomplishments in the legal profession. This award is primarily to acknowledge their sustained career achievements. Our selection committee, comprised of our fellows, advisers, and editorial staff, also recognized their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. These attorneys are esteemed by Lawyers of Color and their peers for having consistently achieved distinction in an exemplary way.

Yolanda Young  
*President & Executive Director*

A portrait of Jade Tran, a woman with short dark hair, smiling and wearing a blue and green dress with her arms crossed. The background is a solid teal color.

CONGRATULATIONS

# JADE TRAN

***NAMED TO THE  
“NATION’S BEST” LIST***

WSHB is proud to congratulate Partner Jade Tran on being named to the Lawyers of Color’s inaugural “Nation’s Best” list. This prestigious selection is based on Jade’s noteworthy accomplishments and her commitment to diversity in the legal profession.

Jade recently celebrated her 18th year with WSHB, a full-service law firm with 25 offices and over 250 attorneys nationwide. WSHB takes pride in having been named as one of the top four law firms in the nation for female lawyers, and one of the top five for diversity.

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# leaders stand out

Congratulations to **Dan Cranshaw, Quentin Jennings and Jean Marie Pechette** on being named to **Lawyers of Color's inaugural Nation's Best list**. Our attorneys are dedicated to fostering inclusiveness, equality and diversity in the legal profession. Diversity of ideas and diversity in perspective lead to better results.



Polsinelli proudly congratulates our many clients on their distinguished legal careers and their selection as **Lawyers of Color's 2019 Nation's Best honorees**.



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# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEXANDER GLADNEY

*Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer  
for his inclusion in the  
2019 Lawyers of Color Nation's Best Issue.*

As senior vice president and chief legal officer at Capital Health, Alexander plays an integral role in the leadership and development of our growing healthcare system in Central New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Even prior to his joining Capital Health, Alexander built a career on public service as a litigation and policy attorney for the New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate in Trenton, NJ. We join our community in thanking Alexander for his contributions and congratulate him on this recognition of his impressive career.



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“Successful lawyers are made by taking on the toughest matters— at Proskauer our diverse associates work for our most important clients. I see firsthand that diverse teams deliver the best results.”

Proskauer congratulates our friend and partner

**Nigel F. Telman,**

named to Lawyers of Color’s Inaugural Nation’s Best list, and joins in celebrating his fellow esteemed honorees.

The world’s leading organizations choose Proskauer as a strategic partner to drive their business forward. We are entrepreneurial, inclusive, and committed to making a difference for good. Our 725+ lawyers serve clients from 13 offices in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

To learn more about the firm, visit [Proskauer.com](http://Proskauer.com).

# Congratulations

*to Sheila Gaddis, Barclay Damon Diversity & Inclusion Committee chair, and the other attorneys named to the 2019 Lawyers of Color “Nation’s Best” list!*

*We thank Sheila for her significant legal contributions and for her role in creating a diverse, empowering work environment where people can excel as their authentic selves.*



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**LAWYERS  
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# CONGRATULATIONS

to Alvin Benton & Cleo Belmonte

for being named to the Nation's Best List, and to all  
this year's honorees for promoting diversity in the  
legal profession and advancing democracy and  
equality in marginalized communities



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Juliet Huang  
Partner

## Representation matters.

That's why we are proud to support the outstanding attorneys and advocates for diversity in the legal profession that make up the inaugural Lawyers of Color Nation's Best honorees.

We are especially proud of our own Juliet Huang, Chapman's Diversity Co-Partner managing firmwide affinity and inclusion efforts. Congratulations, Juliet, on this well-deserved honor!

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## You're at the top of our list, too.

Phillips Lytle proudly salutes Anna Mercado Clark on being named to the Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Nation's Best list. Anna is a champion for diversity who continues to make her mark on the firm, our clients and the legal profession. We are proud to celebrate Anna and all of the recipients of this prestigious recognition.



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ation's Best Honorees had a magnificent time at the Eastern Region Reception held in New York City and hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP where Sara Madavo welcomed guests. Remarks were offered by Lawyers of Color's adviser, Reeves Carter, as well as Nelson G. Dong, a partner at Dorsey and Ann Offomata of Major, Lindsey & Africa. (Photo credit: Polly Irungu).















**Abim  
THOMAS**

Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Head of Global Litigation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Harvard University

Abim Thomas is the Head of Global Litigation of Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Before this she served as a Partner at Goodwin Procter LLP, an Associate at Ropes & Gray LLP and a Deputy Chief Counsel for The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



**Alexander  
GLADNEY**

Capital Health System, Inc.  
Sr. VP & Chief Legal Officer  
Healthcare

Georgetown University & Temple  
Beasley School of Law

Mr. Gladney also serves as Director of the Capital Region Insurance Company (CRIC), which is Capital Health System's Captive insurance program. Mr. Gladney is charged with ensuring that the financial forecast for the program is stable, and works closely with the Captive Manager to ensure that the Captive remains viable and successful.

Mr. Gladney is a member of the Board of Directors of the Grounds for Sculpture, founded by Seward Johnson of the Johnson & Johnson family. GFS is a 42-acre sculpture park, museum and arboretum that presents and conserves an exceptional collection of contemporary sculpture in Pennington, NJ.



**Alison L.  
MOORE**

JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Managing Director and Associate  
General Counsel

J.D., Columbia Law School, B.A.,  
Harvard University

Alison L. Moore is a Managing Director and Associate General Counsel at JPMorgan. Alison works with global, cross-functional teams to address emerging legal issues of strategic importance to the firm identified by the General Counsel and her management team, such as cyber-security and data ownership. She also serves as Senior Counsel to the Global Markets Infrastructure team, advising on matters relevant to how the firm moves cash throughout the world.

Prior to joining J.P. Morgan, Alison was a transactional attorney in private practice at several large law firms in New York City. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Alison is active in the community. In addition to her mentoring activities, she currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Adams Street Foundation.



**Alka  
BAHAL**

Fox Rothschild LLP  
Partner  
Immigration

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.A., Marquette University

A recognized leader in immigration and nationality law, Alka Bahal counsels clients on legal and strategic issues arising from the international movement of key personnel, from the individual transfer of high-ranking executives to high-volume transfers of expert staff.

A noted speaker and author on corporate immigration topics, Alka regularly hosts seminars on business immigration, immigration compliance and strategic planning and has authored numerous published articles in this area, as well as visa-related topics.

Prior to merging with Fox Rothschild, Alka was the Chair of the Corporate Immigration Practice Group at Grotta, Glassman & Hoffman. Prior to that, Alka built and managed a highly successful business immigration practice operating in all jurisdictions worldwide.



**Allison J.  
DONOVAN**

Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC  
Member  
Business Services

J.D., University of Kentucky College of  
Law, J.D., Eastern Kentucky University

Allison is a Member in Stoll Keenon Ogden's Lexington office and has been with the firm since 2006. She concentrates primarily on Business Services, Banking, and Mergers & Acquisitions, but also contributes to several other practice groups at SKO.

For clients in the banking and corporate sectors, and a host of other industries, Allison draws on her substantial knowledge of general business law to offer legal counsel on matters ranging from entity formation to real estate financing.

Allison also assists financial institutions in navigating the complex regulatory framework that governs their activities. She has represented public and private entities before federal and state agencies, including the Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC, and Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions. She works collaboratively with these agencies to address issues on behalf of clients.



**Anand  
AGNESHWAR**

Arnold & Porter, Kaye Scholer LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., New York University School of Law, B.A., University of Rochester

Anand Agneshwar co-chairs the firm's Product Liability Litigation practice group. Mr. Agneshwar represents pharmaceutical and consumer product companies as national, strategic, trial, and appellate counsel in product liability litigation and related litigation.

His experience includes nearly a dozen bench and jury trials, numerous Daubert and Daubert-style hearings, and hundreds of significant arguments in state and federal trial and appellate courts across the country. He also counsels clients on litigation risks, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulatory issues, and the litigation and compliance impact of potential legislation. Mr. Agneshwar writes frequently on product liability and FDA issues. He also maintains an active pro bono practice focusing on protecting civil liberties.



**Anna  
MERCADO CLARK, CIPP/E**

Phillips Lytle LLP  
Partner  
Data Security & Privacy, e-Discovery & Digital Forensics, Complex Commercial Litigation, White Collar

J.D., Fordham University School of Law, B.A., Rutgers University

Anna is the leader of the firm's Data Security & Privacy and e-Discovery & Digital Forensics Teams. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University. She is a member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and spearheaded an award-winning diversity pipeline program. She is a founding member of the Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York, a member of the New York City Bar Association's Diversity Champion Award Selection Committee, and has been a member of the Asian American Bar Association of New York's trial reenactment team for over a decade.

She is the recipient of Profiles in Diversity Journal's 17th Annual Women Worth Watching Award and the Honorable Denny Chin '78 Alumni Award for Excellence in the Legal Profession, among other accolades.



**Atif  
KHAWAJA**

Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Boston University School of Law, 2002 (magna cum laude), B.A., University of Virginia, 1999

Atif Khawaja is a partner in Kirkland & Ellis's litigation practice. He has successfully tried matters before courts and arbitration panels across the country involving claims of antitrust, breach of contract and fiduciary duty, fraud, misrepresentation, patent infringement, trade secret theft, unfair competition, and other complex matters. He has an active international practice and represents global and U.S.-based Fortune 100 companies as well as financial institutions and privately-held companies facing major U.S. litigation. Atif co-chairs the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and oversees its pro bono program in New York. He has been named one of the top 42 New York City attorneys under 40 (New York Law Journal); one of the top eleven attorneys nationwide under 40 (Minority Corporate Counsel Association); and a Rising Star in intellectual property (Law360).



**Ava E.  
LIAS-BOOKER**

McGuireWoods LLP  
Partner and Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee  
Litigation

JD, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, BA, Duke University

A seasoned trial and appellate lawyer, partner Ava Lias-Booker leads McGuireWoods' Baltimore litigation practice with three decades of first chair trial experience representing businesses in complex commercial and civil litigation.

Among her leadership roles, she chairs the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and serves on the Diversity Action Council and Associates Committee. She also is the former managing partner of McGuireWoods' Baltimore office.

Ava's dedication to providing excellent client service is matched by her passion for mentoring lawyers and serving Baltimore's legal and civic communities, the state and the nation. She sits on the boards of visitors of Duke University School of Law and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, and on the advisory board of directors of the Baltimore Open Society Institute.



**BJ  
TRACH**

Latham & Watkins LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, (magna cum laude), B.A., Harvard College, (magna cum laude)

A recognized leader in immigration and nationality law, Alka Bahal counsels clients on legal and strategic issues arising from the international movement of key personnel, from the individual transfer of high-ranking executives to high-volume transfers of expert staff.

A noted speaker and author on corporate immigration topics, Alka regularly hosts seminars on business immigration, immigration compliance and strategic planning and has authored numerous published articles in this area, as well as visa-related topics.

Prior to merging with Fox Rothschild, Alka was the Chair of the Corporate Immigration Practice Group at Grotta, Glassman & Hoffman. Prior to that, Alka built and managed a highly successful business immigration practice operating in all jurisdictions worldwide.



**Britt-Marie K.  
COLE-JOHNSON**

Robinson & Cole LLP  
Partner  
Employment

J.D., Emory University School of Law,  
B.A., Emory University

Britt-Marie Cole-Johnson is a member of the firm's Labor, Employment, Benefits + Immigration Group. She focuses her practice on counseling private sector employers, ranging from NYSE and NASDAQ companies, multi-national corporations, nonprofit health care organizations in all areas of employment law. She handles sensitive, high-risk personnel issues and investigations.

Britt-Marie was selected as a Rising Star in the Connecticut Super Lawyers list from 2013 to 2018. She has been ranked in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business in the state of Connecticut in the area of Labor & Employment as an "Associate to Watch" for 2014 and 2015, and as "Up and Coming" since 2016. Britt-Marie was ranked in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business in the State of Connecticut in the area of Labor & Employment in 2019.



**Bruce  
HICKS**

GlaxoSmithKline  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., University of Notre Dame Law  
School, B.A., Bucknell University

Bruce Hicks is Assistant General Counsel for GlaxoSmithKline. Before that, he held the same position as Assistant General Counsel for Meritor Automotive and Rockwell International. Pryor to this, he served as an Associate for Thorp Reed and Armstrong, LLP.



**Bryan  
CHO**

MetLife, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Corporate; Investments

J.D., Boston College Law School, 2004  
(magna cum laude, Order of the Coif),  
B.S., Cornell University, 2001

Bryan advises MetLife's investment professionals domestically and abroad on a wide range of debt and alternative investments, including infrastructure, project financings, mezzanine and private equity investments. Prior to joining MetLife, Bryan was an associate at Skadden Arps in New York.



**Bryce  
KUNIMOTO**

Holland & Hart LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., University of California, Davis,  
B.A., University of California, Davis  
(summa cum laude)

Bryce Kunimoto advises clients on a wide range of commercial litigation matters. He focuses on obtaining favorable results for his clients while working efficiently to minimize the costs of litigation.

Bryce is an aggressive trial attorney and understands that at the end of the day it is the "result" that matters. Nonetheless, he recognizes that the decision to litigate is a business decision and while the cost of litigation is often times difficult to predict, he takes proactive steps to manage cases efficiently.

In addition to being an aggressive litigation partner, Bryce is chair of the firm's diversity committee. As chair, he oversees the implementation of the firm's strategic diversity plan including recruitment, partnership admission and development across the firm's 15 offices located throughout the Intermountain West, Alaska and in Washington D.C.



**Cari  
ALMO GALLMAN**

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
Assistant General Counsel, Head  
Oncology Legal & Compliance  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A.,  
Princeton University

Cari Almo Gallman is Assistant General Counsel and Head, Global Commercial Oncology Legal and Compliance, leading the team of commercial and regulatory lawyers for the BMS Global Oncology Business Unit and in the United States market. In that capacity, Cari and her team provide advice regarding the strategy and execution of commercial and medical tactics in the United States and world-wide markets, and serve as strategic partners directly delivering practical, effective, and innovative legal solutions to support business needs while mitigating and defending against legal risks to enable the delivery innovative medicines to patients. She holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and an A.B. from Princeton University, magna cum laude.



**Carletta F.  
HIGGINSON**

Google Inc.  
Director, Global Head of Music  
Publishing  
Litigation

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., New York University

Carletta F. Higginson is a seasoned professional with over a decade of content, media and entertainment-related business and legal experience with a deep understanding of the music rights landscape in the U.S. She has proven experience negotiating and closing strategic partnerships and renewals and possesses strong relationship-building skills and attention to detail. She has the ability to articulate and summarize complex business and legal issues and also possesses superior analytical skills regarding contractual, legal, technical and financial issues.

In her current position, Ms. Higginson builds and maintains strategic relationships with major content owners at senior levels, including negotiating complex digital licensing and partnership agreements, managing existing partnerships, launching new relationships, resolving business issues, and analyzing and tracking key metrics. Ms. Higginson works cross-functionally with colleagues across multiple disciplines across Google.



**Carlos M.  
BOLLAR**

Archer & Greiner, P.C.  
Partner  
Environmental and Complex Litigation

J.D., Rutgers School of Law, 1997, B.A.,  
Rutgers University, 1994

Carlos is a partner at Archer & Greiner where he represents clients in complex toxic tort, product liability and environmental litigation matters. He is experienced in handling environmental litigation cases in all of the contexts in which they arise, including single plaintiff cases, mass actions involving hundreds of plaintiffs, class actions and defending clients against state and federal government. Carlos typically handles high stakes litigation with massive potential damages. He has tried numerous contested matters in federal and state courts and has experience in all aspects of pre-trial and trial work.

Carlos is currently the Finance Director of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and a Trustee for the New Jersey State Bar Association. Carlos is a Past President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ).



**Cheryl M.  
MANLEY**

Charter Communications  
Senior Vice President and Associate  
General Counsel, Employment Law  
Employment Law

J.D., St. Louis University School of Law,  
B.A., Old Dominion University (cum  
laude)

Cheryl M. Manley is the Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Employment Law at Charter Communications. In her role as the leader of Charter's Employment Law Group, Ms. Manley oversees a team of attorneys and support staff. Her varied responsibilities include managing all employment litigation, strategizing with senior executives as to the application of employment laws, ensuring Charter's compliance with applicable employment laws, providing legal counsel and guidance to human resource leaders in the investigation of harassment, discrimination, and other employment-related complaints, overseeing the immigration activities of foreign nationals sponsored by the company, serving on Charter's corporate compliance team, assisting in the development of human resources policies and procedures. Ms. Manley participated in Charter's Executive Leadership Institute.



**Christopher S.  
AUGUSTE**

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, LLP  
Partner  
Corporate

J.D., Harvard Law School, 1983, A.B.,  
Harvard College, 1980 (magna cum  
laude)

Christopher S. Auguste advises clients in private placements and public offerings of debt and equity securities. Chris represents underwriters and issuers in initial and secondary public offerings, private investment funds in their investment in public and private companies, and investment banks in structuring PIPEs, shelf offerings and equity line transactions. He counsels private investment funds and funds of funds in connection with their structure and formation, and provides advice and analysis regarding their portfolio investments. He also represents financial institutions and issuers in structured financings.

Chris serves on the board of Goddard Riverside Community Center, which provides housing for senior citizens and the homeless and education services for children. He is the president and an alumnus of the Wadleigh Scholars Program, and serves on the board of YouthBridge-NY and Phillips Academy.



**Concepcion (Connie)  
MONTROYA**

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP  
Partner  
Employment Litigation & Counseling;  
Consumer Finance Class Action

J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2000; M.  
Div., Union Theological Seminary, 1995;  
B.A, New York University, 1990

Concepcion "Connie" A. Montoya is a board member of the National Association of Women Lawyers and Co-Chair of its Diversity Committee. She is a 2000 graduate of Brooklyn Law School and a Partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP. Connie's practice focuses on the areas of employment litigation and counseling as well as consumer class action defense. She is also a member of Hinshaw's Diversity Committee. Connie is a founding member and an Immediate Past President of the Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York. Connie is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Lawyers and the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York. She is a former Co-Chair of the LGBTQ Network of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. She served as Co-Chair of the Litigation Committee of the Asian American Bar Association of New York for several years. In 2017, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association of Brooklyn Law School presented her with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Connie was an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Special Federal Litigation Division of the Office of the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, where she received the "Municipal Affairs Award" in 2004 for outstanding achievement in the New York City Law Department, from the Municipal Affairs Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Prior to law school, Connie obtained a Masters of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York, concentrating on feminist theology and ethics.



**Christopher  
CHAN**

Frontier Communications  
Associate General Counsel  
Employment

J.D., Fordham University School of Law

Christopher Chan is an In-house labor & employment counsel with demonstrated experience in the telecommunications and publishing industries. Responsible for all aspects of labor and employment legal matters for a telecom operating in 29 states with over 22,000 employees. Partners with leaders and colleagues on a wide array of compliance, litigation, arbitration, labor, and employment matters to drive business goals while adhering to legal requirements and mitigating risk. Skilled in counseling, advocacy, litigation, arbitration, mediation, legal writing, internal investigations, responding to EEOC and State Human Rights Agency charges, DOL audits, and compliance with various workplace laws such as Title VII, ADA, ADEA, PDA, GINA, HIPAA, FMLA, FLSA, and state anti-discrimination and anti-retaliation laws.



**Claudius O.  
SOKENU**

Marathon Petroleum Corporation  
Deputy General Counsel, Global Head  
of Litigation and Investigations, and  
Global Head of Ethics and Compliance  
Corporate and Securities Litigation,  
Securities Enforcement, Securities  
Litigation, White-Collar Criminal  
Defense, and Compliance

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Center, LL.M, London School of  
Economics and King's College London,  
LL.B., London South Bank University

Claudius has a unique legal background spanning over 21 years of legal and senior management experience, including serving as Senior Counsel in the Division of Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission, litigation partner in private practice at three American Lawyer A-Listed global law firms in New York, London, and Washington, DC lastly at Shearman & Sterling LLP, and senior in-house leadership and management experience. As one of a small number of lawyers with senior federal government, private practice, and senior management-level experience, my expertise includes broad general corporate, mergers and acquisition, commercial, corporate governance, securities enforcement, litigation, compliance, and government investigations. I am skilled at providing strategic advice as a senior member of management, including managing legal staff and budget, managing outside counsel, and counseling boards of directors on legal and business matters.



**Damon  
HART**

Liberty Mutual Insurance  
Senior Vice President, Deputy General  
Counsel  
Employment

J.D., Boston College Law School, B.A.,  
College of the Holy Cross

Damon P. Hart's practices focuses on labor and employment matters. Mr. Hart has strong experience in a variety of complex business disputes before federal, state and local administrative agencies, at arbitration and in state and federal court on matters arising out of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other federal, state and local anti-discrimination and employment statutes. Mr. Hart also has experience with Wage and Hour Class Action matters. Prior to joining Liberty, he was a partner at Littler Mendelson, Ogletree Deakins and Holland and Knight. While in private practice, Mr. Hart focused on litigation and employment matters. In addition to his litigation work, he also provided business advice on contract, benefits, real estate and development matters.



**Daniel  
PARK**

Magenta Therapeutics  
Director, Legal Affairs

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.A., Yale University

Daniel Park is Director, Legal Affairs at Magenta Therapeutics. Prior to joining Magenta, he was a Vice President and Counsel at State Street and a Corporate Associate at WilmerHale. He is also a member of the BUSL Alumni Executive Committee. Daniel received a B.A. from Yale College and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

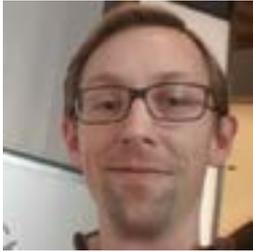


**Darwin  
CONNER**

Sullivan & Worcester LLP  
Partner  
Corporate Finance

J.D., Fordham University School of Law,  
1999, B.A., Carleton College, 1993

Darwin concentrates his practice in corporate finance. His experience includes the representation of title banks, direct-lending hedge funds, financial institutions, and borrowers in various complex, single-lender and syndicated acquisition, cash-based, subscription line, asset-backed, secured, unsecured and second lien financing transactions. He has represented numerous international commercial banks, financial institutions, direct-lending hedge funds, and investment banks. He has also represented various domestic and international corporations as borrowers.



**David  
HUBBARD**

Verizon Communications  
Vice President and Deputy General  
Counsel – Marketing

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., University of Maryland at College  
Park, (cum laude)

David Hubbard, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel – Marketing Verizon Communications, is responsible for providing legal counsel to Verizon's entire portfolio of businesses. Mr. Hubbard's other areas of concentration include new product and service offerings and marketing strategy, corporate responsibility and state and federal regulations as well as applicable consumer protection laws. Prior to joining Verizon, Mr. Hubbard was an associate with Kelley Drye & Warren LLP in Washington, DC. He earned his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center, and his B.A., cum laude, from the University of Maryland at College Park, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa and a Benjamin Bannecker Scholar. He serves on the national board of directors for the Council of Better Business Bureaus and is a member of the Verizon's Diversity Advisory Group.



**Deirdre  
DAVIS**

American Express  
Trademark Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
- School of Law, B.A., Wesleyan  
University

Deirdre Davis serves as an Intellectual Property attorney with extensive experience in worldwide brand management protection, counseling and enforcement for clients in a variety of industries including entertainment, media, publishing, advertising, and consumer goods. Currently Director, Intellectual Property, Business and Legal Affairs, at Scripps Networks Interactive, the global media company offering lifestyle brands including HGTV, Food Network, Travel Channel, DIY Network, Cooking Channel, Great American Country, Genius Kitchen, Fine Living and Asian Food Channel. Responsible for the day-to-day management and supervision of trademark and copyright related matters including global trademark clearance, prosecution, IP claims and enforcement, domain acquisitions, IP transactional matters and advice and counsel on IP-related issues.



**Dino  
WU**

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr  
LLP  
Partner  
Futures and Derivatives; Securities;  
Investment Management

JD, Harvard Law School, 1997 (cum  
laude); AB, Harvard College, 1994 (cum  
laude)

Dino Wu has extensive experience representing investment management clients in negotiating trading agreements such as prime brokerage, derivatives, repo, stock lending and other financing agreements. He assists clients in complying with regulations relating to derivatives, including Dodd-Frank and EMIR. In addition, he advises corporate clients regarding ISDA master agreements, equity derivatives transactions, and interest rate and foreign exchange swaps.

Wu is the chair of the Diversity Committee for WilmerHale's New York office. He previously was an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell and a professional opera singer.

Upon graduating from law school, Wu completed clerkships with both the Honorable Jane R. Roth of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Honorable Mark L. Wolf of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.



**Edward S.  
WEI**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
Partner  
Tax Practice

LL.M., Cambridge University, J.D.,  
Harvard University, B.A., Columbia  
University

Edward S. Wei is a partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and member of the Tax Practice Group. Mr. Wei's practice focuses on a wide range of U.S. and international tax matters involving corporations, partnerships and LLCs, including private equity, mergers and acquisitions, spin-offs, joint ventures, bankruptcy restructurings, REITs/real estate and debt and equity capital markets. The Legal 500 has recognized Mr. Wei as a "Next Generation Lawyer" in both the "U.S. Tax (Non-Contentious)" and "International Tax" categories. Mr. Wei received a J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School, an LL.M from the University of Cambridge (Jesus College) and a B.A., summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Columbia University. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York.



**Emily M.  
LAM**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom  
LLP  
Partner and head of Skadden's Palo Alto  
Office  
Tax

"LL.M., Georgetown University  
Law Center, 2004 (Thomas Bradbury  
Chetwood, S.J. Prize)  
J.D., Yale Law School, 2000  
B.A., Yale University, 1997 (summa cum  
laude; Phi Beta Kappa)

Emily M. Lam advises on a broad range of tax controversy matters, focusing on complex audits and appeals. Drawing on her prior experience at the U.S. Department of Treasury and her almost two decades of practice, she provides clients with sophisticated tax counseling on the most sensitive matters. Ms. Lam also advises tax-exempt organizations and counsels on charitable giving issues. While an attorney adviser in the Office of Tax Policy at the U.S. Department of Treasury, she worked closely with the Internal Revenue Service on administrative guidance, consulted with Congressional staff regarding legislation and interfaced with other government agencies on various tax policy matters. On the strength of her professional achievements, Ms. Lam has been recognized numerous times as a leading tax lawyer in California and nationwide.



**Erica  
SMITH-KLOCEK**

Covance Inc.  
VP & Associate General Counsel

J.D., Saint John's University School of Law, B.A., The Johns Hopkins University

Erica Smith-Klocek serves as a VP & Associate General Counsel for Covance Inc. Prior to joining Covance Inc, Ms. Smith-Klocek clerked for Judge Thomas G. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She also served as court counsel to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau and was a litigation associate at a prominent New York law firm. Ms. Smith-Klocek is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New York and before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. For several years, Ms. Smith-Klocek has been a member of the Philadelphia office's Professional Recruiting Committee.



**Ginny  
KIM**

United Technologies Corporation  
VP, Managing Counsel, Litigation  
Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A., Harvard University

Ginny Kim manages the career rotational program for UTC attorneys worldwide. As Litigation Counsel, Ginny oversees litigation strategies on significant litigation matters involving UTC businesses. Ginny joined UTC in 2000, as a Pratt & Whitney staff attorney, and has since held legal management roles of increasing responsibility at various UTC business units. Prior to joining UTC, Ginny practiced corporate law at Dewey Ballantine and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene and MacRae. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her B.A. in Sociology from Harvard University. Until recently, Ginny served on the Board of Directors for Foodshare, Inc., the regional food bank for Hartford and Tolland Counties in Connecticut. Ginny's current community project is the establishment of a community-owned, multi-generational health and wellness aquatic center in her hometown.



**Gregory J.  
CHAMPION**

Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC  
Member  
Business and Transactions

J.D., Syracuse University College of Law (summa cum laude), B.A., St. Lawrence University

Greg engages in a broad corporate and business law practice advising publicly-traded and privately-held entities, higher education institutions, and not-for-profit entities on a variety of matters, including corporate governance, contract negotiations, corporate structure, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory compliance, SEC and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, corporate financings, litigation strategy, licensing issues and various transactional matters. Greg regularly advises corporate boards and has served as the corporate secretary of both NASDAQ-listed and privately-held companies.



**H. Todd  
BULLARD**

Harris Beach PLLC  
Partner-Equity Member  
Business and Commercial Litigation;  
Municipalities and Local Agencies;  
Construction and Surety Law; Diversity  
Compliance; Public Finance and  
Economic Development

J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law, 1987; B.A., Allegheny College, 1984

Todd represents local agencies, not-for-profits, public housing authorities, counties, cities, government legislatures, school districts, and local development corporations as outside counsel related to corporate, as well as, operational matters and litigation defense. Todd also advises organizations and firms on procurements and provides compliance advice related to New York State and applicable municipal minority and women owned business enterprise requirements.

Todd also represents companies and individuals in a variety of business and commercial litigation matters. He has had reported cases in the areas of municipal litigation involving procurements, Article 78 proceedings, declaratory judgment actions and inter-municipal agreements, commercial litigation (breach of contract, misappropriation of image), and employment discrimination. Todd has represented both defendants and plaintiffs in several reported cases expanding and interpreting various areas of law.



**Huhnsik  
CHUNG**

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP  
Partner  
Insurance & FinTech

J.D. Cornell Law School, 1989, B.S., Cornell University, 1986

Huhnsik has been immersed in blockchain development and deployment through token sales in his representation of accelerators, exchanges, sponsors, investors and developers in the US and abroad. As a sought out advisor for his deep understanding of the insurance sector, Huhnsik also represents clients in complicated insurance and reinsurance matters. He provides insurance regulatory, licensing, structuring and transactional advice to insurance industry clients on M&A, investments, InsurTech, captives, ILS and new product development. Huhnsik is also regularly called upon to resolve complex commercial disputes arising from the business of insurance. Huhnsik serves on the Board of the Insurance Federation of New York and as its Vice President, Board of the Asian American Legal Fund of New York, and Advisory Board of the Asian American Bar Association of New York.



**Jacqueline  
PARKER**

Ballard Spahr LLP  
Of Counsel  
Consumer Financial Services

LL.M. Banking Law, Boston University, 1998; J.D., Pace University, 1990; B.S., Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, 1990

Jacqueline Parker is a consumer financial services attorney with over 20 years of experience. She has spent her career as a strategic adviser for domestic and international financial institutions and companies offering consumer products and services, including credit cards, mortgages, home equity loans and lines of credit, mobile payments, and deposit accounts.

Jacqueline has significant in-house experience, having served in senior and executive roles at major financial institutions for more than a decade. In those positions, she provided counsel on innovative products and services, compliance, risk, and bank regulatory and enforcement actions.

Most recently, Jacqueline served as Senior Vice President and Senior Fair Lending Counsel at Synchrony Financial. Prior to working in-house, Jacqueline advised on business and corporate transactions and state and federal consumer laws at several national law firms.



**Jared  
BARTIE**

O'Melveny & Myers LLP  
Partner  
Entertainment, Sports & Media

J.D., Northwestern University School of Law, 1993, B.A., American University, 1990

Jared Bartie is a nationally recognized sports attorney and Co-Chair of the Sports Industry Group at O'Melveny & Myers LLP. Jared represents domestic and international clients on a variety of high-profile matters, including professional sports team investments, stadium and arena transactions, facility naming rights and sponsorships, and media rights agreements. He has developed a robust practice in the burgeoning esports industry advising on team investments, league entry, corporate sponsorships, player contracts, and arena development. Jared has been named a 2017 and 2018 "Dealmaker" by Variety, a 2016 "Power-Player" by SportsBusiness Journal, a 2016 "Sports Attorney of the Year" by the National Bar Association, and most recently one of the 2018 "Most Influential Black Lawyers in America" by Savoy Magazine.



**Javier  
FLORES**

Manning Gross + Massenburg LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Connecticut School of Law, 2006 (honors), B.A., Kenyon College, 2003

Javier F. Flores is a partner and practiced litigator with significant experience defending a wide variety of civil cases, including commercial matters and catastrophic injury cases.

Javier has successfully litigated cases throughout the country on behalf of a broad range of defendants, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses. He has extensive experience representing clients in product liability, class action, and commercial matters, as well as advising clients on additional insured and tender issues.

Javier is co-chair of his firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, was a 2017 Leadership Council on Litigation Diversity (LCLD) Fellow, and is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Diversity Task Force. He serves on the Boston Fair Housing Commission and is the National Secretary of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA).



**Jeremiah  
DEBERRY**

Mayer Brown LLP  
Partner and Director of Diversity & Inclusion  
Corporate, Full-time Diversity Professional

J.D., University of Virginia, 1991 (Law Review), B.A., Tufts University, 1986 (honors)

As the firm's chief diversity professional, Jeremiah DeBerry leads Mayer Brown's efforts to create and maintain a diverse and inclusive work environment, where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential. In this role, he also serves on the firm's global Partner Promotion Committee. Prior to focusing exclusively on diversity and inclusion matters, he was a partner of an international firm, where he practiced in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments and sports and entertainment. He is a frequent speaker and panelist on law firm diversity matters and author of several nationally published articles. In 2016, he received the Diversity Leader Award from Profiles in Diversity Journal, a national publication that recognizes Diversity Officers who are advancing the evolution of diversity and inclusion.



**Jeremy  
HARRIS**

Praxair, Inc.  
Senior Counsel  
Commercial/Corporate

Georgetown University and Columbia Law School

Jeremy Harris is Senior Counsel at Praxair, Inc. (a subsidiary of Linde plc). Linde is a leading industrial gases and engineering company with 2018 pro forma sales of USD 28 billion. The company employs approximately 80,000 people globally and serves customers in more than 100 countries. Jeremy's responsibilities include a variety of commercial and transactional matters for various business units. Jeremy currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem.

Prior to joining Praxair, Jeremy practiced at the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in NY – where he was engaged in a general corporate law practice, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions and general corporate advisory work. Jeremy received a BS in Finance from Georgetown University and a JD from Columbia Law School.



**Jerome  
MCCLUSKEY**

Milbank LLP  
Partner  
Finance

J.D., Stanford Law School, B.A.,  
Harvard College

Jerome McCluskey is a partner in the New York office of Milbank and a member of the firm's Leveraged Finance Group. Mr. McCluskey focuses his practice on representation of banks and other financial institutions in senior lending transactions. He has extensive experience advising clients from a wide range of industries in connection with domestic and cross-border financing transactions, including leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, bridge and mezzanine financings, and DIP and exit facility financings. Mr. McCluskey was also selected as a David Rockefeller Fellow for the Class of 2015–2016 by the Partnership for New York City and is a former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. McCluskey also recently co-authored the second edition of the LSTA's Complete Credit Agreement Guide, a comprehensively updated manual for the global syndicated credit market.



**Jerry  
SWINDELL**

Johnson & Johnson  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., University of Texas School of Law,  
B.A., Georgetown University

Jerry Swindell is Assistant General Counsel at Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, NJ. Johnson & Johnson, a comprehensive healthcare company, markets products in the pharmaceutical, medical device, and consumer products markets. Jerry's practice includes advising the company in connection with a wide variety of competition issues, including mergers & acquisitions, litigation, and pricing programs in all of the company's business segments. Prior to joining J&J in 2005, Jerry was Associate Director for the Bureau of Competition at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. Jerry graduated from Georgetown University in 1992. He received his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1995.



**Jessica B.  
LEE**

Loeb & Loeb LLP  
Partner, Co-Chair, Privacy, Security &  
Data Innovations  
Privacy, Media & Technology

Columbia College and University of  
Columbia Law School

Jessica Lee helps companies in the U.S. and around the world launch, market and monetize their digital products and content. She advises on everything from interest-based and addressable advertising, data analytics, location-based tracking, smart devices and wearables, to the use of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, VR and AR, and facial recognition.

Jessica has assisted dozens of organizations design their privacy programs and operationalize U.S. and international privacy and data security requirements, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), HIPAA, the Video Privacy Protection Act (VPPA), the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, and, more recently, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). Jessica has deep experience advising companies in the adtech, e-commerce, and entertainment space, as well as clients in more heavily regulated sectors, such as healthcare and financial services.

Named one of Crain's Notable Women in Law for 2019, Jessica is routinely called upon to speak on the privacy and cybersecurity concerns in advertising, media, adtech, and health tech. She recently testified before the California Senate Judiciary Committee on the impacts of privacy regulation on the business community.

Jessica contributes her time to a number of community service projects and mentorship initiatives.



**Joseph  
BROWN**

Joseph Brown Legal, PLLC  
Managing Partner  
Employment Litigation

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., University of Rochester

After nearly 20 years as a litigator at large firms in Washington D.C. and Buffalo, Joseph Brown has formed his own practice with a focus on general business and employment litigation in state and federal courts. Prior to starting his own firm, he was a partner in the business litigation group at Hodgson Russ LLP, where he co-chaired the employment litigation practice and served as the firm's diversity partner. He started his legal career as an associate in the litigation group at Pillsbury Winthrop in Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia before relocating to Western New York. He has held several bar association, firm management, and non-profit leadership positions over the years with his focus on advancing diversity in the legal profession and expanding educational opportunities for those in need.



**Joseph M.  
DRAYTON**

Cooley LLP  
Partner  
Patent and Commercial Litigation

J.D. University of Pennsylvania, 1997,  
B.S. Electrical Engineering, University of  
Maryland, College Park, 1993

Joe Drayton is a Patent Litigation Partner at Cooley LLP. His practice background includes a broad range of intellectual property and complex commercial matters. He is experienced in patent litigation, trademark and copyright usage, trade dress, design patents and false advertising. Joe is a proud life member of the National Bar Association presently serving as its 76th President. Joe serves on the Board of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, and has handled as first chair impact litigation aimed at preventing both employment and housing discrimination. Joe is also currently on the Council of the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation, and has served as a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. Joe is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the New York City Bar Association.



**Joy  
LIU**

Vertex Pharmaceuticals  
Vice President, Commercial and  
Regulatory Legal  
Regulatory Affairs

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., Harvard University

Joy Liu leads the Commercial and Regulatory legal team at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Prior to joining Vertex, Joy was a partner at Ropes & Gray and advised drug, biotech, and device companies on a broad range of FDA regulatory matters. Joy has significant experience working on advertising and promotion compliance matters, Hatch-Waxman exclusivity issues, and regulatory risk management. In private practice she also worked on a number of government investigations involving allegations of off-label promotion, recalls, safety reporting, and failure to comply with GMP/QSR and led regulatory due diligence teams for licensing deals, mergers and acquisitions, and securities offerings.



**Julian S.H.  
CHUNG**

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson  
LLP  
Partner  
Finance

J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of  
Law, 1995, (cum laude), B.A., New York  
University, 1992

Julian S.H. Chung focuses her practice on the representation of large financial institutions and borrowers in commercial lending transactions, with an emphasis on senior secured finance for leveraged acquisitions. She also represents financial institutions and debtors in connection with restructurings and refinancing existing credit facilities.

Ms. Chung is recognized as a leading practitioner by Legal 500 in Finance: Commercial Lending. The American Lawyer has named her one of the top lawyers under the age of 45 and she has been recognized as an Alumni Honoree by the Cardozo Law School Black, Asian, Latino Law Students Association.

Ms. Chung is a member of the Firm's Diversity Committee as well as the Women's Forum Planning Committee, a representative group directing Fried Frank's Firmwide women's affinity group.



**Jung  
CHOI**

Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.  
VP, Asst General Counsel & Asst  
Secretary  
Public company reporting and securities  
regulation, corporate governance,  
compliance

Yale University, B.A.; Georgetown  
University Law Center, J.D.

Jung Choi is Vice President, Assistant General Counsel & Assistant Secretary at Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. (SBD), a diversified global provider of hand and power tools and related accessories, engineered fastening systems and products, services and equipment for oil & gas and infrastructure applications, commercial electronic security and monitoring systems and healthcare solutions. She is a key member of the senior legal leadership team with responsibility over public company reporting and securities regulation, corporate governance, executive compensation and all compliance matters. In addition, she serves as the head counsel to the STANLEY engineered fastening business and is the primary legal support for SBD's Global Privacy Office.

Prior to joining SBD, Jung worked at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, a global biopharmaceutical company, where she was responsible for public company reporting, capital markets transactions, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. Jung began her legal career as a corporate associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP in New York and Hong Kong. Jung received her J.D., cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center, and her B.A. in Political Science and International Studies, cum laude, from Yale University.



**Kanasha S.  
HERBERT**

State Street Corporation  
Vice President and Senior Counsel

Kanasha's broad corporate practice includes working with public companies and early-stage companies in matters such as corporate governance and mergers and acquisitions, and is also informed by her particular experience as an electrical engineer. Kanasha's experience in mergers and acquisitions includes providing analysis and due diligence on international land acquisitions, lease obligations, secured financial obligations, technology licensing, copyright, and various regulatory matters.

Prior to joining Mintz Levin, Kanasha served as an associate with another law firm in Boston. Before attending law school, she worked as a hardware engineer creating design solutions for low to midrange servers. During law school, she served as an Editor and an Executive Board member for the Uniform Commercial Code Reporter-Digest.



**Karen K.  
CHAN**

Conagen Inc.  
Chief IP Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.Sc., McGill University

Karen Chan serves as a Chief IP Counsel at Conagen Inc. Prior to this, she acted as a General Counsel at Flexterra Inc. and also at Polyera Corporation. Earlier in her career she served as an attorney at K&L Gates and Tesla, Hurwitz and Thibeault.



**Karyn  
JEFFERSON**

Benjamin Moore & Co.  
Deputy General Counsel – Labor &  
Employment  
Employment

J.D., Fordham University School of Law,  
B.A., University of Virginia

Karyn Jefferson is a seasoned labor and employment attorney with extensive experience advising clients on a wide variety of labor and employment matters, in the U.S., Canada and abroad, from both law firm and in-house environments. Background includes partnering with and providing guidance and support to management, in-house legal counsel and human resources professionals in all aspects of labor and employment to ensure compliance with applicable laws; conducting employment-law related training; aligning corporate HR strategies with business unit strategic plans to ensure execution of all aspects of HR including labor and employee relations, benefits, compensation, diversity initiatives and organizational development; conducting audits to ensure compliance with employment laws. Adept leader and communicator with a demonstrated ability to resolve labor and employment issues through tactful negotiations and effective planning.



**JKirby  
CHIN**

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP  
Partner  
Finance

J.D., New York University School of  
Law, 1995 (Journal of International Law  
and Politics)  
B.A., New York University, 1992 (cum  
laude)

Kirby Chin focuses his practice on financings and debt transactions, and advising on capital structures. He is a member of the firm's Finance Group, Energy Group and Distressed Investment Group. Kirby has substantial experience representing clients in transactions involving private and public debt financings, working with special situations and distressed assets, and structuring, executing and advising on multi-layered debt tranches and capital structure analysis. Kirby has been recognized by The Legal 500 US, a listing of top lawyers by practice area. A member of the American Bar Association, the Asian American Bar Association of New York and the New York City Bar Association, he is a sought-after speaker at industry events.



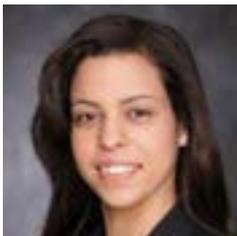
**Kuvesh  
AYER**

GE Renewable Energy  
Head of Contracts Management - North  
America Region  
Contracts Management

LL.M., University of Connecticut School  
of Law, J.D., University of Natal, B.A.,  
University of South Africa

Kuvesh Ayer is a dynamic and accomplished Contracts Management Executive with extensive international experience across the USA Canada, Latin America and Southern Africa. Leading and shaping high performing CM teams in the Energy Construction and Industrial Manufacturing sectors.

Before this, Kuvesh Ayer served as a Director of Legal and Contracts Management at Alstom Power and also Head of Legal and Contracts Management for Independent Development Trust.



**Laura  
HIDAGO**

Merck  
Director, Legal, International Legal and  
Compliance  
Legal and Compliance

J.D., Duke University School of Law,  
B.A., Princeton University

Laura Hidalgo serves as a Director, Legal, International Legal and Compliance at Merck. Previously, she has been an Associate Attorney at Paul Hastings. and also a Project Assistant at Sidley Austin.



**Leslie M.  
SPENCER**

Ropes & Gray LLP  
Partner  
IP Litigation

LL.M., Temple University Beasley  
School of Law, J.D., New York University  
School of Law, M.B.A., Stephen M. Ross  
School of Business at the University of  
Michigan, B.S., Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology

Leslie Spencer, co-chair of the firm's diversity committee, is a partner in the IP litigation practice working in the firm's New York office. Leslie counsels clients on intellectual property matters involving software, computer networks and security, semiconductors, financial technology, blockchain and artificial intelligence. She has over 15 years of experience litigating patent disputes in federal district court, including at Markman hearing, trial and appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Leslie is also a registered patent attorney, and appears before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Her practice also involves advising clients on IP asset protection, IP transactions and freedom-to-operate opinions.

Leslie has been recognized by New York Law Journal as one of thirty "Top Women in Law 2016," and among New York Metro Super Lawyers since 2013.



**Linda  
GADSBY**

Scholastic Inc.  
Vice President & Deputy General  
Counsel  
Employment Law

J.D., New York University School of  
Law, B.S., Cornell University

Linda Gadsby is Vice President & Deputy General Counsel at Scholastic, the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, and a leading developer of educational technology. For more than 20 years, she has been providing counsel to employers on all aspects of employment law, and representing her clients before federal and state courts and administrative agencies. Gadsby is responsible for handling all labor and employment law issues for Scholastic's approximately 7,000 domestic employees, plus the UK, Canada, Puerto Rico, and other locations. In addition, she serves as the primary attorney for two of the company's largest divisions: Scholastic Book Fairs and the National Service Organization. She also manages the company's immigration and employee benefits law areas, regularly advises and counsels top executives, and serves on the company's Administrative Committee.



**Lloyd  
FREEMAN**

Archer & Greiner, P.C.  
Partner and Chief Diversity Officer  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., Rutgers Law School, 2007, B.B.A.,  
Howard University, 2004 (cum laude)

Lloyd concentrates his practice in the area of commercial and complex civil litigation in state and federal courts in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His matters involve consumer fraud, real property, franchise, business torts, the Uniform Commercial Code and other issues related to business and contractual disputes.

As Chief Diversity Officer, Lloyd carries out the firm's vision to grow diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, as well as implements policies and procedures, and fosters programs to promote diversity throughout the firm. Lloyd is the immediate past president of the Garden State Bar Association and chairman of the board for Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region. He is the recipient of many awards including the NJ State Bar Association's Young Lawyer of the Year and the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Best Advocates Award.



**Lorraine S  
MCGOWEN**

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
Partner  
Bankruptcy & Restructuring

B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University  
School of Foreign Service, and her J.D.  
from Columbia University School of  
Law

McGowen is a restructuring partner at Orrick, a leading global law firm focused on serving the financial, and energy & infrastructure and tech sectors. One of IFLR1000's Leading Lawyers, she represents clients from the US and internationally seeking to maximize their recoveries or reduce their exposure.

She is a member of Orrick's Management Committee and recently completed two terms of service on the firm's 11-member Board of Directors. She also co-leads Orrick's Automotive Technology & Mobility Group and its global Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Initiative.

As a leading D&I advocate, McGowen creates programs for the legal profession and the community. She has been recognized as an MCCA Rainmaker and received the NYC Bar Association's Diversity Champion Award and Legal Outreach's Pipeline to Diversity Champion Award.



**Lynn P.  
HARRISON III**

Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle  
LLP  
"Partner/Chair, Restructuring and  
Insolvency group  
Insolvency

J.D., New York University School of  
Law, B.A., Morehouse College

Mr. Harrison is the Chair of Curtis' Restructuring and Insolvency group. He has extensive experience in insolvency-related matters, including workouts, reorganizations, and liquidations on behalf of debtors, creditors and trustees. Clients include foreign and domestic, public and private corporations, financial institutions, underwriters, and governmental creditors, in chapter 11 reorganizations, chapter 15 ancillary proceedings.

Legal 500 USA has for many years recognized Mr. Harrison for his role in Curtis' Restructuring and Insolvency practice. The 2019 edition describes him as a "hardworking star individual," who leads a "diligent and responsive practice." In 2014, the guide noted he "combines keen intelligence and high technical knowledge with warm client-handling skills," and in 2017 was praised by clients as "a very safe pair of hands and a supportive, proactive member of the multi-jurisdictional team."



**E. Macey  
RUSSELL**

Choate Hall & Stewart LLP  
Partner  
Complex Commercial Litigation

J.D., Suffolk University Law School,  
1983, B.A. Trinity College, 1980

Mr. Russell is a national leader in the dialogue on the role and careers of African Americans in major law firms. In 2018, the Boston Bar Association presented him with "Voice of Change" Award, and The Burton Foundation and Library of Congress honored in 2009 him for his thought leadership on developing minority lawyer talent. He is a finalist for the 2019 Chambers Minority Attorney of Year Award. He writes and presents nationally on diversity issues as an Advisory Board member of the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession.

Mr. Russell is a partner in Choate's Complex Trial and Appellate group and represents major corporations in complex litigation matters. He is listed in Best Lawyers in America, and a member of Litigation Counsel of America's Trial Lawyer Honorary Society.



**Margaret W.  
WALKER**

Xerox Corporation  
Associate General IP Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of Michigan, 1992; B.A.,  
University of Rochester, 1989

Currently serve as an associate general intellectual property counsel for Xerox Corporation for over twenty years. Experienced in trademark, copyright, domain name and advertising law. Also serve as real estate and business unit counsel.



**May Mon  
POST**

Chubb's House Counsel Office  
Lead Employment Attorney  
Employment

J.D., Temple University Beasley School  
of Law, 2001  
M.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1998  
B.A., Haverford College, 1995

May Mon Post is Lead Employment Practices Liability Attorney for Chubb's Pennsylvania House Counsel. Ms. Post is responsible for defending employment litigation and charges of discrimination filed against Chubb's insureds. Chubb is the world's largest publicly traded property and casualty insurance company and the largest commercial insurer in the U.S.

In addition to managing an extensive caseload of employment cases, including claims arising under Title VII, ADA, ADEA, FMLA, and other federal and state laws, Ms. Post supervises a team of EPL attorneys, including retained attorneys.

Ms. Post is past President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania (APABA-PA) and past Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession. She currently sits on the Leadership Advisory Council for APABA-PA.



**Narges M.  
KAKALIA**

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and  
Popeo, P.C.  
Partner  
Litigation

Oberlin College; Fordham University  
School of Law

Narges's practice focuses on complex business disputes, with expertise in securities litigation, contracts, corporate governance, executive protection, big data, legal ethics, insurance coverage and risk management. Throughout her career, Narges has generated practical solutions to complex legal and business problems. She has represented clients at the administrative, trial, and appellate levels, as well as in domestic and international arbitration.

Narges also advises clients on a number of issues including insurance and risk management, employment matters and non-competes, legal ethics, attorney-client privilege, and the risks, security and management of big data.

Narges's firm leadership roles include serving as the Firm's Ombudsperson and Vice-Chair of Mintz's pro bono practice.



**Natalie L.  
REID**

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, (cum laude),  
B.A., Brown University, (cum laude)

Natalie Reid is a litigation partner in the firm's International Disputes Group focusing on international arbitration, public international law and complex commercial litigation matters. A Jamaican national, she regularly advises and represents multinational corporations, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in proceedings in U.S. courts and international fora. Prior to joining Debevoise, she was an Associate Legal Officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Ms. Reid is recognized by the leading legal directories for her outstanding experience in international arbitration. Chambers USA (2019) describes her as "an absolutely superb rising star," and "very thoughtful and impressive. In 2019, Benchmark Litigation recognized Ms. Reid as a Litigation Star for International Arbitration in New York and in 2018, as one of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation."



**Nishka  
CHANDRASOMA**

Ford Foundation  
Vice President, Secretary, and General  
Counsel

J.D., Yale Law School, B.A., University  
of California, Berkeley

Nishka Chandrasoma is vice president, secretary, and general counsel of the foundation. She is responsible for managing the overall legal affairs of the foundation relating to its governance, grant making, global operations, and investments.

Nishka joined the foundation in 2015 as assistant secretary and deputy general counsel before being named vice president in 2019. Prior to joining the foundation, she practiced law with the tax-exempt organizations group at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, where she represented clients ranging from universities and museums to private foundations and donor-advised funds.

Nishka is a member of the Nonprofit Forum of the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at New York University School of Law, the American Bar Association's Exempt Organizations committee, and the Government Relations committee of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York.



**Paige  
SCOTT REED**

Prince Lobel Tye LLP  
Partner  
Employment Law, Unmanned and  
Autonomous Systems

“Harvard Law School, J.D., cum laude,  
1997  
Harvard College, A.B., 1992”

Paige Scott Reed is an experienced transportation and employment attorney whose transactional, litigation, regulatory, administrative, and procurement work has served her clients well for over 20 years. She has worked as general counsel for the Mass. DOT and the MBTA and also served as Corporate Secretary and General Counsel to the Boston 2024 Partnership for the city’s Olympic bid. Paige has assisted government and private organizations, CEOs, and Boards of Directors with commercial contracts, development transactions, and public projects. She was instrumental in procuring a new operator for the MBTA’s commuter rail, forming a public-private partnership to redevelop Back Bay Station, and in securing \$1 billion in federal funding for the Green Line Extension project. Paige has also defended government organizations against class actions charging racial discrimination in hiring practices.



**Pamela  
BRUZZESE-SZCZYGIEL**

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP  
Partner  
Banking Law

J.D., New York University School of  
Law, B.A., Brooklyn College

Pamela Bruzzese-Szczygiel focuses her practice on corporate and banking law matters. Pamela was selected for inclusion in the 2013-2016 New York Metro Super Lawyers’ Rising Stars lists, issued by Thomson Reuters.

Through the wide network of institutions that she represents, Pamela is able to assist trustees in locating successors and effectuate smooth transitions when resignations are necessary due to conflicts. When issuers default on their securities, Pamela represents trustees in connection with such issues as noteholder committees, restructuring transactions and bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings in the United States and abroad.

Clients value Pamela’s proven ability to create synergy among even the most varied deal participants. Pamela is known for her aptitude in translating complex arrangements into workable plans, and is appreciated for her skill in analyzing and executing complicated and sophisticated transactions.



**Patrice P.  
JEAN, Ph.D.**

Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP  
Partner  
IP Litigation (Patents, Trademarks,  
Copyrights & Trade Secrets)

J.D., Columbia University, 2002  
(Editor-In-Chief, Columbia Science  
& Technology Law Review); Ph.D.,  
Molecular Biology, Princeton University,  
1999; M.A., Molecular Biology,  
Princeton University, 1996; B.S.,  
Biochemistry, Xavier University of  
Louisiana, 1993 (summa cum laude)

Patrice Jean has more than a decade of experience counseling leading and startup pharmaceutical, chemical and biotechnology companies in all areas of intellectual property law. In particular, she is adept at asserting and defending the IP rights underlying the core technologies and innovations of leading high-tech and pharmaceutical companies. She also defends her clients against claims asserted by competitors, sparing them billions of dollars in damages. Additionally, her patent and trademark prosecution practice strengthens her litigation abilities. Patrice regularly calls on her technical background in chemistry and molecular biology to offer her clients an in-depth understanding of the complex science relative to matters that she handles.



**Paula L.  
BARNES**

Macy’s, Inc.  
Senior Counsel  
Advertising, Marketing Law

J.D., Howard University School of  
Law, (cum laude), B.A., University of  
Louisville (cum laude)

Paula Barnes is Senior Counsel with Macy’s, Inc. and serves as a marketing law and corporate retail law generalist advising her Macy’s, Bloomingdale’s and Bluemercury clients on a variety of retail operational issues. Her practice area at Macy’s, Inc. includes providing advice on advertising, social media and digital marketing, cause marketing, regulatory including FTC Endorsement guidelines and brand protection matters.

Prior to joining Macy’s, Ms. Barnes was counsel with MetLife and served as an Assistant District Attorney with the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office under Robert Morgenthau. While at MetLife, Ms. Barnes provided counsel on the distribution of MetLife products through the agent and independent broker channels, including the review of sales and promotional material for regulatory and IP compliance, and the drafting and negotiation of vendor agreements.



**Paulette  
BROWN**

Locke Lord LLP  
Sr. Partner & Chief Diversity &  
Inclusion Officer  
Labor & Employment

“J.D., Harvard University, 1982 (honors),  
B.A., Morehouse College, 1979 (magna  
cum laude) \*  
J.D., Seton Hall University School of  
Law, 1976, B.A., Howard University,  
1973

Paulette Brown is a Past President of the American Bar Association (ABA) and the first woman of color to lead the ABA in its 137 year history. Ms. Brown also served as the first person of color to Chair the Labor & Employment Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Brown is a nationally recognized leader on diversity and inclusion and has been honored by the National Law Journal as one of 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in the US and US News as one of the Best Lawyers in America. Her numerous awards include The Award of Excellence - Thurgood Marshall College Fund; The Spirit of Excellence & Margaret Brent Awards - American Bar Association; and Equal Justice and C. Francis Stratford Awards - National Bar Association.



**Peter C.  
HARVEY**

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Columbia Law School, B.A.,  
Morgan State University, (with honors)

Peter Harvey is a past Attorney General of New Jersey and a former federal prosecutor. As such, Peter has been a central player in civil and criminal trials, government investigations and consumer fraud matters for many years. A gifted trial lawyer, his nearly 30 years of courtroom experience includes significant commercial matters, frequently within the hospitality, pharmaceutical and entertainment/sports industries.

Mr. Harvey was nominated to serve as independent monitor for the Newark Police Department, responsible for overseeing the NPD's compliance with a Consent Decree issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. He has tried several major civil and criminal jury and non-jury cases in federal and state courts. He also conducts internal investigations for senior executives seeking to learn facts about employee misconduct or inappropriate business practices.



**Rachel A.  
GONZALEZ**

Day Pitney LLP  
Partner  
Labor and Employment

J.D., University of Connecticut School  
of Law, 2006 (Honors); B.S., Cornell  
University, 2000

Rachel A. Gonzalez partners with employers on various issues affecting the workplace. She regularly counsels and represents employers on sophisticated labor-relations issues, including union election campaigns, collective bargaining negotiations, injunction proceedings, arbitrations and before the NLRB. Rachel advises corporations on workforce planning during business changes including sales, stock and asset purchases, closings and relocations. She also counsels and trains employers on employment law compliance.

At Day Pitney, Rachel co-chairs the Attorneys of Color Network, chairs Recruitment Committee and is a member of the Diversity Committee. She serves as a Trustee for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey.

She has received numerous awards including: New Leaders of the Bar by the New Jersey Law Journal (2016); "Forty Under 40" by NJBIZ (2017), and New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Stars (2014-2018).



**Rachel  
RYAN**

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  
Partner  
Health care

J.D., Albany Law School of Union  
University, 2005 (summa cum laude,  
Valedictorian), A.B., Harvard University,  
1999 (cum laude)

Rachel Ryan counsels healthcare systems, hospitals, and physicians on regulatory, compliance and transactional matters. She assists her clients in developing the proper legal structures to implement their hospital-physician alignment strategies, including professional service arrangements, employment agreements, co-management contracts and captive professional corporation vehicles. She has assisted clients in various aspects of hospital affiliations, physician practice acquisitions, the sale of assisted living facilities and dialysis centers, as well as the sale of nuclear pharmacies.

Rachel currently serves as Vice Chair of the Drinker Biddle & Reath's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Rachel was recognized as 40 Under 40 by the Albany Business Review and was a member of the 2016 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellowship Program.



**Raymond  
WILLIAMS**

DLA Piper  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D. Pepperdine University School of  
Law, 1992  
B.S. University of Rhode Island, 1987

Raymond Williams focuses his practice on complex litigation and is a partner in the firm's Philadelphia office. Mr. Williams is the firm's national Diversity and Inclusion Partner. In 2006, Mr. Williams was selected as the first-chair of the Defense Research Institute's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Mr. Williams is the immediate past president of the Philadelphia Diversity Law Group.

Mr. Williams has first-chair jury trial experience, as well as extensive pre-trial litigation experience. He has used these skills to work on pro bono matters supported by his firm. Currently, Mr. Williams is engaged in a matter questioning the documentation requirements needed by legal permanent residents to vote in local elections. Most recently he successfully represented the Navajo Human Rights Commission and other Navajo plaintiffs regarding their unequal access to voting polls in San Juan, Utah.

Mr. Williams is a frequent speaker and contributor to litigation journals and industry publications regarding both diversity issues and his substantive practice area. On numerous occasions Mr. Williams has appeared as a panelist on the Law Journal TV program and the American Law Journal TV program.



**Ranfi  
RIVERA**

Nickelodeon  
VP, Business and Legal Affairs  
Entertainment

J.D., Fordham University School of Law,  
1991, B.S., New York University, 1988

Nishka Chandrasoma is vice president, secretary, and general counsel of the foundation. She is responsible for managing the overall legal affairs of the foundation relating to its governance, grant making, global operations, and investments.

Nishka joined the foundation in 2015 as assistant secretary and deputy general counsel before being named vice president in 2019. Prior to joining the foundation, she practiced law with the tax-exempt organizations group at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, where she represented clients ranging from universities and museums to private foundations and donor-advised funds.

Nishka is a member of the Nonprofit Forum of the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at New York University School of Law, the American Bar Association's Exempt Organizations committee, and the Government Relations committee of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York.



**Rashmi  
CHANDRA**

Aetna Inc.  
Executive Director & Senior Counsel,  
Intellectual Property & Technology Law  
Intellectual Property & Technology Law

J.D. Columbia University School of Law  
(Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar), 1996,  
LL.M Northwestern University School  
of Law (Raymond James Scholar), 1993,  
B.A. Political Science (Hons) University  
of Delhi

Rashmi Chandra has 21 years of experience as a technology and intellectual property transactions lawyer. At Aetna, a CVS Health company, she oversees all IP legal and strategic enforcement/maintenance issues, including brand counseling, strategic alliances, advertising, media, technology and software licensing, oversight of the patent portfolio and social media. Before Aetna, she was Senior Corporate Counsel at W.W. Grainger, Inc. and in private practice at Kirkland & Ellis specializing in IP/technology and outsourcing transactions.

Rashmi is a member of the PLI Faculty, as a panelist on Risks of Social Media at the Financial Services Technology Seminar for the four years. She is Vice-President of the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut and on the Board. She is also a member of the In-House Practitioner's Committee for the International Trademark Association.



**Rhonda  
POWELL**

BuzzFeed  
General Counsel and Corporate  
Secretary  
Media and Entertainment, Corporate

J.D. University of Michigan 1993  
(Clarence Darrow Merit Scholar); A.B.  
Harvard University 1993 (Magna cum  
laude with Summa honors in major)

Rhonda Powell leads a team of professional and administrative staff that supports all areas of BuzzFeed's rapidly growing digital media business. In her role, Rhonda provides both strategic and legal guidance to the organization on corporate and commercial transactional matters, compliance, employment and labor relations, risk management and intellectual property use and protection. Ms. Powell joined BuzzFeed in September 2018 from Complex Networks, where she served as Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary. Prior to joining Complex she spent twelve (12) years in senior legal and business affairs roles at Scripps Networks Interactive.

Ms. Powell's legal career began with law firm practice, including practice in the corporate departments of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae and Proskauer Rose LLP, where she gained significant experience working on transactions in the communications, media, biotechnology and e-commerce areas, many of which involved the transfer and valuation of significant intellectual property assets. It was at Proskauer Rose that Ms. Powell began to develop her expertise in counseling clients with regard to intellectual property issues in the corporate law context.

Ms. Powell serves on the Boards of Directors of PowerMyLearning, which has as its core mission the use of technology and creation of partnerships among parents, teachers and children to enhance and enrich the learning experience and the Food Education Fund, which supports Food and Finance High School, the only New York City public school providing students with a comprehensive culinary education. She is a mentor to several young women and men throughout the New York metropolitan area, including high school, college and law school students, as well as junior lawyers and has taken an active role in efforts to celebrate and enhance diversity in the corporate workplace and workforce.



**Richard T.R.  
HARPER**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer  
Center  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.M., Manhattan School of Music

Richard Harper is an Assistant General Counsel at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Before this, he has held multiple Associate positions at companies like Debevoise & Plimpton and Latham & Watkins. Prior to this, he was appointed as a Law Clerk at United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California and also a Litigation Paralegal for Hughes, Hubbard and Reed LLP.



**Robert  
JOHNSON**

Gibbons P.C.  
Corporate Director and Chief Diversity  
Officer  
Corporate law

Seton Hall Law School

Mr. Johnson—a corporate attorney focusing on mergers and acquisitions, and a former Assistant Counsel to the Governor of New Jersey from 2010 to 2012—relies on his corporate training and experience to inform his comprehensive corporate practice. Helping business clients expand their markets and establish significant presence throughout the region, Mr. Johnson represents public and private companies, commercial banks, and governmental agencies in connection with mergers and acquisitions, stock and asset purchase transactions, securities regulations, corporate governance matters, credit facilities, public finance, contract drafting, cross-border transactions, and general corporate matters. He also has represented clients in negotiations with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance for specific exemptions and obtaining certain licenses.



**Robert R.  
SIMPSON**

Carlton Fields Jordan Burt PA  
Shareholder  
Mass Tort and Product Liability

J.D., Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, 1993; M.B.A.,  
Weatherhead School of Management at  
Case Western Reserve University, 1993;  
B.A., Boston University, 1989

Carlton Fields Shareholder Rob Simpson is a trial attorney with extensive experience in product liability litigation. His practice focuses on pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, as well as toxic tort cases. He has been first- or second-chair trial counsel in more than 25 cases that have gone to verdict.

Outside the firm, Rob serves as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and as a trial instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and the American Bar Association. He has held top leadership positions in the ABA Section of Litigation, the National Bar Association, and the Connecticut Bar Association. Among other recent recognitions, Rob is a recipient of the Connecticut Law Tribune's 2019 Distinguished Leaders Award and the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association's 2017 Trailblazer Award.



**Rodney C.  
PRATT**

Converse  
VP, General Counsel & Corporate  
Secretary

J.D., The George Washington University  
Law School, B.A., College of William  
& Mary

Rodney Pratt is a VP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary at Converse. Previously, he served as a Corporate Secretary at Nike Foundation, and between 2011 and 2014 Assistant General Counsel at Nike. Before that, for 8 years he acted as an Associate Attorney at Dickstein Shapiro LLP.



**Ronald C.  
CHEN**

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz  
Partner, Corporate  
Corporate Governance

J.D., Harvard Law School, M.B.A.,  
Oxford University, B.A., Harvard  
University

Ronald C. Chen is a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in the Corporate Department, focusing primarily on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and securities law matters. Ron has represented numerous public and private entities in a variety of industries and transactions, including domestic and cross-border merger and acquisition transactions, private equity transactions, joint ventures, divestitures, spin-offs and corporate governance matters.

Ron teaches a course on Mergers & Acquisitions and Other Complex Transactions at Stanford Law School. He has also been a Visiting Attorney at Hengeler Mueller in Frankfurt, Germany, and on the M&A Legal Team of Google.

Ron received his J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School where he was the recipient of a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.



**Sandra  
BROWN**

Akili Interactive Labs, Inc.  
Vice President of Intellectual Property/  
Legal Affairs  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Fordham University School of  
Law, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology, B.A., Hunter College of the  
City University of New York

Sandra Brown, Ph.D., Esq. is Vice President of Intellectual Property/Legal Affairs at Akili Interactive Labs, Inc.

Dr. Brown has extensive experience in procuring domestic and international intellectual property protection in fields such as computer hardware and software, medical devices, bioinformatics, videogames, semiconductor devices, nanotechnology, and mechanical devices. Dr. Brown's experience also includes licensing and other transactions, litigation, opinion work, and due diligence analysis of patent portfolios.

Prior to joining Akili, Dr. Brown practiced at an international law firm and as in-house counsel at Hewlett-Packard Company. Her doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology involved applying spectroscopic techniques to study carbon nanotubes and other nanotechnology, conducting polymers, semiconductor materials, and biological systems. As a postdoctoral member of technical staff at Bell Labs/Lucent Technologies, Dr. Brown conducted research in optoelectronic devices.



**Sarah  
DODDS-BROWN**

American Express  
Executive Vice President & Managing  
Counsel  
Business Law

J.D., Columbia University School of Law  
1998, A.B., Duke University, 1995

Sarah Dodds-Brown leads the Business Legal Group at American Express, which is a team of over 75 attorneys who support the Company's U.S. business divisions collectively representing over \$24B in annual revenue. Sarah also serves as the Executive Sponsor for the Company's Black Engagement Network.

Outside of her work at American Express, Sarah is active in the educational and civic arenas. She has served two terms on the Board of Advisors for Duke's College of Arts & Sciences and in several other advisory capacities for the University. She is the current Chair of the Planning Board for the City of New Rochelle, a member of the DirectWomen Advisory Board and serves as the Chair of the Legal, Policy & Risk Committee of the Board of Trustees at Rye Country Day School. Sarah is a member of the American Law Institute and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.



**Shavar D.  
JEFFRIES**

Lowenstein Sandler LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., Duke University

A highly successful litigator and a fierce advocate for his clients, Shavar Jeffries brings integrity, courage, and uncommon insight to his complex-litigation and white collar criminal defense work for Lowenstein. His experience stretches across the spectrum, from managing large-scale government investigations to representing individual and institutional clients in impact-litigation matters to case-specific advocacy and alternate methods of problem solving for diverse clients.

Shavar has received numerous honors for his client advocacy, including "40 Under 40" recognition by the National Bar Association as one of the nation's top lawyers, the Garden State Bar's Young Lawyer Award, the NAACP's Freedom Fund Award, the Brendan Byrne Distinguished Public Servant Award, and recognition by New Jersey Super Lawyers Magazine as a "Rising Star."



**Sheila A.  
GADDIS**

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Barclay Damon, LLP  
Partner  
Health & Human Services

J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law,  
B.A., Brooklyn College, (cum laude)

Sheila Gaddis has extensive experience as both a not-for-profit executive and elected official and brings these different perspectives to bear in her current role as Chair of Barclay Damon's Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. She is a Partner in the firm's Health Care & Human Services Practice Area and is the Client Relationship Manager building and maintaining relationships with major university and federally qualified health center clients. Sheila's efforts are at the core of the firm's diversity & inclusion initiative innovative policies working closely with the firm's Management Committee and is a founding member of the Barclay Damon's Women's Forum. Also, Sheila Gaddis serves as an appointed member of the NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and has received numerous awards and citations from US Senators, US Representatives, Town Supervisors and community organizations and, by Proclamation, received a Mayoral Day of Recognition.



**Simone  
WILSON-BRITO**

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McCarter & English, LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, B.A.,  
Vanderbilt University

Ms. Wilson-Brito is co-chair of the firm's Real Estate Practice Group. She focuses primarily on complex commercial real estate transactions with a concentration in the financing, leasing and acquisition of real property.

Prior to rejoining McCarter & English, Ms. Wilson-Brito was real estate counsel for The Rockefeller Group Development Corporation where she handled financing and real estate transactions for the company and its subsidiaries.

Ms. Wilson-Brito is a member of McCarter's Women's Initiative Steering Committee, which presides over the policies that have led to McCarter receiving Gold Standard Certification from the Women in Law Empowerment Forum for five consecutive years. Additionally, Ms. Wilson-Brito is a member of McCarter's Diversity Committee. She is recognized as a New Jersey Super Lawyers "Rising Star" for 2016-2018.



**Stuart G.  
DOWNING**

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Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP  
Partner  
Corporate Governance

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Siena College

Stuart G. Downing is a member of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP's corporate practice group.

Stuart represents leading investment banks, commercial banks and corporations in financing transactions, including debt and equity offerings and bank financings, as well as tender offers and consent solicitations. His practice also includes representation of companies in connection with general corporate and securities law matters. Stu is a member of Cahill's Legal Recruiting Committee and has been recognized as a leading finance lawyer by The Legal 500.



**Suma V.  
NAIR**

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Goulston & Storrs PC  
Director  
Tax Planning

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Dartmouth  
College

Suma Nair provides sophisticated estate and tax planning advice to high net worth individuals and families. As part of such planning, she counsels clients regarding charitable giving, and advises generally on family and tax matters involving business and wealth succession. Suma also represents beneficiaries and trustees of trusts, providing both regular administration and best practices assistance as well as advocacy.

Suma is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and received recognition from Chambers High Net Worth in 2017 and 2018.



**Taa  
GRAYS**

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MetLife Inc.  
Vice President & Associate General Counsel  
- Information Governance  
Information Governance

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
1997, A.B., Harvard College, 1994 (cum  
laude)

Taa Grays is the vice president of Information Governance at MetLife, where she leads the Enterprise's Information Lifecycle Management Program. Prior to this role, Taa served as chief of staff to the general counsel, where she collaborated and coordinated enterprise and legal affairs deliverables and championed various departmental initiatives including diversity and inclusion. Grays started with MetLife in 2003 in the litigation section. Her practice consisted of handling various federal and state lawsuits and regulatory complaints stemming from MetLife's US business and investment activities and serving as eDiscovery counsel. Grays is actively involved in several bar associations including National Bar Association (as its General Counsel) and the New York State Bar Association (as a Vice President).



**Tamarah  
BELCZYK**

Audax Group  
SVP and Deputy General Counsel

J.D., Boston University School of Law, M.S.,  
Boston University, B.A., Amherst College

Tamarah is a Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel.

Previously, she was an Associate at Ropes & Gray LLP.

Tamarah received a J.D. from Boston University School of Law, an M.S. from Boston University College of Communication and a B.A. from Amherst College.



**Thais  
ALEXANDER**

Prudential Capital Group  
Vice President & Corporate Counsel  
Corporate Law

J.D., State University of New York at  
Buffalo, M.B.A., University at Buffalo  
School of Management, The State University  
of New York, B.A., Canisius College

Thais Alexander is an experienced Corporate Vice President and Counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the investment management and financial services industry. Skilled in Securities Law, Corporate Finance, including Banking, Private Placements, Mezzanine and Equity Financing, Mergers & Acquisitions, Investments and Private Equity.

Before joining Prudential Capital Group, she served as an Associate at Mayer Brown LLP and Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP



**Ting S.  
CHEN**

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP  
Partner  
Corporate Law

J.D., Stanford Law School, B.A., Harvard  
University (cum laude)

Ting Chen is a partner in Cravath's Corporate Department. Her practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and activism and takeover defense. Ms. Chen's clients have included Avon, BDT Capital Partners, British American Tobacco, DHT, Honeywell, IBM, InterMune, Kraft, Lundbeck, Pitney Bowes, Starbucks, The Washington Post, White Mountains Insurance and Zale Corporation

Ms. Chen has been recognized for her work in mergers and acquisitions by The Legal 500 and IFLR1000. She has also been recognized by The Legal 500 for her activist defense work, as well as her transactional work in the media and entertainment and technology industries. In 2015, Ms. Chen was named a "Rising Star" by Law360, recognizing her as one of eight outstanding merger and acquisition lawyers in the nation under the age of 40.



**H. Todd  
BULLARD**

Harris Beach PLLC  
Member  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo  
School of Law, B.A., Allegheny College

H. Todd Bullard advises organizations on procurements related to public projects. He also represents counties, cities, government legislatures, school districts, local development corporations and public authorities in litigation defense and provides outside general counsel services related to operational matters. Todd provides organizations with compliance advice related to New York state and applicable municipal minority and women owned business enterprise requirements.

Todd has represented automobile dealers on issues such as bank workouts related to floor-plan financing, franchise agreement disputes and litigation. He represents the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers and has participated in the Chrysler Bankruptcy hearings representing minority rejected dealers from across the country. He successfully worked with NAMAD and other dealer groups and negotiated a memorandum of understanding with General Motors to reach a non-legislative solution to the dealer issues.



**Tracy Richelle  
HIGH**

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, 1999, B.A., Yale  
University, 1996 (cum laude)

Tracy's practice focuses on complex civil litigation, arbitration and mediation proceedings, corporate internal investigations, and labor and employment matters. New York Super Lawyers (2013-present); ABWA Professional Achievement Award (2019); The National Black Lawyers Top 100 (2018); City & State Responsible 100 (2017); Diversity Trailblazer, New York State Bar Association (2015); Savoy Magazine's list of Most Influential Black Lawyers (2015).



**Tyrone  
THOMAS**

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.  
Member and Co-Chair – Sports and Entertainment Practice  
Employment, Sports and Education

Dartmouth College (B.A.); Tulane University School of Law (J.D.)

As Co-Chair of Mintz’s Sports and Entertainment Practice, Tyrone addresses complex issues in professional and intercollegiate athletics. He advises on NCAA enforcement proceedings, employment contracts, and policies for athletics personnel. He has been a legal analyst for the New York Times, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, and Bloomberg.

Tyrone advises on employment, consulting, and other service agreements covering executives of over 200 academic institutions. Tyrone advises on regulations governing executive pay for public and non-profit organizations. Tyrone is also a resource on executive issues for various associations in higher education, including the American Council on Education, the National Association of College and University Attorneys, and the Council of Independent Colleges.

Tyrone is Chair of the Mintz Diversity Committee. In this role, he leads the firm’s initiatives promoting diversity in the legal profession.



**Uche  
NDUMELE**

Conagra Brands, Inc.  
Vice President and Chief Counsel –  
Employment Law and Corp. Finance

J.D., Cornell Law School, B.A., Villanova University

Uche Ndumele is currently Vice President and Chief Counsel - Employment Law and Corporate Finance of Conagra Brands, Inc., one of North America’s leading branded food companies. Uche Ndumele has 15 years of experience in Securities Regulation and Corporate Governance. Additionally, Mr. Ndumele has experience working on Corporate Finance transactions, Employment Law and Executive Compensation and Benefits matters.

Mr. Ndumele currently serves on the Board as Vice Chairman of the Practicing Attorneys For Law Students (PALS), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the skills and careers of minority law students and early career attorneys. Mr. Ndumele also serves on the Board Family Promise of Morris County is a 501(c)(3), non-sectarian organization dedicated to ending the crisis of homelessness faced by families in Morris County, New Jersey.



**Vicki  
WALCOTT-EDIM**

Mastercard Inc.  
Senior Managing Counsel, Global  
Employment Law  
Employment Law

J.D., The Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law, B.A., The College of William & Mary

Vicki Walcott-Edim is Vice President and Senior Managing Counsel, Global Employment Law for Mastercard. She provides strategic direction on the company’s global employment law function and strategic advice and day-to-day guidance on an array of matters to help Mastercard attract and retain top talent.

Before joining Mastercard, Vicki served as Senior Counsel, Employment Law with Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s. She advised on a variety of employment issues and claims concerning discrimination, harassment, retaliation, immigration, business reorganizations, leaves of absence, reasonable accommodations, wage-hour issues, and workplace violence.

Vicki began her legal career at Jones Day where she worked as an attorney in the firm’s Labor and Employment practice group. Her experience included individual employment disputes filed in court and subject to arbitration as well as complex class, collective, and multi-plaintiff actions.



**Vimal K.  
SHAH**

McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP  
Partner  
Employment Law

J.D., University of Illinois College of Law (cum laude), B.S.E.E., Ohio Northern University (with honors)

Vimal Shah is an experienced trial and appellate litigator in employment law matters. He represents employers’ interests in all areas of labor and employment law including: employment discrimination claims involving disability, race, sex, religion, age, and sexual harassment.

Mr. Shah is admitted to the bars of the states of Illinois, New Jersey and New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third, Seventh and Ninth Circuits, and the United States District Courts for the District of New Jersey, the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois.

In June 2003, Mr. Shah received DuPont Corporation’s J. Michael Brown Award for his efforts on diversity issues. He also received a Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in 2000.



**Ying  
WANG**

LeClair Ryan, PC  
Partner  
Banking/Finance

Peking University School of Law; New York University School of Law

Ying Wang is a partner in LeClairRyan’s New York office. She focuses on helping clients navigate legal issues associated with international and domestic banking, finance and capital markets. She has extensive experience in banking and finance transactions involving complex cross-border elements.

Ying assists financial institutions, commodity trading firms, and commercial end users on negotiations and documentation of ISDA master agreements, securities lending, master repurchase agreements, collateral and other credit support documents.

She also has experience advising international financial institutions on various banking agency regulations, including Dodd-Frank Act Title VII and cross-border guidelines. In addition, Ying counsels clients on the development of new financial services and the implications of various domestic and international bank regulatory considerations. She has worked with international banks developing internal policies on corporate governance, risk management and credit review. She also assists international banks planning to open branches, agencies, representative offices, broker-dealers and finance companies in the United States.



**DWT is proud to congratulate  
Portia Moore and  
Vidhya Prabhakaran  
for being named to  
Lawyers of Color's  
inaugural Nation's Best List.**

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**Congratulations Richard Moore  
on being named to the first  
Lawyers of Color Nation's  
Best list. Your leadership and  
dedication are an inspiration to  
all of us at Frost Brown Todd.**



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## Reaching new heights.



Charan Brahma  
Partner  
San Francisco



Román D. Hernández  
Partner  
Portland

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of **Charan Brahma** and **Román Hernández** and congratulate them on being named to Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Nation's Best list.

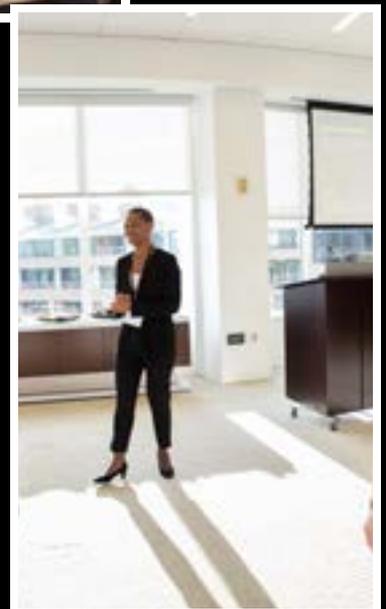
**N**ation's Best Honorees had a magnificent time at the Mid-Atlantic Region Reception held in Washington, D.C. and hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP where David Sanders welcomed guests. Remarks were offered by Lawyers of Color's adviser, Enoch Ebong, Principal, Ikoyi Advisory Group LLP, as well as Won K. Lee, associate general counsel of General Dynamics Mission Systems. (Photo credit: Linda Lawson).















**Ahmed J.  
DAVIS**

Fish & Richardson PC  
Principal  
Litigation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
M.S., Emory University, B.S., Morehouse  
College

Ahmed J. Davis is a Principal in the Washington, DC, office of Fish & Richardson, a member of the Firm's Management Committee, National Chair of the Fish & Richardson Diversity Initiative, and a former member of the Firm's Compensation Committee. His practice focuses on complex patent litigation in a range of technical areas, including chemistry, biotechnology, medical devices, and mechanical and electrical engineering. A trial attorney experienced in all phases of litigation, Mr. Davis has been lead counsel in the International Trade Commission and federal district court, has argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He has particular expertise and is the Firm's leading attorney for matters in the "rocket docket" that is the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.



**Aisha Jorge  
MASSENGILL**

Under Armour  
Managing Counsel, Employment  
Employment

J.D., Boston College Law School, B.A.,  
Boston College

Aisha Jorge Massengill is Managing Counsel, Employment for Under Armour, Inc. a marketer and distributor of branded performance apparel, footwear and accessories for men, women and youth. In that role she oversees employment related matters for all corporate employees in the United States and Latin America.

Aisha has more than 20 years of legal experience advising and counseling diverse organizations in the areas of labor and employment law. Prior to joining Under Armour, she was Senior Associate General Counsel at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, LLC where she served as a key legal advisor on all labor, employment and benefits matters for a preeminent center for engineering and scientific research and development.



**Aja P.  
SAE-KUNG**

Washington Gas  
Associate General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center

Aja Sae-Kung has been Associate General Counsel at Washington Gas in Washington, D.C. since April 2014. Prior to that, she was an attorney at Dickstein Shapiro LLP and counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

She is a strong legal professional skilled in Complex Commercial Litigation, Antitrust and Financial Services, International Arbitration, Government Investigations, Land Use, and Legal Research.



**Alethia N.  
NANCOO**

Squire Patton Boggs  
Partner, Finance

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law  
School, B.A., University of Maryland  
College Park

Alethia Nancoo's practice focuses on public and project debt finance, with particular emphasis on infrastructure construction, airport, toll road and surface transportation, mixed-use multifamily housing, and water and sewer utility sectors.

Alethia advises various municipalities, public issuers and authorities, nonprofit corporations and investment banking institutions on a wide range of transactions in the US and the Caribbean. She has been involved in all phases of P3 financings, and special and general obligation bond financings.

She is a frequent speaker at national conferences on airport and surface transportation financings and P3 financings in the context of US securities laws and regulations. Alethia also serves on numerous boards and associations and is involved in many economic initiatives targeting low-income communities throughout the District of Columbia.



**Alex J.  
BOURELLY**

Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Partner, Practice Group Chair –  
White Collar Defense and Corporate  
Investigations (Firmwide)  
White Collar & Corporate Investigations

J.D., Northwestern University School  
of Law, 1992; B.A., Political Science &  
Economics, New York University, 1986

Alex Bourelly is Chair of Baker Botts' White Collar Defense and Corporate Investigations Practice. Alex represents individual and corporate clients in a wide range of criminal and civil investigations and trials, including those involving allegations of securities fraud, healthcare fraud, antitrust violations, violations of the Clean Water Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

Before joining Baker Botts, Alex served as a senior trial assistant in the Fraud and Public Corruption and the Homicide/Major Crimes Sections at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia; and as senior counsel in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement, where he was responsible for cases involving insider trading, market manipulation and accounting fraud. He is ranked in Chambers USA and recognized as a Washington D.C. Super Lawyer.



**Alex Young K.  
OH**

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
Partner and Co-chair of the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Practice Group  
Anti-Corruption & FCPA

J.D., Yale Law School, 1993, B.A., Williams College, 1990

Alex Oh has an extensive white collar defense and regulatory investigations practice focusing on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, as well as on securities and accounting fraud issues; Alex also conducts cross-border internal investigations for multinational corporations; and regularly counsels Fortune 100 companies on compliance matters.

Prior to joining Paul, Weiss, Alex served for nearly four years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. During her tenure, she was a member of the Securities & Commodities Fraud Task Force and the Major Crimes Unit, and was the lead prosecutor in high-profile accounting and securities fraud prosecutions. Alex was the lead trial lawyer in numerous jury trials during her tenure as a prosecutor. Read more here. (<https://www.paulweiss.com/professionals/partners-and-counsel/alex-young-k-oh>)



**Amy  
YEUNG**

Comscore, Inc.  
Deputy General Counsel  
Law Department Management, IP, Privacy, Transactional, Real Estate, HR, corporate governance

J.D. Duke University School of Law, 2006, B.A. University of Chicago, 2000 (General and Departmental Honors)

Amy Yeung oversees commercial, compliance, and data privacy as Deputy General Counsel at Comscore, Inc., a big data analytics company of global consumer behavior. Amy was previously general counsel at Dataminr, leading all legal functions and counseling teams on some of the most cutting edge use cases of social media and data privacy. Amy also served on a UN Security Council working group pertaining to social media in terrorism and anti-terrorism. Amy previously served as board member to Personal Blackbox, a technology startup venture-backed by Prudential Financial to develop a new digital marketing platform for business based on personal data ownership. In 2018, Amy was recognized as part of the Outstanding Law Department by the ACC National Capital Region Corporate Counsel Awards, is recognized as a "Top 10 30-Somethings" by the Association of Corporate Counsel, and received the Young Lawyer of the Year by the Bar Association of DC.



**Anand K.  
SHARMA**

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property – Patent

J.D., New York Law School 1997; B.S., Mechanical Engineering, University of Maryland, 1993

Anand Sharma tries patent cases before judges and juries across the country, and manages patent portfolios for several multi-billion dollar companies. A former NASA software engineer, Anand comfortably handles complex technologies, ranging from telecom and software solutions, to consumer appliances and electronics. He frequently speaks at industry and legal association conferences and previously taught patent law at Howard University School of Law and College of Engineering. His leadership roles at the firm have included chair of Finnegan's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Mechanical Practice Group leader, and member of the Management Committee. He currently serves as the IP chair of the North American South Asian Bar Association and, beginning July 1st, he will be the firm's Managing Partner.



**Angela W.  
RUSSELL**

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP  
Partner  
Medical Malpractice & Health Care

J.D., University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, B.A., Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Angela Russell is the regional managing partner of the Baltimore office and chair of the firm's Diversity Committee. She has significant trial experience and has tried cases in the District of Columbia and across the state of Maryland. Her practice encompasses the defense of professional liability matters, including medical malpractice and legal malpractice actions in addition to claims against agents, brokers and other professionals. Angela regularly handles and supervises general casualty matters for insurers and self-insured entities on premises liability claims, security matters, hospitality cases. Angela is also frequently called on to handle toxic tort matters.

Angela is the former co-chairperson of the Civil Jury Instructions Committee for the Bar Association for the District of Columbia as well as a former adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law.



**Ankur  
SHAH**

Freddie Mac  
Associate General Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., The George Washington University Law School, B.S., Penn State University

Ankur Shah is the Associate General Counsel for Intellectual Property at Freddie Mac in McLean, Virginia. In that role, he is responsible for IP portfolio development, patent prosecution, licensing and litigation as well as copyright, trademark and trade secret matters. He joined Freddie Mac in 2005 as its first in-house IP counsel.

Before that, he served as an Attorney at Foley & Lardner, and also an Engineering Associate at GTE Service Corp.



**Anthony  
GAY**

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PECO Energy  
Vice President, Governmental and  
External Affairs  
External Affairs

Anthony Gay serves as Vice President of Governmental and External Affairs, overseeing PECO's state and regional governmental and external stakeholder outreach, and PECO's Energy and Marketing Services group, which includes Large Customer Services and Economic Development. Prior to assuming this role in April 2016, he served as PECO's Associate General Counsel, leading the company's Regulatory Legal Group and, from 2014 through its successful close, served as Project Manager for the Exelon/Peppo Holdings merger.



**Arianne  
DE GOVIA**

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Freeman Wade LLP  
Partner  
Corporate/Technology Transactions

J.D., Harvard University, 2001, B.A.,  
Barnard College, 1998 (summa cum  
laude)

Arianne de Govia is a partner at the law firm of Freeman Wade LLP, where she advises clients on commercial matters in a range of industries, including technology, healthcare, pharmaceutical, media, finance, and e-commerce. Arianne works closely with early-stage and established companies to structure legal frameworks for development and commercialization of their services and products. Prior to joining Freeman Wade, she was an attorney at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Jacobson LLP. Arianne is an alumna of the LCLD Fellows program and currently Vice President of the Harvard Law School Association of the District of Columbia. In addition to her law degree, she holds an M.F.A. from The Johns Hopkins University.



**Ben  
YHIM**

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OneMain Financial  
Deputy General Counsel

J.D., The Catholic University of America,  
Columbus School of Law, B.A.,  
University of Chicago

Ben Yhim serves as a Deputy General Counsel at OneMain Financial. He has been in this position since 2016. Before this, he acted as an Associate General Counsel for CitiFinancial. He has also been an Associate at various US law firms, like McGuireWoods LLP, Niles, Barton & Wilmer.



**Bernard  
LEE**

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Cozen O'Connor P.C.  
Member  
Real Estate

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law  
School, B.A., Lake Forest College

Bernard Lee is a member of Cozen O'Connor's Real Estate Practice Group, which consists of more than 60 attorneys in multiple offices. Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor, Bernard was a partner in the real estate department of a well-known Philadelphia law firm, which he joined in 1977.

Bernard's practice areas include real estate development and financing, mixed-use and mixed-finance projects, construction and architect agreements, and hotel management, acquisition, and development.

Bernard recently served as a commissioner on the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. He is a past member of the Executive Board of the Real Property Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and former president of the Barristers' Association. Bernard's recent pro bono work includes the representation of a church in the acquisition and financing of a building and civic services.



**Beverly  
ALLEN**

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Inovalon  
Associate General Counsel, Chief  
Compliance Officer, Chief Privacy  
Officer  
Compliance

J.D., University of North Carolina  
School of Law, B.A., University of  
Virginia

Beverly Aleen is an accomplished attorney and highly experienced legal, compliance and privacy leader with a strong record of results and performance. She has significant experience in providing executives and business leaders with strategic legal counsel and pragmatic, risk-based solutions to address a wide range of, business, operational and risk management topics. She also has a proven record of conceptualizing, standing-up, managing and leading compliance, privacy and risk management programs across multiple business sectors. Strong leader and communicator with a demonstrated ability to lead and guide cross-functional teams in support of complex business challenges and organizational objectives.



**Brandyn J.  
HICKS**

The Johns Hopkins University  
Assistant General Counsel  
Employment Practice  
J.D., Temple University - James  
E. Beasley School of Law, B.A.,  
Swarthmore College

Brandyn Hicks joined the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel as an Assistant General Counsel in 2017. At Johns Hopkins, Ms. Hicks focuses on University governance, policy development, and campus safety and security. Ms. Hicks also staffs the University Policy Advisory Group.

Prior to joining Johns Hopkins, Ms. Hicks served as the Director of Institutional Compliance and Policy at Baylor University. Ms. Hicks previously served as an Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia District Attorney's Office where she prosecuted defendants for crimes such as attempted murder, aggravated assault, narcotics distribution, burglary, and firearms offenses. Ms. Hicks also served as an Assistant State's Attorney for the City of Baltimore.



**Brenda  
MORRIS**

Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.  
Deputy General Counsel

J.D., Duquesne University School of  
Law, B.A., Millersville University

Prior to joining Johns Hopkins, Ms. Hicks served as the Director of Institutional Compliance and Policy at Baylor University. Ms. Hicks previously served as an Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia District Attorney's Office where she prosecuted defendants for crimes such as attempted murder, aggravated assault, narcotics distribution, burglary, and firearms offenses. Ms. Hicks also served as an Assistant State's Attorney for the City of Baltimore.



**Butler  
BUCHANAN III**

Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman  
& Goggin, P.C. Shareholder, Managing  
Attorney  
Insurance Coverage

J.D., Duquesne University School of  
Law, B.A., Millersville University

Butler Buchanan, III provides significant contributions to the leadership of the firm through his multiple roles as Managing Attorney of the Philadelphia office, Hiring Attorney and Chair of the Diversity Committee. His years of experience in law practice and involvement and activity in numerous professional, industry and civic organizations provide the backdrop for his ability to successfully juggle these multiple positions.

As Managing Attorney, Buck oversees the operations, functions and initiatives of the firm's 130-attorney Philadelphia office. He also chairs the firm's Diversity Committee where he is charged, along with his colleagues, with ensuring that the firm's deep commitment to equal opportunity employment and advancement is brought to fruition.

He is currently a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. and also an activemember in the Philadelphia Bar Association.



**Camille  
SIMPSON**

American Council of Life Insurers  
Vice President  
State Government Relations

J.D., Rutgers University, 2001, B.S.  
Syracuse University 1995

Camille Simpson works for the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI), a Washington, D.C.-based trade association with approximately 290-member companies operating in the United States and abroad. ACLI advocates in federal, state, and international forums for public policy that supports the industry marketplace and the 75 million American families that rely on life insurers' products for financial and retirement security. ACLI members offer life insurance, annuities, retirement plans, long-term care and disability income insurance, and reinsurance, representing more than 95 percent of industry assets and premiums.

Ms. Simpson administers the legislative and regulatory relationships regarding the life insurance industry in New England states, as well as, works closely with our policy experts on the area of retirement security.

Prior to her career at ACLI, Ms. Simpson worked as Assistant Vice President, Associate Secretary & Counsel for MassMutual Financial Group for over 15 years. In this position she represented the company before legislators and regulators in the company's federal legislative and regulatory matters regarding tax and retirement security; worked with associations including the ICI, SIFMA, and ACLI; led the company's relations with several trade associations; and developed and implemented government relations strategies. In addition, she is an ERISA expert and worked on corporate governance matter in here role of Associate Corporate Secretary of the MassMutual Board of Directors.

Ms. Simpson also worked for the United States House of Representatives - Committee on Education and the Workforce working on retirement, healthcare and labor issues.



**Carla  
BODDY**

PaylPal  
Director, Legal Counsel  
Trademarks

J.D., Indiana University Maurer School  
of Law, B.A., Miami University

Carla Boddy is a forward-thinking and results-oriented attorney with experience in contracts/agreements, creditors' rights, deposits, marketing/advertising, and trademarks. A professional recognized for strong legal acumen and excellent work ethic.

Before joining PaylPal she served as an Assistant General Counsel for JP Morgan Chase LLP. Previously, in 2011, she has been appointed Consulting Counsel at The Forum Group.



**Carnot  
EVANS III**

Marriott International, Inc.  
Vice President and Senior Counsel  
eCommerce

J.D., Northwestern University School of  
Law, B.A., Tufts University

Carnot Evans III, Esq., serves as a vice president and senior counsel at Marriott International in Bethesda. In this role, he leads a number of technology, eCommerce and operational matters for the department. Prior to joining Marriott in 2005, Evans served as attorney for Software AG, Inc. and as an attorney-advisor for the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. He was elected vice president of the board of the Homeless Persons Representation Project, a nonprofit law firm working to end homelessness in Maryland. Evans holds a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University and a Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law.



**Charlie  
GALBRAITH**

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Arizona State University College of  
Law, 2007; B.A., University of Chicago,  
2002

Charlie Galbraith is a member of the Navajo Nation and a Partner in Kilpatrick Townsend's Native American Practice Group. He previously worked for President Obama in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, as an Assistant United States Attorney and Staffer for former US Senator Tim Johnson.



**Cherée  
HASWELL JOHNSON**

McCormick & Co., Inc  
Deputy General Counsel/ Assist.  
Corporate Secretary/ Chief IP Counsel  
General Corporate Law

J.D., University of Minnesota (honors),  
2003, B.S. Chem. Eng., Florida A&M  
University (cum laude with honors), 1998

Cherée is an executive leader, thought leader and a sought after international speaker. Cherée joined McCormick in 2015 and in her role, she acts as strategic advisor and primary legal contact for a variety of global legal matters including litigation, risk management, international contracts, advertising and marketing and intellectual property. She speaks as an expert on a variety of topics throughout the world including (leadership, executive presence, and wellness).

Prior to joining McCormick, Cherée worked as an executive with several fortune 500 public and private companies, nationally and internationally. Cherée serves on the Board of Directors for College Bound, Manchester Bidwell, Springboard for the Arts and R Kyndall Development Group. Most recently, Cherée was the recipient of the distinguished honor of "Top 100 Women in Maryland".

Cherée, her husband Steffan and their 2 children (Paige (11) and Peyton (9)), live in Baltimore, Maryland.



**Christina  
GUEROLA SARCHIO**

Dechert LLP  
Partner; Co-Chair Business Litigation  
and Trials  
Litigation

J.D., George Washington University,  
1995; B.A., Cornell University, 1991

Christina Sarchio focuses her practice on commercial litigation, class actions and white collar defense, with significant experience in the consumer products, technology, financial, oil and gas, pharmaceutical, sports and transportation industries. A former prosecutor and an experienced trial lawyer, Christina has successfully tried cases in federal and state courts throughout the country. She also regularly appears before a number of agencies and regulators, including the DOJ, FDA, SEC and U.S. Attorney offices. Christina has been recognized as a 2018 and 2019 leading lawyer by Lawdragon 500, The Legal 500 U.S., a 2018 Woman Worth Watching by The Diversity Journal, and received MCCA's 2017 Rainmaker Award. Her class action jury win was named a Top 10 2016 Defense Verdict by The Daily Journal. Christina also serves as an Arbitrator for AAA.



**Christopher A.  
LEWIS**

Blank Rome LLP  
Partner & Chief Diversity and Inclusion  
Officer  
Business Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
(cum laude), B.A., Harvard College (cum  
laude)

Christopher Lewis concentrates his practice on energy and public utility law, representing utilities, electric generation suppliers, developers, and others in regulatory proceedings, litigation, and transactional matters.

Chris is the current chairman of the Philadelphia Energy Authority, a member of the board of commissioners for the Delaware River Port Authority, and a trustee on the Council of Trustees of West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He also currently serves as a member of the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

In 2000, Governor Ridge appointed Chris to the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the state agency that investigates and prosecutes judges for ethical misconduct. In 2004, Chris served as chair of the Judicial Conduct Board. In 2008, Chris was selected as an elector for the 2008 Electoral College.



**Christopher  
AGRAWAL**

Bookoff McAndrews PLLC  
Partner  
Patent Prosecution

J.D., George Washington University  
Law School, B.S., George Washington  
University

Chris Agrawal advises technology companies on obtaining patent protection and analyzing patent-related risks and opportunities. Chris has been recognized as a "leading patent professional" by IAM Patent 1000, and a "Patent Star" by Managing Intellectual Property, for his work in developing and implementing high-impact patent strategies.

Chris manages patent prosecution across a wide range of mechanical, computer, software, and Internet-related technologies. He has prosecuted numerous patent portfolios, including those of Internet startups, growing industrial companies, and publicly-traded consumer device and Internet companies.

Before practicing law, Chris worked as a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where he reviewed patent applications covering electrical and metal manufacturing technologies. While earning his undergraduate degree, Chris researched nanotechnology techniques during the design and manufacture of a nanopositioning stage for carbon-nanotubes.



**Christopher D.  
BELL**

Ballard Spahr LLP  
Partner  
Housing Finance

University of Texas at Austin – BA,  
Harvard University – Kennedy School of  
Government – MPA, University of Texas  
at Austin School of Law – JD

Christopher D. Bell is a Partner and a Team Leader of Ballard Spahr LLP's FHA and GSE Financing Team. He advises and represents real estate lenders, borrowers, and developers on transactional and regulatory issues.

Prior to joining Ballard Spahr LLP, Chris practiced for more than 10 years at Fannie Mae. As Associate General Counsel of Housing and Community Development, he served as Fannie Mae's lead attorney for affordable housing transactions.

In addition to his work in affordable housing finance at Fannie Mae, Chris also served as lead counsel for Fannie Mae's corporate charitable arm, the Office of Community Investment and Engagement.

Chris is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the University of the District of Columbia and is a member of the Harvard Alumni Real Estate Board.

Chris lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and three children.



**Clarence (Tony)  
FRANKLIN**

CACI International Inc  
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel  
Corporate Law  
J.D., University of

Chicago Law School, B.B.A., Florida  
Agricultural and Mechanical University

Clarence Franklin serves as a Vice President, Deputy General Counsel for CACI International. Before that, he worked for NII Holdings INC as a Senior Corporate Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer. The practice involved advising senior management and the board of directors on federal securities law, corporate law, finance, corporate compliance, and corporate governance.



**Cleo V.  
BELMONTE**

Capital One Financial Corporation  
Vice President – Senior Associate  
General Counsel  
Corporate & Securities

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center  
(2002)

Cleo Belmonte is the Vice President, Senior Associate General Counsel – Securities & Finance at Capital One [COF]. In this capacity, Ms. Belmonte leads the company's Securities and Finance function within Legal where she is responsible for providing legal and strategic advice to senior executives including the company's CEO, CFO, and General Counsel regarding all aspects of public disclosure, investor relations, executive compensation, global equity administration, and compliance with federal and state corporate and securities laws, and NYSE regulations.

Prior to Capital One, Ms. Belmonte was the Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Assistance Secretary of EchoStar Corporation [SATS] and Hughes Communications, Inc. [HUGH] where she led corporate law group of the company's legal department where she was responsible for the oversight of securities, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, employment, and data privacy and security for the companies and their more than 100 domestic and international subsidiaries.

Prior to EchoStar and Hughes, Ms. Belmonte was an associate in the law firms of Squire Patton Boggs LLP and Pillsbury Winthrop LLP.



**Clifford E.  
BARNES**

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.  
Member of the Firm  
Health Care

J.D., University of Virginia, 1981;  
M.B.A, Cornell University, 1974; B.B.A,  
Pace University, 1972

Clifford E. Barnes is a Member of the Firm in the Health Care and Life Sciences practice in Epstein Becker Green's Washington, D.C., and New York offices and serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Health Plan Compliance Group. Mr. Barnes has been employed by the firm for over 35 years and represents providers, including hospitals, hospital systems, nursing homes, home health, hospice, ancillary service companies; managed care companies, concentrating in Medicare and Medicaid; and non-profit associations. Mr. Barnes is the Co-Founder of Medicaid Health Plans of America, Inc., and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Accountable Care Organization Task Force of the American Health Lawyers Association. Mr. Barnes has been selected to the Washington DC Super Lawyers list and also recommended in The Legal 500 United States.

**Daniel  
VALERIANO**

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RenartReinstein, Glackin & Herriott  
LLC  
Partner  
Family law and Personal Injury

J.D. Columbus School of Law, Catholic  
University; B.A. George Washington  
University

A former President of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, Daniel Renart is a Partner with Reinstein, Glackin & Herriott LLC ("RGH"). Mr. Renart focuses his practice assisting clients with their divorce, custody and personal injury matters. In divorce and family law cases, Mr. Renart has experience handling complex litigation involving separation agreements, corporate interests, prenuptial agreements, divorce, alimony, child custody, child support, family businesses, property distribution, domestic violence, corporate issues and criminal defense matters. Daniel has been recognized for his legal knowledge and experience by various accredited organizations, including Super Lawyers, Rue Ratings, US News Week, Martindale Hubbel, The Washington Post, the Washingtonian Magazine and others.



**Danielle  
BANKS**

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Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP  
Partner  
Employment and Labor, Litigation

B.A., cum laude, Temple University, J.D.,  
Temple University Beasley School of  
Law

Danielle Banks devotes a significant amount of her practice to defending businesses, universities and governmental entities against employment discrimination claims, including claims brought under Title VII, Section 1981, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. She also defends governmental entities against Section 1983 claims. Additionally, she represents businesses in housing and mortgage discrimination claims, represents defendants in asbestos litigation and handles matters on behalf of religious entities. Danielle has participated in appellate oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. She is a seasoned trial lawyer who successfully litigates matters to victory through summary judgment or trial, and appeal where necessary.



**Daria  
WILLIAMS JOHNSON**

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Verizon  
Associate General Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., The George Washington University  
Law School, B.BA, Howard University

Daria William Johnson is a senior business executive with over 17 years experience providing strategic business and legal advice to senior management at a start-up, a medium sized public company and Fortune 20 public company. She has expertise in advising on the development, launch and distribution of technology products and services.

She is passionate about technology, entertainment and the convergence of the two industries and has a strong interest in digital content licensing and distribution.

Her legal specialities are Intellectual Property Licensing and Complex Technology Transactions.



**Darryl L.  
FRANKLIN**

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HMSHost  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., William & Mary Law School, B.A.,  
American University

Darryl Franklin is an Assistant General Counsel at HMSHost. Before this, for the previous 13 years, he has been a Vice President & Senior Counsel at Marriott International. Between 1999 and 2005 he was an Associate at Venable LLP.



**Darryl  
NELSON**

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Volanno  
Sr. Project Manager

M.B.A., University of Virginia -  
Darden Graduate School of Business  
Administration, B.S., University of  
Virginia

Darryl Nelson is a proven product development professional with years of experience developing, launching and driving the commercial success of new products. Many of the products he has worked with range in terms of scale and scope, as well as the industrial sector and corporate setting in which they were realized. As a result, his approach to bringing new products to market is uniquely inclusive. He subscribes to the improvisation and bold-thinking embraced by the startup community while holding true to the discipline and analytics found in large multinational corporations.



**David  
COAXUM**

Ofit Kurman, Attorneys At Law  
Principal  
Family Law

J.D., Catholic University of America,  
Columbus School of Law, B.A., Howard  
University

David Coaxum’s practice as a family law attorney focuses on the negotiation, settlement, and litigation of complex domestic matters in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Mr. Coaxum has a wealth of experience in matters concerning complex asset and property distribution, alimony, and child custody and access issues. Mr. Coaxum also prepares and negotiates complex separation and property settlement agreements. He handles difficult and profile matters in the metropolitan area and is particularly adept at assisting clients in navigating crises that present significant legal, business, and reputational risks. While family law is his primary practice area, Mr. Coaxum’s clientele also includes business and corporate entities for whom he serves as legal counsel. Mr. Coaxum’s unique experience includes handling multifaceted business disputes and litigation matters, including high profile defamation claims, employment disputes, and contract claims.



**Donna  
COOPER**

ProSource Consulting, LLC  
CEO

George Mason University

Donna Cooper serves as a Chief Executive Officer at ProSource Consulting LLC. She has been in this position since 2003. She is a graduate of George Mason University.



**Dorthula H.  
POWELL-WOODSON**

Wiley Rein LLP  
Partner  
Health Care

J.D., T.C. Williams School of Law,  
University of Richmond, B.A., Virginia  
Union University (cum laude)

Dot Powell-Woodson serves as Co-Chair of the firm’s Health Care Practice. Dot also serves on the firm’s two governance committees, the Executive Committee and the Management Committee.

Dot counsels clients on government health care procurements and contracting, contract administration, and state and federal regulatory compliance relating to complex prime, subcontract and affiliate agreements. A significant component of Dot’s current practice is in developing and negotiating complex contracts for various ancillary programs, most notably for pharmacy benefits, but also for dental, vision, disease management, behavioral health, telehealth and various consumer tools.

Dot has served in many different roles connected to the health care industry, including serving as the Governor’s appointed Director of Virginia’s health care agency, as a Virginia Assistant Attorney General, and as Vice President for Legal Services for two national health care entities.



**Edward S.  
HARRISON**

Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc.  
Director & Assistant General Counsel –  
Corporate Transactions  
Corporate Transactions

J.D., Howard University School of Law,  
B.A., Hampden-Sydney College

Edward S. Harrison is a seasoned business lawyer, corporate advisor and results-oriented leader with significant experience in domestic and international M&A, joint venture and strategic alliance arrangements and other corporate transactional and securities matters.

Ed joined Huntington Ingalls Industries in August 2014. Prior to joining the HII team, Ed honed his craft for more than 12 years in private practice at leading international law firm Baker & McKenzie, where he was a partner in Corporate & Securities Practice in Chicago.

Since joining the HII legal team, Ed has continued to leverage the extensive knowledge and experience he has gained in corporate and transactional law matters to evolve into a trusted legal and business advisor. Ed takes great pride in being part of a team whose mantra is “Hard Stuff Done Right”.



**Elizabeth  
HAN**

Navient  
Managing Director & Associate General  
Counsel, Corporate Finance  
Corporate Finance

J.D., Northwestern University School of  
Law, B.A., Wellesley College

Elizabeth Han has been the Managing Director & Associate General Counsel of Navient since 2016. Before this, she acted as an Associate at Chapman and Cutler LLP and also at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Previously, she was a Law Clerk at U.S. Attorney’s Office - Northern District of Illinois.



**Enu A.  
MAINIGI**

Williams & Connolly LLP  
Partner  
Criminal Defense

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.S.,  
American University (cum laude)

Enu Mainigi has represented a number of leading companies and individuals in complex civil and criminal litigation in state and federal courts throughout the country. Enu’s practice focuses on the financial services and health care industries. Enu serves as Chair of the firm’s False Claims Act and Qui Tam practice, and has in-depth experience representing clients in these industries and others in FCA-related litigation and investigations.

Enu was named a 2019 “Health Care Law” Trailblazer by The National Law Journal. She was among The National Law Journal’s 75 “Outstanding Women Lawyers” in 2015. She has also been recognized by The Legal 500 as a leading lawyer in financial services litigation, and has been named a “Litigation Star” in the area of white collar criminal defense, and among the “Top 250 Women in Litigation”.



**Eulonda G.  
SKYLES**

Baker & Hostetler LLP  
Partner  
Privacy and Data Protection

J.D., Stanford Law School, 1998  
(Stanford Law Review), B.A., Cornell  
University, 1992 (magna cum laude)

Eulonda G. Skyles is an accomplished technology attorney with extensive experience in privacy and data security, intellectual property and complex tech licensing transactions. Since graduating from law school, Eulonda has held a number of high-ranking roles in Silicon Valley and in the financial world. Those include a five-year stint as the first black litigation counsel at Yahoo!, as well as over four years at Capital One, where she was first hired as director and assistant general counsel for intellectual property litigation and then later director and assistant general counsel for privacy and data security.

Eulonda is a member of the American Bar Association and the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). She is also a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US). She was recently featured in the 2019 “The Black Student’s Guide to Law Schools and Firms.”



**Faiz  
AHMAD**

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, Flom,  
LLP  
Partner  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
J.D., Washington & Lee University  
School of Law, B.A., University of  
Maryland

Mr. Ahmad advises clients and other lawyers in the firm on issues of Delaware law, including fiduciary duty and corporate governance matters. He was recognized in IFLR1000 in 2019 and was named a 2016 Delaware Lawyer on the Fast Track by The Delaware Law Weekly.

Mr. Ahmad has represented public and private companies, private equity sponsors and asset management firms in connection with mergers, leveraged buyouts, joint ventures, minority investments, the purchase and sale of securities, assets and business units, rights offerings, registration statements, proxy statements, and disclosure issues and other securities law matters. He also has counseled clients on the formation and use of partnerships and limited liability companies in connection with investment funds, joint-ventures, acquisitions and employee incentive plans.



**Gina  
BURGIN**

Dominion Energy, Inc.  
Senior Assistant General Counsel  
Commercial Real Estate

J.D., The Catholic University of America,  
Columbus School of Law, B.A., The  
George Washington University

Gina Burgin is an experienced senior lawyer and director-level business professional with a demonstrated history of working in the commercial real estate, government and utilities industries.

In this position she supports the acquisition, divestiture, construction, development, ownership, and operation of renewable (solar and wind) and traditional (nuclear, fossil fuel and hydroelectric) electric generation facilities and the engineering, procurement and construction of liquefied natural gas facilities, interstate pipelines and compressor stations.



**Gordon  
KNOX**

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.  
Principal  
Real Estate

J.D., University of Maryland School of  
Law, M.A., The American University in  
Cairo

Gordon Knox is a principal in the firm’s Real Estate and Transaction Finance practice group. He is an experienced lawyer focusing on complex commercial, real estate and corporate transactions in the firm’s Baltimore and Washington, D.C., offices.

He handles all aspects of tax-exempt financings, commercial financings and affordable housing development financings. In the public finance area, he has extensive experience serving as bond counsel and counsel to issuers, bond purchasers and trustees. Gordon advises lender in connection with troubled credits and has extensive experience in documenting and negotiating forbearance agreements and restructuring credit facilities. He also serves as outside general counsel to business owners and real estate developers.

Gordon has made presentations on a variety of topics within the areas of public finance and commercial finance.



**Harry  
HSING**

The Motley Fool  
Deputy General Counsel  
Private Equity

J.D., Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, B.A., University of  
Michigan

Harry Hsing is a results-oriented global business attorney and trusted adviser to senior management and board directors with 15 years of in-house counsel (at employee-owned, sponsor-backed and publicly traded companies) and AmLaw 100 private practice experience.

Mr. Hsing is regarded as a collaborative and creative problem-solver placing a strong emphasis on client service and business acumen. An experienced manager valuing agility and accountability with an established track record of leading global teams in emerging companies navigating transformational changes.

He has a broad expertise in private equity, M&A, corporate finance, equity & debt capital markets, corporate governance, strategic joint ventures, regulatory compliance, corporate secretarial, and enterprise risk management.



**Harry S.  
JOHNSON**

Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP  
Partner  
Products Liability, Toxic Exposure &  
Environmental Litigation

J.D., University of Maryland, Baltimore  
County, School of Law, 1979, B.A.,  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
County, 1976

Harry S. Johnson is a Litigation Partner at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP. His practice focuses on complex litigation. He serves as National Trial Counsel for a major automotive company and has tried cases to verdict for that client in various state and federal courts. His primary emphasis in litigation is product liability, and has represented a variety of manufacturers in product defect cases. He has also represented governmental entities in cases ranging from redistricting to land use and zoning. For over 10 years he was one of the principal counsel for Baltimore City in *Thompson v. HUD*, a federal civil rights action concerning public housing. He was named one of America's Top Black Lawyers by Black Enterprise Magazine in 2003 and was recognized by The Daily Record's "Leadership in Law" Award the same year. In 2018, he received the "Leadership in Law Lifetime Achievement Award" from The Daily Record.

Mr. Johnson has a long history of service to the community and the Bar. He was the first African American President of the Maryland State Bar from 2003-2004. He was the co-founder of the MSBA Leadership Academy. He has served in the ABA House of Delegates since 2003, and served as a member of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary from 2007-2010, and as Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Public Education from 2014-2016. He was a member of the Court of Appeals of Maryland Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure from 1986-2013. He served as Chair of the Board of Directors of Greater Baltimore Healthcare from 2011-2014, and currently serves as the Treasurer for the Maryland Hospital Association.



**Hemant  
PATHAK**

Microsoft Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel  
Legal Compliance

J.D., Widener University School of Law,  
B.A., Washington and Jefferson College

Hemant Pathak is Assistant General Counsel at Microsoft and has been a member of the company's Law & Corporate Affairs (LCA) department for 12 years. He currently leads the team providing legal support for Microsoft's U.S. Commercial Enterprise Sales division, and was previously counsel to Microsoft's Health & Life Sciences and Public Sector Industry Units. He and his team are responsible for cloud computing, software and services transactions as well as legal compliance. Pathak is a Certified HIPAA Professional (CHP), and is based in Microsoft's Washington, DC area offices. Pathak was the recipient of the 2013 Microsoft Attorney Excellence award for his assistance in helping the company address HIPAA compliance requirements for its Office and Windows cloud computing technologies.



**Hong Suk Paul  
CHUNG**

Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy &  
Ecker, PA  
Shareholder  
Medical Malpractice

J.D., Temple University School of Law,  
B.A., University of Maryland

Paul Chung has been practicing in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia for over 20 years. During that time, he has successfully represented individuals and entities in a variety of cases, focusing especially on medical malpractice, personal injury and criminal defense.

Paul Chung successfully represents individuals who have been seriously injured or families who have lost a loved one as a result of someone else's negligence. With compassion and confidence, he deftly navigates his clients to an outcome designed to mitigate their suffering and maximize recoveries for families in need.

Paul has been involved in many medical negligence cases against physicians, hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers. He also handles catastrophic injury and wrongful death litigation, as well as claims arising under the Federal Tort Claims Act and Military Claims Act.



**Hyung  
BAK**

AmerisourceBergen Corporation  
Senior Vice President, Group General  
Counsel and Secretary

J.D., Columbia Law School, M.P.A.,  
Princeton University, B.A., Harvard  
College

Hyung Bak is Senior Vice President, Group General Counsel and Secretary for AmerisourceBergen Corporation. Mr. Bak joined AmerisourceBergen in June 2015 as Group General Counsel for AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation and was named Corporate Secretary in May 2016. Prior to AmerisourceBergen, he spent nine years at Campbell Soup Company in senior legal and business roles, including as Vice President of Global Procurement, Chief Counsel to Campbell North America and Chief of Staff to the CEO. Before Campbell Soup, Mr. Bak served as Associate General Counsel at Alexion Pharmaceuticals. He began his legal career in the New York offices of Covington & Burling and Sullivan & Cromwell, following a clerkship with the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.



**Jacquenette M.  
HELMES**

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.  
Vice President and Associate General  
Counsel  
Employment

Syracuse University – B.S., Georgetown  
University –J.D.

Jacquenette M. Helmes is Vice President and Associate General Counsel at CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of global information technology and business process services provider CGI Inc. Ms. Helmes provides advice and counsel to all levels of executive management and each human resources function regarding assessment and management of employment-related legal risks; assists in ensuring the company meets its employment-related compliance obligations with various federal, state, and local employment laws, through her guidance and the U.S. employment compliance team that reports to her; and identifies and develops proactive strategies to minimize legal liability balanced against business goals. She also manages the Employment Compliance team, in addition to managing litigation of various non-employment matters.

Prior to CGI, Ms. Helmes practiced labor and employment law at Wiley Rein & Fielding, LLP and at Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP, both in Washington, D.C. Ms. Helmes received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, and earned her B.S. with honors with a double-major from Syracuse University's School of Management. She is a member of the Bars of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia Bar. Prior to law school, Ms. Helmes worked for six years as a Human Resources Program Manager at Lockheed Martin, and an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Diversity Lead at IBM.

Ms. Helmes serves on the advisory board of Georgetown University Law Center's Corporate Counsel Institute (CCI). She is also a member of the American Bar Association's Labor & Employment Section, the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) and its local chapter, the MCCA, the Corporate Counsel Women of Color, and the Society for Human Resources Management, among other legal organizations. During her legal career, she has volunteered with and contributed to a number of public service and charitable organizations.



**James T.  
MONTGOMERY, JR.**

Foley Hoag LLP  
Partner  
Taxation

L.L.M., Georgetown University Law  
Center, (with highest honors), J.D.,  
Georgetown University Law Center,  
(with honors), B.A., Morehouse College  
(cum laude)

James Montgomery's diverse practice encompasses the tax aspects of business transactions, exempt organization operations, compensation and employment matters, and trust and estate administration.

In transactional matters, James concentrates on tax and tax-related aspects of commercial transactions, including partnership and joint ventures, venture capital, and corporate mergers and acquisitions. He also advises corporate clients on taxation issues involving capital restructuring, asset sales, trademark and intellectual property, international, insurance, bankruptcy, and general business matters.

Before joining Foley Hoag, James was associated with another major firm. Following law school graduation he served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable U.W. Clemon, United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Before entering law school James served as an intern in the Office of the Mayor for the City of Atlanta, Honorable Maynard Jackson.



**Jana L.  
TAYLOR**

Radio One, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel

J.D., Rutgers University School of  
Law – Camden, B.A., The Ohio State  
University

Jana L. Taylor is grateful that her career allows her to indulge her passions for media and law. As associate general counsel for Radio One Inc., she handles legal matters in a field that focuses on entertaining and educating people, which affords her opportunities to help others.

In the Honors Program at Ohio State University, which she attended with a Carl Rowan Project Excellence Scholarship, Taylor started as a political science major but soon switched to broadcast journalism.

Taylor has an extensive record of community involvement through organizations such as America Needs You, where she served as a mentor and Young Leadership board member, and through membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., The Links Incorporated, Black Women in Entertainment Law, Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association.



**Janette  
MCCARTHY LOUARD**

NAACP, Inc.  
Deputy General Counsel  
Civil Rights

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., Wellesley College

Janette McCarthy Louard joined the NAACP as the Deputy General Counsel in April 2017. After graduating from Columbia Law School, Ms. Louard served as a law clerk to the Honorable John R. Hargrove, Sr., United States District Judge for the District Court of Maryland. Following her clerkship with Judge Hargrove, Ms. Louard was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

Ms. Louard primarily handles the oversight of civil rights litigation and she also handles internal legal matters for the Association including human resources, and contracts. Her daily duties include providing legal counsel to the General Counsel, department heads and regional offices on the legal implications of proposed activities and programs.

Ms. Louard was born on the island of Jamaica and spent her formative years in Harlem, New York.



**Jay  
ATKINSON**

Lieidos  
Assistant General Counsel and Director,  
Corporate Development  
Mergers & Acquisitions Transactions

M.B.A., University of Virginia Darden  
School of Business, J.D., Fordham  
University School of Law, B.A., Duke  
University

Jay Atkinson currently serves as an Assistant General Counsel and Director, Corporate Development at Lieidos. His experience has focused on a broad range of complex business and legal matters, in particular, M&A transactions and securities matters.

Before joining Lieidos he held two Associate positions at Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.



**Joseph K.  
WEST**

Duane Morris LLP  
Partner and Chief Diversity & Inclusion  
Officer  
Trial

J.D., Tulane University, 1986, B.A.,  
Southern University, 1983

Joseph K. West is a partner in Duane Morris' Washington D.C. office, a member of the firm's Partners Board and the firm's Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. As a trial lawyer, Mr. West represents clients from start-ups to the Fortune 500 in complex commercial litigation, ranging from class actions and insurance litigation to products liability, and labor and employment. He has tried over 150 matters to verdict, and managed the largest class action in U.S. history.

A nationally recognized authority on diversity and inclusion, he advises companies, their boards and CEOs on their corporate strategies in this area. Prior to Duane Morris, he served as President/CEO of Minority Corporate Counsel Association. Previously, he was Associate General Counsel at Walmart Stores Inc., where he managed 600 law firms worldwide and a \$300 million budget; Associate General Counsel at Entergy Corporation; and prior, a partner in law firms in Louisiana.



**Joseph W.  
CLARK**

Comcast Corporation  
Vice President, Senior Deputy General  
Counsel, Government Investigations  
Government Investigations

J.D., Harvard University, B.A.,  
Morehouse College

Joe Clark is responsible for the strategy and implementation of the newly created Government Investigations team. Specifically, Joe directs and coordinates responses to investigations and subpoenas at the federal, state, and local level.

Immediately prior to joining Comcast, Joe led the Global Investigations team at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. This team focused on anti-corruption related government investigations and internal investigations of HPE's standards of business conduct.

For nearly eight years, Joe was a Partner at Jones Day where his practice centered on business and tort litigation; corporate and criminal investigations, and antitrust. Joe is also a former Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Earlier this year, the Trustees of the District of Columbia Retirement Board elected Joe as Chair of the Board.



**Karen  
DELFYETT**

Hilton  
Director & Counsel, Global Compliance  
Global Compliance

J.D., Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg  
Law Center, B.A., Binghamton  
University

Karen Delfyett serves a Director & Counsel, Global Compliance at Hilton. Previously, she acted as an Assistant District Attorney for Kings County District Attorney's Office. Earlier, in 2006, she was a Regional Director at National Black Law Students Association.



**Karen  
MCWILLIAMS**

SAIC  
Senior Vice President, Deputy General  
Counsel – Corporate

J.D., George Mason University School of  
Law, B.S., University of Virginia

Karen McWilliams is an experienced litigation, labor and employment lawyer with a zeal for mentoring and training. Highly motivated and resourceful, collaborative, and results-driven.

Ms. Williams joined SAIC 2 years ago. Previously, she spent 9 years at E\*TRADE Financial, serving as Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel. Before that, for other 9 years she has been a Partner at DLA Piper LLP. From 1992 to 1998 she was an Associate at McGuire Woods.



**Keir D.  
GUMBS**

Uber Technologies Inc.  
Associate General Counsel, Global  
Corporate, M&A and Securities and  
Deputy Corporate Secretary  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law  
School, B.A., The Ohio State University

Keir Gumbs is Associate General Counsel, Global Corporate, M&A and Securities, and Deputy Corporate Secretary at Uber Technologies, Inc. Prior to joining Uber, he was a partner in the corporate and securities practice at Covington & Burling LLP. Keir started his career at the SEC, where he served for six years - first as a staff attorney, later as a Special Counsel in the Office of Chief Counsel in the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance and finally as counsel to SEC Commissioner Roel Campos.

Keir is recognized as a leading authority on securities regulation and corporate governance who represents a cross-section of constituencies in securities and governance matters, including companies ranging in size from Fortune 50 companies to venture-backed firms, as well as public pension funds, hedge funds, faith-based investors and trade associations.



**Kenneth C.  
PERRY**

U.S. Department of State  
Division Chief

M.A., Faith Christian University, B.A.,  
American University

Kenneth Perry is a Division Chief at U.S. Department of State. He has been in this position for the last 5 years. In the previous 10 years he served as a Program Manager for the U.S. Department of State. Earlier in his career, he worked as an Investigator at United States Parks Police.



**Kim F.  
HASSAN**

Pepco Holdings LLC  
Associate General Counsel  
Energy

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
2003; B.A., Howard University, 1998  
(magna cum laude)

Kim Hassan is an experienced in-house counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the utilities industry. Currently, Kim employed at a utility holding company where is responsible for managing the state regulatory legal departments in the District of Columbia and Maryland. Prior to her current position, Kim practiced law at a California investor-owned electric and gas utility headquartered in San Diego. From 2003 to 2007, Kim practiced law at a Washington DC law firm, where she represented energy utility companies before state and federal regulatory commissions.

Kim is committed to community service and is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. She serves on the board of the Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science and volunteers with the Street Law Program.



**Larry M.  
CHATTOO**

Bank of America  
Associate General Counsel/Senior Vice  
President  
Public Policy

J.D., University of Southern California  
Law School, B.A., William & Mary

As a regulatory and public policy attorney at Bank of America, Larry Chattoo identifies, analyzes and manages emerging and current international, federal, state and local issues that affect the political and business environment for the bank and banking industry. "The work is challenging but rewarding, and the bank provides great professional and personal opportunities." Chattoo describes himself as an absolute self-starter, but concedes he would not be where he is today without the mentors he's known throughout his career.

A native of Trinidad & Tobago, Chattoo immigrated to Brooklyn with his family when he was still a young boy. After high school, he joined the US Marine Corps. There, he learned the core values of what has driven his career: discipline, a strong work ethic and duty to public service.



**Latoya C.  
ASIA**

E\*TRADE Financial Corporation  
Director, Associate General Counsel  
Employment

J.D., The College of William and Mary  
- Marshall Wythe Law School, B.S.,  
Virginia Commonwealth University

Latoya Asia is an Assistant General Counsel at E\*TRADE Financial Corporation, a leading financial services company and a pioneer in the online brokerage industry. In this capacity, Ms. Asia provides practical legal counsel on a range of employment matters impacting the Company and develops creative solutions to Human Resource issues. Ms. Asia also serves as a Member of the Company's Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee and Co-Chair of its Multicultural Employee Resource Group.

Prior to joining E\*TRADE, Ms. Asia practiced labor & employment law at a large law firm where her practice predominantly involved representing employers in the areas of employment discrimination, labor-management relations and general employment litigation. While at the firm, Ms. Asia also gained invaluable experience as an integral member of a complex, multiyear, federal trade secret misappropriation litigation team.



**LaToya WINFIELD  
BELLAMY**

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
Member  
Vice Chair, Diversity and Inclusion  
Committee  
Administrative Law

J.D., Widener University Delaware Law,  
B.S., Philadelphia University

LaToya Winfield Bellamy joined Eckert Seamans' Harrisburg office in 2007, and she serves as vice chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

She provides business counseling, real estate, and administrative law related services. She has a wide range of experience in serving the firm's clients, including various businesses, contractors, educational institutions, gaming industry entities, and municipal governments. She provides guidance to the firm's clients on contracting, government regulatory issues, and real estate matters, including commercial leasing.

Before joining the company, Ms. Bellamy served as an Associate Attorney for McGuireWoods LLP and also a HR Manager for NewMarket Corporation.



**Lindsey  
GAUTHIER**

E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company  
Associate General Counsel  
Mergers and Acquisitions

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law  
School, A.A., New York University

Lindsey Gauthier serves as an Associate General Counsel E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. He has been in this position since 2015. The main areas he specializes in are Mergers and Acquisitions, International Trade, Sourcing and Logistics, Environment and Labor, Employment and Benefits. In the previous years he held the position of Corporate Counsel at the same company.



**Lisa A.  
TAVARES**

Venable LLP  
Partner  
Employee Benefits and Executive  
Compensation

J.D., Boston College Law School,  
1995, LL.M. in Taxation, Georgetown  
University Law Center, 2002, B.A.,  
Spelman College, 1990 (cum laude)

Lisa advises public and private employers on all areas related to ERISA, as well as the administration of both pension and welfare plans. Her practice also involves compliance issues with the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Labor, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Lisa also advises employers on issues related to mergers and acquisitions, plan mergers and terminations and transition planning, and has significant experience in IRS and DOL audits.

Lisa is a Fellow in the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel. She has been recognized in Legal 500 for Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation, Best Lawyers Business Edition, Women in Law, and by Super Lawyers for Employee Benefits/ERISA in Washington, DC.



**Lisa-Marie  
MONSANTO**

Rimon P.C.  
Partner  
Finance

J.D. Columbia University, B.A., McGill  
University

Lisa-Marie focuses on financings in emerging markets, including Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and Africa. She represents project sponsors, private equity funds, issuers and other parties in the structuring, negotiation and documentation of a broad range of financing transactions and equity investments with commercial and bilateral/multilateral development finance institutions. She is experienced in project finance, secured and unsecured single bank, club and syndicated credit facilities, first lien/second lien financing, mezzanine financing, export finance and equipment finance. Lisa-Marie also provides general corporate and licensing counseling to small and medium size companies that are expanding in the U.S. and emerging markets. She serves as general counsel for two of her clients in the life sciences and manufacturing sectors.



**Machell A.  
HAMLIN**

GEICO  
Assistant Vice President

J.D., The Catholic University of America,  
Columbus School of Law, B.A., The  
Catholic University of America

Machell Hamlin, who most recently worked as New Jersey staff counsel director for the company, started at GEICO in 1986, working in a series of claims positions. She started her counsel career in 1996 and later joined GEICO's Legislative Counsel Department, rising to senior counsel.

Hamlin, from Mitchellville, Md., is admitted to practice law in the state of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the Federal District court in Greenbelt, Md.

Hamlin holds a B.A. in English and a J.D., cum laude, from The Catholic University of America. She is admitted to practice law in the state of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the Federal District court in Greenbelt, Md. She is a member of Leadership Washington and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



**Mary  
AKHIMIEN**

Bank of America Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel, Senior Vice  
President  
Employment Law

J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of  
Law, B.A., University of Delaware

Mary Akhimiien serves as a trusted advisor to executive leadership and provide proactive strategic and tactical general legal counsel on employment and benefits related matters, as well as specific advice on products, services and certain legal actions to executives at all levels at Bank of America Corporation.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, she was recognized as a Super Lawyers Rising Star in the area of Labor & Employment Law. In 2014, she was named to Lawyers of Color's Second Annual Hot List, which recognizes high performing early-to mid-career minority attorneys working as in-house counsel, government attorneys, and law firm associates and partners.

Mary Akhimiien is licensed to practice law in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the District of Columbia.



**Mary  
KIM**

General Dynamics Information  
Technology  
Director & Associate General Counsel  
Litigation, Investigations and  
Compliance

B.A., Yale University, 1999 (cum laude);  
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
2003 (cum laude)

Mary Kim is a Director & Associate General Counsel at General Dynamics Information Technology, where she primarily focuses on litigation, investigations and compliance. Prior to GDIT, Ms. Kim was a principal attorney at CSRA, a publicly traded company that provided IT services to government clients, and at CSC (now DXC Technology). Prior to moving in-house, Ms. Kim was in private practice in the Washington, D.C. area for twelve years, first at Jones Day and later at Dickstein Shapiro LLP. Ms. Kim is also a 2014 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow.



**Maulin S.  
VIDWANS**

White and Williams LLP  
Partner  
Corporate Finance

J.D., Rutgers University, B.A., Villanova  
University

Maulin Vidwans is a Partner in the Philadelphia office. Maulin has previously served as Chair of the Business Department and is currently the Chair of the Corporate Finance Practice Group and a member of the Firm's Partner Compensation Committee and Diversity Committee.

Concentrating his practice in the areas of corporate finance, real estate and business transactions, Maulin's clients include national, regional and local financial institutions, finance companies, real estate developers, and other corporate and commercial parties.

Maulin has particular experience guiding clients through the structuring and financing of golf, resort and timeshare projects throughout the country, including the acquisition, construction, development and receivables financing for those projects.

Maulin has lectured extensively on commercial finance and real estate issues, including secured transactions, resort real estate financing and the drafting and negotiating of commercial loan documents.



**Michelle N.  
LIPKOWITZ**

Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

Harvard University and Georgetown  
Law

Michelle Lipkowitz is well-known for her achievements as a trial lawyer representing businesses in major litigation and government investigations as well as individuals in white collar matters. Michelle is Vice-Chair of SEA&L's Litigation Department, Vice-Chair of the Firm's White Collar and Government Litigation Practice, Vice-Office Managing Partner of the Firm's Baltimore Office, and the Firm's Diversity and Inclusion Partner.



**Min S.  
SUH**

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC  
Shareholder  
Immigration

J.D., Widener University School of Law,  
B.S., Stockton University of New Jersey

Min focuses her practice on employment-based immigration law and represents and advises clients from a variety of industries including information technology, higher education, banking, manufacturing, healthcare and nonprofits. She represents international companies on their immigration issues during acquisitions, mergers, global relocations and downsizings. She assists companies in developing "best practices" programs in I-9 Compliance and Verification, and has extensive experience in worksite enforcement. Min has significant experience in handling government investigations including on-site audits, depositions and appellate litigation.

For more than 20 years, Min has partnered with her clients to attract and retain superior talent regardless of nationality. In representing international companies, Min coordinates the firm's multi-disciplinary practice, including employment and labor, tax counseling, employee benefits and any other related matters to address ancillary issues in the global mobilization of personnel.



**Obrea O.  
POINDEXTER**

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
Partner  
Financial Services

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Howard University

Obrea O. Poindexter serves as co-chair of the Financial Services Practice Group at Morrison & Foerster LLP, heads the firm's mobile payments group, and is co-chair of the FinTech group.

Ms. Poindexter's practice focuses on financial services regulation. She advises large financial institutions, retailers and other non-financial card issuers on financial privacy issues.

She is the former Chair of the American Bar Association's Privacy and Truth in Lending Subcommittees and is a nationally recognized speaker on banking and consumer financial services issues. She was named to Savoy Magazine's 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers list and was named the exclusive winner of the 2016 Client Choice Award for Banking in Washington, D.C. In 2016, Ms. Poindexter was shortlisted for the "Minority Lawyer of the Year" award at the inaugural Chambers USA Diversity Awards.



**Om  
JAHAGIRDAR**

Freddie Mac  
Associate General Counsel  
Corporate Finance

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., University of Virginia

Om Jahagirdar works in the Single Family Legal Department and focuses on corporate finance and corporate transactional work relating to mortgage servicing rights, credit risk transfers, loan sales (non-performing/re-performing), and other general corporate matters. He also has additional experience leading and managing matters related to new products and initiatives, Blockchain, bankruptcy and insolvency, insurance, and corporate governance issues.

Some of his key attributes are providing excellent service, being a trusted legal advisor, and being a collaborative business partner with a focus on deal execution.

Om Jahagirdar is also active in the company's department's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Pro Bono Committee.



**Pamela  
RAISON**

Farmers Insurance  
Senior Corporate Counsel  
Health Insurance Industry

J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of  
Law, B.A., University of Pennsylvania

Pamela Raison is a senior-level In-house corporate attorney with substantial legal experience in the property and casualty and health insurance industries. She advises management on legal and regulatory matters to reduce litigation risks and ensure compliance in business operations. Her specialties are contract drafting, IT and vendor agreements, claims, marketing, regulatory, and corporate diversity strategies.

Ms. Raison has over 30 years legal experience, including service as Chief Counsel for a major state executive agency.



**Patrice J.  
HARRIS**

Nixon Peabody LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

LL.M., The John Marshall Law School,  
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Stanford University

Patrice Harris's primary focus is serving as developer's counsel on new construction and acquisition/rehabilitation of affordable housing projects, financed through tax-exempt bonds, low-income housing tax credits.

Ms. Harris furnishes legal advice across a broad spectrum of HUD-related laws and regulations, including FHA multifamily mortgage insurance closings, HOPE VI and mixed-finance transactions.

Prior to joining Nixon Peabody, Ms. Harris was an associate at DLA Piper, where she worked as an associate counseling lenders, developers, contractors in the financing, sale, acquisition, leasing and management of affordable estate projects and nursing home facilities.

Ms. Harris began her legal career as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Office of General Counsel in the Illinois State Office and in the Office of Assisted Housing in HUD Headquarters in Washington, D.C.



**Paul Lancaster  
ADAMS**

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak &  
Stewart, P.C.  
Shareholder  
Employment Litigation, Class Action,  
Wage and Hour

J.D., Wake Forest University  
School of Law, 1993, B.A., Virginia  
Commonwealth University, 1990

Mr. Adams' practice involves management-side counseling, employment litigation, class/collective actions, arbitrations and administrative proceedings. He also conducts/oversees highly-sensitive investigations of workplace misconduct. Mr. Adams is active in bar association activities and numerous civic/charitable endeavors. He has served in adjunct faculty capacities at Villanova University School of Law and Temple University.

A Fellow of the prestigious College of Labor and Employment Attorneys, Mr. Adams is recognized as one of the "100 Most Powerful Employment Lawyers in America" by Lawdragon, exclusive winner - International Law Office's Client Choice Awards, listed in Best Lawyers in America, named an "Attorney Who Matters" by leading international business ethics think-tank the Ethisphere Institute and distinguished as one of 11 individuals "working to make Philadelphia a leader in every sector" - "Executive of the Year" by Philly Biz Magazine.



**Paula D.  
JOHNSON**

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GP Strategies Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., University of Maryland School of Law, B.A., Morgan State University

Paula Johnson serves as an Assistant General Counsel at GP Strategies Corporation. She holds this position since 2011. Before joining GP Strategies she held the same position of Assistant General Counsel for RWD Technologies.



**Rahul  
DAS**

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Xinova, LLC  
Vice President  
Intellectual Property

J.D., The George Washington University Law School, B.S., The University of Texas at Austin

Rahul Das is an experienced intellectual property attorney with seventeen years experience in all aspects of patent law, including patent prosecution, due diligence, opinions, client counseling, patent litigation, and patent licensing. Currently, working as an intellectual property attorney at Xinova managing patent portfolios, negotiating and preparing technology transfer licensing deals, conducting patentability analyses, and counseling technical and business personnel on intellectual property related matters.



**Randy  
HAYMAN**

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Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.  
Partner  
Environmental Law

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1989; A.B., University of Michigan, 1989

Randy E. Hayman has recently been appointed as the Commissioner of the Philadelphia Water Department. Prior to being named Commissioner he was a partner at the environmental law firm of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. (Beveridge & Diamond) headquartered in Washington, D.C. And prior to joining Beveridge & Diamond, he was a long-serving general counsel in the water arena with fifteen years of experience as a general counsel and as a significant part of senior management for two major water utilities in distinctly separate regions of the United States. Specifically, he served as the general counsel to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority ("DC Water"), which with an operating budget of \$516 million, provides drinking water, wastewater collection, treatment, and stormwater management to the nation's capital and surrounding metropolitan area. Prior to joining DC Water, Hayman served 10 years as general counsel for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD). In addition, he gained legal experience in the private sector in the area of civil litigation and served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Missouri.



**Samir D.  
VARMA**

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Thompson Hine LLP  
Partner  
International Trade

J.D., Fordham University School of Law, 2007, B.A., University of Michigan, 1999

Samir is a partner in the International Trade and White Collar Criminal Practice, Internal Investigations & Government Enforcement practice groups. He advises multinational corporations on export controls, economic sanctions and customs, and counsels individuals and corporations on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and other anti-corruption laws. He represents clients in enforcement actions before U.S. regulatory agencies and conducts corporate internal investigations.

Samir participates in many firmwide activities, including the pro bono program, and serves as the Washington D.C. chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. He was a co-recipient of Thompson Hine's 2013 Diversity Champion Award for his work developing and launching the Diversity Externship Program, which provides law students in Washington, D.C. with rewarding educational opportunities and real-life work experience on pro bono matters.



**Savalle  
SIMS**

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Discovery Communications, LLC  
Executive Vice President, Deputy  
General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School, B.S., Syracuse University

As General Counsel for Discovery, Savalle Sims leads Discovery's global legal teams, managing lawyers and all legal issues on behalf of the company in nearly 20 worldwide offices. In her previous role as EVP, Deputy General Counsel, Sims managed Discovery's Litigation and Trademark legal teams, handling all legal efforts around Discovery's intellectual property, including trademark, patent and copyright portfolios. Sims joined Discovery in 2011 as Senior Vice President of Litigation and Intellectual Property.

Previously, she was a partner in the commercial litigation department at Arent Fox, LLP, in Washington, D.C. In this role, she spent more than 10 years working on a broad range of complex commercial litigation and intellectual property matters, including several engagements with Discovery. Most recently, Sims was named to Multichannel's 2016 class of Wonder Women.



**Sean  
MONROE BEARD**

Altria Group, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Strategic Planning

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.S., University of Virginia

Sean Monroe Beard served as Assistant General Counsel at Altria for the last 5 years. Before joining Altria, he spent 15 years at Hunton & Williams LLP as a Partner. Earlier in his career he acted as an Advisory Board at Bon Secours Health System.



**Shawn  
FRASER**

Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Director and Associate General Counsel

J.D., University of California,  
Los Angeles School of Law, B.S.,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Shawn Fraser is a Director and Associate General Counsel at Lockheed Martin Corporation. She has been in this position for four years. Before joining the company she served as a Intellectual Property Attorney at Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto. She was also employed at United States Air Force as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Trial Attorney.



**Shemin V.  
PROCTOR**

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP  
Partner  
Energy Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Harvard  
University - Radcliffe College

Shemin is the former Managing Partner of the Washington, DC office of Andrews Kurth Kenyon, and she divides her time between the Washington and Houston offices.

She represents major energy companies, including natural gas and oil pipelines, energy marketing and trading companies, and midstream service providers, in proceedings before the FERC and has represented natural gas pipelines before the federal courts. Shemin has counseled clients in numerous rate, restructuring, tariff, certificate, complaint and enforcement matters in natural gas, oil and electric proceedings before the FERC, other agencies and federal courts. In addition, she has counseled energy companies on natural gas matters arising from bankruptcy and has experience in the antitrust, mergers & acquisitions and public offering areas.

She was profiled as one of the Most Influential Black Lawyers, Savoy Magazine (2015).



**Simone  
DOS SANTOS**

Bank of America Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel, Consumer  
Banking  
Consumer Banking

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.S., Georgetown University

Simone dos Santos is an Assistant General Counsel, Consumer Banking at Bank of America. Before joining the company in 2018 she served as an Assistant General Counsel for D.C. Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking. Previously, she spent four years at BuckleySandler LLP as an Associate and other four years at Covington & Burling.



**Solomon  
HUNTER, JR.**

Pepper Hamilton LLP  
Partner  
Health Care Transactions

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
M.B.A., Pennsylvania State University,  
B.S., University of Tennessee

Solomon Hunter, Jr. is a partner in the Health Sciences Department of Pepper Hamilton LLP. Mr. Hunter is an experienced corporate and transactional lawyer with broad legal experience on health care matters.

In the Health Care and Life Sciences arenas, Mr. Hunter concentrates his practice on complex merger and acquisition transactions, joint ventures, group purchasing organizations, start-up and venture capital financings, company formation and governance. He has managed a range of transactions for health care providers, including acute and post-acute care providers, skilled nursing, assisted living and continuing care retirement communities, pharmaceutical manufacturers, retail and specialty pharmacies.

Mr. Hunter also counsels clients on governance, the practical approach to addressing health care regulatory issues, complex commercial agreements, structuring strategic arrangements and general corporate and partnership law.



**Soyong  
CHO**

Wells Fargo  
Senior Vice President and Managing  
Counsel

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., Williams College

Soyong Cho is Senior Vice President and Managing Counsel at Wells Fargo. Previously, she spent five years at K&L Gates LLP as a Partner. There, her practice concentrated in commercial litigation, complex litigation and class actions, and government enforcement. For 6 years she has also been an Associate at Goodwin Procter LLP, her main interest being consumer financial services.



**Sue  
LEE**

Entegris  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel,  
Chief Compliance Officer & Corporate  
Secretary

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Harvard  
University (cum laude)

When Sue Lee joined Entegris as its general counsel and corporate secretary in 2016, she became the company's second general counsel in its fifty-year history. Since then, she has introduced innovative legal practices and business strategies while providing an incredible range of experience and expertise. In fact, innovation is exactly what attracted her to the company.

After graduating and earning a bachelor's and a JD from Harvard, Lee began working as outside counsel, where she made sure to learn about different industries. At Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Lee saw Google reinvent the search engine industry and Pixar set the standard for computer animation. At Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, she worked on matters for Under Armour, which created the performance athletic wear market, and McDonald's, which constantly innovates to keep up with changing customer tastes.



**Tabitha R  
JENKINS**

Burlington Stores, Inc.  
Vice President - Assistant General  
Counsel  
Emploment, Litigation & Compliance

J.D., Washington University School of  
Law, 1999

Tabitha Jenkins is Vice President – Assistant General Counsel for Burlington Stores, Inc. in Burlington, New Jersey. In this position she oversees the Litigation, Labor & Employment and Compliance practice areas. Tabitha joined Burlington in August 2011 after working in various legal positions at Macy's, Inc. Tabitha began her legal career at The May Department Stores Company in St. Louis, Missouri. During her legal career she has worked in the Litigation, Labor & Employment, Compliance and Operations practice areas.

Before practicing law, Tabitha worked in advertising for Young & Rubicam in New York as a media planner. After working on an IP campaign for a major business services company, she recalled her desire to be a lawyer and entered law school in 1996.



**Thomas  
WARNOCK**

Corteva Agriscience  
Associate General Counsel Corporate  
Affairs  
Corporate Affairs

J.D., Temple University - James E.  
Beasley School of Law, B.A., Florida  
State University

Thomas Warnock serves as an Associate General Counsel, Corporate Affairs at Corteva Agriscience. He is a bilingual (Spanish and English) attorney with management experience as well as broad base of litigation and transactional experience both in house and at a large private law firm.

He is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida and limited in house license in Delaware. Mr. Warnock is also Six Sigma Green Belt Certified.



**Tiffany  
MCCONNELL KING**

Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Duke University

Tiffany McConnell King is the Assistant General Counsel for Northrop Grumman Corporation. She has been in this position for the last eight years. Before this, she has spent seven years at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP as an Associate Attorney.



**Tony  
ANDERSON**

Thompson Coburn LLP  
Partner  
Public Transit

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, B.A., Johns Hopkins University

Over the past 30 years, Tony has been a legal advisor to many of the nation's largest transit systems.

He serves as an important resource to public transit agencies, providing guidance related to project development, proposal review, bid protests, contract negotiations, transportation financing, and contract disputes.

Tony works closely with his clients to solve a variety of challenges unique to the transit sector. Given his experience within transit systems, Tony's advice is always mindful of the impact the resolution may have on all stakeholders involved.

Tony began his career at the Federal Transit Administration. He also served as staff attorney for the reauthorization of the federal transit program. This experience laid the groundwork for him to fully understand the needs of his clients and successfully guide them to compliance.



**Tony  
PHILLIPS**

McKool Smith PC  
Principal  
Investigations & Government Enforcement

J.D., Harvard Law School, 2004, B.A.,

Michigan State University | James Madison College, 1999 (Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa)

Tony was a 1L on 9/11 and consequently volunteered for the U.S. Air Force, serving four years as a military lawyer, including six months in Baghdad, Iraq. For his work in Iraq, Tony received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal—the third-highest honor bestowed on service members by the Department of Defense. Tony's public service also includes three years as a prosecutor in the DOJ's Public Integrity Section.

Now in private practice, Tony handles internal investigations and other white collar matters for clients, including providing advice relating to a variety of statutory regimes, including the FCPA, FCA, AKS and Stark Law, anti-money laundering, and others.

Tony, an Eagle Scout, serves on three non-profit Boards: the Houston-area Boy Scouts; Combined Arms (a veterans services organization); and Gifts for the Homeless (in Washington, D.C.).



**Wanda M.  
RICHARDS**

PNC Financial Services Group, Inc  
Senior Counsel  
Health Care Transactions

J.D., SUNY Buffalo Law School, B.B.A., Niagara University

Wanda Richards is Senior Counsel in the Retail Payments Group at The PNC Financial Services Group. A graduate of the SUNY Buffalo Law School, Ms. Richards is admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, New York and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Richards has provided regulatory counsel in the areas of consumer and insurance law for a range of financial services providers including a de-novo and Fortune 500 companies. Ms. Richards negotiates retail banking agreements for PNC's University Banking business with major higher education institutions that are located throughout the United States. She also provides regulatory and contract support for PNC's ATM business. Ms. Richards is a 2014 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow and a member of PNC's Office of the General Counsel Diversity and Inclusion Council.



**Won K.  
LEE**

General Dynamics Mission Systems, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel  
Government Contracts

J.D., University of Florida, 1997 (Honors), B.S., Virginia Tech, 1989

Won Lee is the Associate General Counsel for General Dynamics Mission Systems, Inc., supporting the company's Maritime & Strategic Systems business which specializes in delivering high assurance, high consequence, integrated electronics solutions. He serves as Chair of General Dynamics' Government Contracts Practice Group.

Prior to joining General Dynamics, Mr. Lee dedicated 18 of his 21 years of active duty service to the U.S. Air Force as a Judge Advocate attaining the rank of Colonel before retiring in 2015 and receiving the Legion of Merit medal. Mr. Lee supported contingency operations deploying four times to locations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Cuba.

Mr. Lee is a member of the Government Contracts Advisory Council, George Washington University Law School. He serves as Co-Chair of the Government Contractors Forum, Association of Corporate Counsel, NCR.



**Zohra  
TEJANI**

VMware, Inc  
Assistant General Counsel & Director -  
Legal Lead for Government, Education,  
and Healthcare  
Health Care Transactions

J.D., Georgetown University, B.A., Georgetown University

Zohra Tejani is the Assistant General Counsel & Director for VMware, Inc. She leads the team that provides legal support to VMware's Government, Education, and Healthcare businesses. Before this she worked for Microsoft as Senior Attorney (Director), Worldwide Public Sector. As a volunteer, she acted as Chair of the Fellows Alumni Executive Council for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.



**Congratulations to**  
**Simone Denny**

**and the other Honorees  
for being named to the  
Lawyers of Color Nation's Best List 2019**



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# HB Congratulates Gordon

on being named to

## *Lawyers of Color's* Nation's Best List



*Gordon K. Walton*

*Partner*

*30 North LaSalle, Suite 2900*

*Chicago, IL 60602*

*312.320.9100*

*gordon.walton@heplerbroom.com*

[www.heplerbroom.com](http://www.heplerbroom.com)



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Sullivan congratulates  
New York partner  
**Darwin L. Conner**  
on his recognition by  
*Lawyers of Color* as a  
Nation's Best 2019 Honoree



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**N**ation's Best Honorees had a magnificent time at the Midwest Region Reception held in Chicago and hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP where Steve Cade welcomed guests. Remarks were offered by Lawyers of Color's Midwest representative, Darryl Anderson, as well as Sherrie L. Farrell of Dykema and Diverse Partners Network (DPN). (Photo credit: Chris Smith).











Tiffany P. Cunningham  
Partner  
Tuckers Case LLP



Sanford Watson

Partner  
Tucker Ellis LLP

Lawyers  
of  
Color

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**Aaron  
THARPE**

Target Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., Marquette University Law School,  
B.A., Indiana University Bloomington

Aaron Tharpe is an Assistant General Counsel at Target Corporation. He joined the company 5 years ago. Before this, he held the same position at Catholic Health Partners. Earlier in his career he served as an Attorney at National Labor Relations Board.



**Alan S.  
KING**

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  
Partner  
Labor & Employment

J.D., University of Illinois College of  
Law, 1988, B.A., Augustana College,  
1985

Alan S. King is Vice Chair of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP's national Labor & Employment Practice Group. Alan has extensive experience on behalf of both private and public employers in virtually all types of employment-related litigation. He litigates individual and class action cases in federal and state courts around the country, and has considerable experience representing employers before various federal, state and local administrative agencies. Alan also regularly advises clients on a wide range of employment law issues, including matters of employee discipline and termination, reductions in force, wage and hour, non-competition, workplace investigations and harassment issues. Alan is also a certified mediator who offers his vast employment litigation experience to help parties reach a voluntary, negotiated resolution of their employment-related disputes.



**Amber  
LEE WILLIAMS**

L Brands, Inc.  
VP Legal, Ethics & Compliance  
Ethics & Compliance

J.D., The University of Texas at Austin,  
1998, B.A., Oakwood University, 1995  
(summa cum laude)

Ms. Williams joined L Brands in January 2018 and leads the team responsible for global ethics and anti-corruption compliance. Before joining L Brands, she served in various attorney roles in the Walmart Legal Department, including leading the teams supporting US compliance and real estate, and as staff attorney for global investigations and ethics. Amber also held in-house positions at companies in Houston, Texas. Amber currently serves as a trustee for Marburn Academy in New Albany, Ohio, and is a board member for the Center for WorkLife Law. The Harvard Business Review published her article "How to Speak Up if You See Bias at Work" in January 2017, and in December 2017, the ACC Docket published "Lawyers on the Front Lines: Identifying Risk and Managing Internal Investigations," which Amber co-wrote.



**Amy  
AHN-ROLL**

Procter & Gamble Company  
Senior Litigation Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law,  
Illinois Institute of Technology, B.A., The  
University of Texas at Austin

Amy Ahn-Roll is the Senior Litigation Counsel at Procter & Gamble. She joined the company 12 years ago as a Senior Patent Counsel. Before Procter & Gamble he acted as a Counsel - Intellectual Property at Amway.



**Ann  
ANAYA**

3M Company  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Diversity and Inclusion

J.D., University of Minnesota Law  
School

Ann Anaya joined 3M Company in 2013 and is currently the Chief Diversity Officer. Ann started her career at 3M in Legal Affairs Compliance and Business Conduct group where she served clients as Counsel for Investigation. Subsequently, she moved into the Legal Affairs Litigation and Preventive Law group where she was a litigation manager. Throughout her career at 3M, Ann has served on the Legal Affairs Diversity and Inclusion Committee, including as Co-Chair of the Maturity Model and Metrics Subcommittee. Ann is also a 2016 3Mgives Award recipient, the company's highest honor for community service, and a recipient of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association's, 2015 Manuel Guerrero Courage in Leadership Award, 2016 Minnesota Lawyer Attorney of the Year award and 2017 Minnesota Lawyer Diversity and Inclusion Honoree.

Ann is a board member of the University of Minnesota Law School Board of Advisors, the American Red Cross, and the Neighborhood Justice Center, where she also volunteers as a pro bono lawyer.

Ann has over 20 years of experience as a trial lawyer and has held various positions with state and federal government. Just prior to joining 3M, Ann was a federal prosecutor working for the Department of Justice in the District of Minnesota for eleven years.



**Arthur J.  
RELIFORD, JR.**

Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., DePaul University College of Law,  
B.A., Hamilton College

Arthur J. Reliford, Jr. is a partner at Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP. As a general litigator, Art has successfully represented as lead and co-counsel a variety of professionals, businesses, major corporations and municipalities in state and federal courts across the country. He concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial litigation, product liability law, professional negligence, and complex civil litigation. He has tried as lead and co-trial counsel a variety of jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations to verdict, and participated in mediations. Art is co-chair of the firm's Diversity Committee and a member of the firm's Recruiting Committee. He is also a sponsor in LINK Unlimited.



**Barack  
ECHOLS**

Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

University of Chicago – JD 1999, BA/  
MA 1994

Barack Echols is a partner in Kirkland's Chicago office. Barack concentrates his practice in the areas of antitrust and complex commercial litigation, and has broad experience in class action defense, bankruptcy-related litigation, arbitration and responding to government investigations into claims of anticompetitive practices and consumer fraud. Barack has represented corporate clients in arbitration and in federal and state courts throughout the United States in direct- and indirect-purchaser price-fixing class actions, merger litigation, price-discrimination suits, consumer fraud matters and contract disputes.

Barack was recognized as a leading lawyer by Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business every year since 2014, with clients noting he is a "terrific lawyer" who is "making a name as a 'sharp' practitioner." He has been selected as an "Illinois Super Lawyer" in Antitrust by Super Lawyers magazine every year since 2013. Barack was also named one of Savoy Magazine's 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers, a list of the "best of the best" of black partners within leading national law firms and counsel from Fortune 1000 corporations.



**Betty  
JANG**

Vice President, Legal Affairs, and  
Corporate Secretary  
Legal Affairs

J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law,  
Illinois Institute of Technology, B.A.,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign

Ms. Jang is vice president of legal affairs at Aptinix. Prior to Aptinix, she held executive and legal roles at BioScrip, Inc., Baxter International Inc., Walgreen Co., CVS Health, and McDonald's Corporation. She has provided general legal counsel to several Fortune 250 corporations, taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois College of Law, and began her career serving as an assistant public defender with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Ms. Jang is currently a mentor at 1871, an alumnus of the United State of Women's Galvanize Chicago Program, and has held numerous positions in local, state, and national bar associations and community organizations. She received her B.A. from the University of Illinois and her J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law.



**Brandon  
VAUGHN**

Robins Kaplan LLP  
Principal  
Medical Malpractice/ Personal Injury

J.D., University of Wisconsin 2008  
B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign 2005

Brandon Vaughn is a dedicated advocate for those who have been injured or lost a loved one due to another party's negligence. He is committed to championing his clients' interests, understanding the challenges they face, and helping them to secure compensation for their losses. In addition to his medical malpractice and personal injury practice, Brandon has provided pro bono representation to clients in the areas of family law and immigration law. He currently chairs Robins Kaplan's Recruiting/Hiring Committee and has also served as co-chair of the firm's Diversity Committee.

Brandon's advocacy in challenging, complex cases earned him recognition from several professional organizations. He has been included on Super Lawyers' "Minnesota Rising Stars" list every year since 2013, and in 2016, he was named an "Up and Coming Attorney" by Minnesota Lawyer.



**Carlos A.  
ORTIZ**

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law  
School, B.A., Northern Illinois  
University

Carlos Ortiz focuses his practice in the areas of consumer, commercial, immigration, employment, class action and complex bodily injury-related litigation. He has successfully tried both jury and bench trials, and has prevailed on a number of dispositive motions that he prepared and argued. Mr. Ortiz litigates cases in jurisdictions across the country, as well as before various administrative bodies, and practices in federal and state court. He handles all phases of litigation, from developing a cost-effective and results-oriented case strategy, to taking depositions of lay and expert witnesses, drafting dispositive motions and memoranda, alternative dispute resolution, trial and appellate work. He is licensed to practice law in the state courts of Illinois and Wisconsin, as well as in a number of federal courts.



**Charise R.  
FRAZIER**

Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman,  
P.C.  
Shareholder, Chair of the Diversity and  
Inclusion Committee  
Health Law and Privacy and Technology

J.D., Indiana University Robert H.  
McKinney School of Law, 2001,  
M.H.A., Indiana University, 2001, B.S.,  
Valparaiso University (Honors College),  
1997

Charise R. Frazier concentrates her practice in the area of general health, assisting clients with a variety of simple and complex matters such as clinical services, patient care, compliance counsel, behavioral and mental health, data management, electronic health records, licensing and mergers and acquisitions. Charise has over 18 years' experience advising clients regarding state and federal privacy and security laws, including multi-state breach incidents and responding to government investigations. Her clients include hospitals and health systems, physician practices, health care providers, universities, long-term care facilities, health plans and vendors.

Charise maintains membership in the Marion County Bar Association, Indianapolis Bar Association and American Health Lawyers Association. She serves as the treasurer of the National Bar Association Health Law Section and a board member of the Indiana Math and Science Academy.



**Charles E.  
HARRIS, II**

Mayer Brown  
Partner  
Litigation & Dispute Resolution

University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill and Cleveland Marshall College of  
Law

Charles E. Harris, II, a partner in Mayer Brown's litigation group, focuses his practice on matters of paramount importance to the businesses, including class actions, arbitration, contract disputes, administrative actions, and privacy and cybersecurity. Also, as a registered patent attorney, he has litigated IP disputes. Charles has distinguished himself as a versatile lawyer. For instance, he has prepared matters for trial, tried cases and argued appeals. Charles received a BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, MS in Biology, summa cum laude, from North Carolina Central University, and JD, summa cum laude, from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. After law school, Charles served as a law clerk to the late Judge David D. Dowd Jr., of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.



**Coré S.  
COTTON**

Wells Fargo & Company  
Associate General Counsel  
Transactions

J.D., University of Minnesota Law  
School, B.A., Howard University

Coré Cotton is an assistant general counsel in the Enterprise Services Division of the Wells Fargo Law Department. She manages the Contracts and Technology Transactions Section of the Law Department, which provides support for third-party commercial transactions and risk management, regulatory compliance and other areas related to third-party risk.

Prior to joining Wells Fargo, and after two years of private practice, Coré toured as a featured vocalist for eight years with the Grammy-winning Sounds of Blackness.

Coré is proudly and actively involved in the community and is an enthusiastic champion of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and the community.

She is admitted to practice law in Minnesota and Illinois, and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers, the Minnesota Women Lawyers.



**Craig A.  
GRIFFITH**

Sidley Austin LLP  
Partner  
Structured Finance and Securitization

The University of Chicago Law School,  
J.D., 1990, University of Illinois, B.S.,  
1978

CRAIG A. GRIFFITH focuses his practice on securitization and structured finance, which includes term and conduit executions involving a variety of assets including consumer loan contracts, insurance commission receivables, structured settlements, equipment leases, collateralized fund transactions, automobile loans and leases, and other consumer assets. Transaction structures have included, among others, direct asset purchases, master trusts and whole business securitizations. Craig has also been involved in the structuring and formation of several medium-term note programs and asset-backed commercial paper conduits, including conduits issuing extendible and callable paper. His clients include commercial and investment banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions.

In addition to having served on the firm's Executive Committee, Craig is co-chair of the firm's Diversity Committee, and is committed to addressing issues regarding the advancement of diverse lawyers in the legal profession. Chicago United selected Craig as one of their "2017 Business Leaders of Color." Furthermore, in 2018, Craig was named to Crain's "Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers" list. Craig is also a former firmwide co-chair of the firm's Committee on Compensation and Evaluation of Associates.

Prior to joining the firm, Craig was an auditor with the Chicago office of the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand LLP. He left Coopers & Lybrand as an audit manager in 1987.

Craig is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and a member of the Board of Directors of the Lupus Society of Illinois.



**Crystal  
WILLIAMS**

Eli Lilly and Company  
Assistant General Counsel and Assistant  
Corporate Secretary

J.D., Duke University School of Law,  
B.A., Indiana University Bloomington

Crystal Williams is the Assistant General Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary at Eli Lilly and Company. She joined the company 5 years ago. Before this she served as an Attorney at Barnes & Thronburg LLP and also at Wildman Harold.



**Damali A.  
SAHU**

Bodman PLC  
Member  
Banking

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., Florida A&M University (magna  
cum laude)

Damali Sahu represents financial institutions in commercial loan transactions, with a focus on transactions with venture capital-backed emerging and established technology, energy, and life science companies. She has extensive experience documenting single-lender, syndicated, and second lien loans and SBA-guaranteed loans. Damali has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America, Michigan Super Lawyers, and DBusiness Magazine as one of Michigan's leading banking attorneys. She serves on Bodman PLC's Executive Committee and is Co-Chair of the Diversity, Inclusion and Social Action Committee. She is currently a Board member of New Paradigm College Prep school, a Board member with Gleaners Community Food Bank, and a volunteer mentor with VIP Mentoring. She is a past board member of RMA-Los Angeles Chapter and African-American Attorneys in Downtown Firms.



**Dapo A.  
ADEDEJI**

Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum &  
Nagelberg LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., Northwestern University Pritzker  
School of Law, LL.M., Northwestern  
University Pritzker School of Law, B.L.,  
Nigeria Law School

Dapo concentrates his practice on commercial real estate. Dapo has extensive experience in a wide variety of complex real estate transactions and related matters, including the acquisition, sale, financing and development of commercial property and real estate portfolios on behalf of REITs and other institutional, private equity and individual investors; the representation of developers and lenders in connection with secured loan transactions and other real estate investments; the representation of lenders in troubled loan workouts; and the structuring of partnerships and limited liability companies to serve as vehicles for the financing, development and management of real estate assets.

Represented a variety of clients, including REITs and developers, in the leasing, acquisition and disposition of commercial and industrial properties and premises, assisted living facilities, hospitals and medical office buildings throughout the United States.



**Darrell  
GUY**

AT&T Inc.  
Senior Vice President - Assistant  
General Counsel  
J.D., Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law, B.A.,  
Morehouse College

Darrell Guy is the Senior Vice President - Assistant General Counsel at AT&T. He is responsible for the legal support of marketing and sales to AT&T business customers worldwide, as well as federal, state and local governments, and educational institutions. He has been with the company for the last 19 years.



**Darrick  
HOOKER**

Akerman LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Indiana University School of Law,  
B.S./B.A., University of Illinois

Darrick Hooker is a counselor and a litigator who routinely counsels and represents clients with a variety of intellectual property issues, including patent litigation and counseling relating to litigation, as well as trade secret, trademark, copyright, and entertainment matters. He has extensive transactional and litigation experience representing clients, including the medical devices, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, computer software, chemicals, mechanical devices.

As a commercial litigator, Darrick has advised clients on and litigated cases involving complex commercial matters, including cyber security, product liability, premises liability, and breach of commercial agreements.

Darrick is admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Institute for Science & Education Technology, Free Spirit Media, and the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association.



**Dawn R.  
ROSEMOND**

Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
Partner, Director of Diversity,  
Professional Development and Inclusion  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., University of Illinois, Champaign-  
Urbana, 1996; B.A. and L.A.M.P.,  
Indiana University, 1993

Dawn is a commercial litigator focused primarily on restrictive covenant matters and protecting clients at all stages of the litigation process. As diversity and inclusion director, she activates and models the firm's commitment to "better". Dawn is also a published author (Boss Presence), and a national speaker on topics of leadership and growth.

Dawn is the firm's first African-American female equity partner. She is an Indiana Torchbearer® recipient, was named "One of the Most Influential African-Americans in Northeast Indiana" by INK Magazine®, has been listed in Indiana Super Lawyers®, and was named one of the "Top Attorneys – Business Litigation (Indiana)" by Super Lawyers® (Corporate Counsel Edition). She is also an ACBA "Niemann Citation for Excellence and Professionalism" recipient, honoring attorneys who demonstrate "distinguished legal work, professionalism, public service and leadership."



**DeAngela  
LUNA**

Northwestern Mutual  
Assistant General Counsel  
Insurance

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law  
School, B.A., University of Wisconsin-  
Madison

DeAngela (Ellis) Luna is the Assistant General Counsel at Northwestern Mutual. She joined the company in 2016. A former litigator with experience serving domestic violence survivors and property and casualty insurers, now utilizing skills in the area of insurance law. Before this she served as an Attorney at companies like Emile Banks & Associates, LLC and also Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.



**Denise J.  
LEWIS**

Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn  
LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
M.A., Wayne State University, B.A.,  
Columbia University

Denise Lewis is a real estate attorney who concentrates her practice in representing national and regional developers in complex transactions that include public/private partnerships, urban redevelopment, and mixed-use development.

Denise handles multi-tiered transactions involving office buildings, shopping centers, hotels, restaurants, single-family residential, hospitals, apartment complexes, and industrial facilities. She also assists businesses in securing state and local incentives for development, including federal and state historic designation, tax abatement, and publicly assisted financing involving tax increment financing and private activity bonds.



**Derrick M.  
THOMPSON, JR.**

Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., DePaul University College of Law,  
B.S., Northwestern University

Derrick is a trial lawyer who focuses on complex business disputes. He has significant experience as lead trial counsel in a variety of litigation matters, including partnership disputes, real estate litigation, employment litigation, intellectual property disputes, trust and fiduciary litigation, injunctive relief and sports and entertainment-related disputes. In addition, he has been retained as appellate counsel in cases involving business and contract disputes. Derrick also represents individuals and businesses in contract negotiations and counsels corporations, not-for-profit entities, religious organizations and sports and entertainment-related companies.

Derrick has an extensive background in sports. His experience includes playing college football for Northwestern University in the late '90s and representing professional athletes as a National Football League contract advisor. Derrick's experience gives him a unique perspective in helping sports and entertainment-related companies resolve their legal disputes.



**Dionne  
BLAKE**

Target Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
B.A., Florida International University

Dionne Blake is the Senior Director, Assistant General Counsel at Target Corporation. She leads and supervises a team of attorneys providing proactive employee relations counseling and strategic litigation support for Target Corporation. Provides strategic support for and manages defense of all employment-based discrimination claims including support of executive level issues. Earlier in her career she served as an Attorney for Littler Mendelson and also Allen, Norton and Blue P.A.



**Edward P.  
GONZALES**

Kutak Rock LLP  
Of Counsel  
Business, Corporate and Securities

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.A., University of Southern California

Ed is a member of the firm's Corporate Finance Group and represents public and privately held companies in virtually all types of significant corporate transactions, including mergers, acquisitions and dispositions; venture capital financings and other capital-raising activities. He also advises clients with respect to all day-to-day business and corporate law issues, including business formation, strategic legal planning, stockholder and other equity owner relations, corporate governance matters, equity compensation issues, employee relations, and contract negotiations and drafting. Ed further advises public company clients in connection with SEC and stock exchange compliance and disclosure matters.

Ed has represented clients in a wide variety of industries, including manufacturing, telecommunications, information technology, professional services, real estate, high tech, biotech and retail businesses, and in all stages of development ranging from start-ups to emerging and established businesses.



**Erica Dawn  
BROWN**

Dawn Foods, Inc.  
Vice President, Assistant General  
Counsel  
corporate generalist, compliance,  
employment, data privacy, and  
commercial and contracts

B.A., University of North Carolina,  
Chapel Hill (1991); J.D., Duke University  
School of Law (1994)

Erica Brown is the Vice President, Assistant General Counsel for Dawn Foods, Inc., where she serves as a corporate generalist and leads data privacy, compliance and labor and employment legal functions in addition to other responsibilities. Dawn Foods, a private company headquartered in Jackson, Michigan, is a global bakery supplier with manufacturing and distribution facilities in North America, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Prior to joining Dawn, Erica served in in-house counsel and compliance roles with Kellogg's Company, McDonald's and Walmart and was in private practice in Washington, DC. She clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama and is a graduate of Duke University School of Law and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.



**Frederick R.  
NANCE**

Squire Patton Boggs  
Partner  
Sports and Entertainment Law

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., Harvard University

Frederick Nance is the firm's Global Managing Partner. Fred is a highly regarded legal and business counselor, nationally recognized Sports and Entertainment Law practitioner. His high-profile practice ranges from involvement in an ongoing series of critical negotiations involving community interests in Northeast Ohio to serving as business counsel to NBA star LeBron James, comedian Dave Chappelle and other notable athletes and entertainers.

In 2012, he was recognized by the seminal sports business publication Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal as "certainly one of the top sports lawyers in the country." He serves on the Advisory Board of the National Association of Black Sports Professionals and leads the firm's US Sports and Entertainment practice. His firm leadership experience includes serving on Squire Patton Boggs' worldwide, seven-person Management Committee and as the firm's Regional Managing Partner.



**Gerard  
GREGOIRE**

Allstate Insurance Company  
Vice President & Assistant General  
Counsel, Litigation Services  
Litigation

J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law,  
B.A., University of Houston

Gerard Gregoire is a Managing Attorney for Allstate Insurance Company Staff Counsel. He is the Managing attorney for the Law Offices of M. Gerard Gregoire. Gerard has held several different positions over the past 12 years that he has been employed with Allstate.

Gerard was recruited by the Dallas County District Attorney out of Law School and was promoted to Felony Division within 1 year. He was the Chief Misdemeanor Prosecutor in six County Criminal Courts for Dallas County.

Gerard is licensed in Illinois, Washington and Texas. He is currently a member of the Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Texas Bar Association, Washington State Bar Association, Illinois Defense Counsel Association, TIPS, American Bar Association, and Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association.



**Gordon K.  
WALTON**

HeplerBroom LLC  
Partner  
Insurance Coverage Litigation

J.D., The John Marshall Law School,  
1994, B.A., University of Chicago, 1990

Gordon K. Walton is a partner in the Chicago office of HeplerBroom LLC. Gordon focuses his practice on representing insurers in all facets of complex coverage and bad faith disputes, including coverage litigation involving commercial general liability, excess/umbrella liability, pollution legal liability and first-party property liability. In addition to his extensive experience in litigation and alternative dispute resolution, he offers strategic advice to local and national clients on insurance matters including risk analysis and management as well as claims counseling and coordination.

Gordon has been named to the list of Who's Who in Black Chicago and is a member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, Chicago Black Partners Alliance, Chicago Inn of Court, Cook County Bar Association and Defense Research Institute.



**Greg  
WU**

United Airlines, Inc.  
Managing Counsel  
Employee Benefits

J.D., Harvard Law School; A.B., Duke  
University

At United Airlines, Greg is responsible for advising the company on a wide range of domestic and international employee benefits matters. He is also the President of the United Airlines Multi-Cultural Business Resource Group and one of United Legal's Pro Bono and Community Service Program leaders. He has been selected for the Stakeholder 100 Award, the Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Stars list, the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellows Program, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Best Under 40 Award, and the Association of Corporate Counsel Top 10 30-Something Award. Even though Coach K failed to offer him a basketball scholarship, Greg took his talents to Duke University, and after going undrafted by the NBA, he attended Harvard Law School.



**James J.  
OH**

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.  
Member of the Firm  
Employment Litigation; Employment  
& Labor

J.D., Northwestern University School  
of Law, 1987, B.A., Northwestern  
University, 1984

James J. Oh is a shareholder in the Chicago office of Epstein Becker & Green and member of the Firm's Employment, Labor & Workforce Management practice. He litigates wage and hour collective and class actions, defends company ERISA plans from inconsistent state law regulation and defends management in high-profile, high-exposure discrimination and wrongful termination actions. He also counsels companies on employment law compliance, including advising and training employers and industry stakeholders on compliance with recreational and marijuana laws.



**Janda  
CARTER**

Caterpillar Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., University of Dayton School of  
Law, B.S., Purdue University

Janda Carter is an Assistant General Counsel at Caterpillar Inc. In this position she is the manager of a team responsible for patent obtaining, portfolio management and risk (conflicts and agreements) matters for Large Power Systems, Product Support, Surface and Underground Mining, Earthmoving, Excavation, Building Construction and Global Power Systems (US) Divisions.



**Jason  
KIM**

Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP  
Partner  
Labor & Employment

1999, University of Illinois College  
of Law, 1999 (cum laude), B.A.,  
Northwestern University, 1992

Jason Kim represents employers nationally in labor relations and employment litigation. For clients in multiple industries, Jason develops corporate labor strategy, litigates NLRB unfair labor practice proceedings, and serves as spokesperson in collective bargaining negotiations. As a founding member and former chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and as a member of the Associate Review Committee, Jason drives programs for the advancement of minority lawyers. He recruits and mentors diverse attorneys, and guides them as they progress to partner status. Jason is an advisory board member of the Korean American Bar Association of Chicago; the former President of the Board of Korean American Community Services; and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In November 2018, Crain's Chicago Business named him to Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers.



**Jason J.  
DEJONKER**

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP  
Partner  
Bankruptcy, Real Estate, Finance, M&A

J.D., University of Illinois College of  
Law, 2000 (cum laude), B.A., University  
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1997  
(Campus Honors Program)

Jason is a member of the firms' Partner Advisory Board and Global Diversity Advisory Board. Jason represents private equity and hedge fund investors, financial institutions, master and special servicers, Fortune 500 corporations, and trustees and receivers throughout the United States in federal, state, bankruptcy, and creditor's rights matters. Jason has over fifteen years of experience in lender and borrower-side loan workouts and in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases, with specific emphasis on troubled borrower restructuring and forbearance, commercial foreclosure and creditor's rights, complex collection and judgment collection matters, DIP and exit finance, and the Chapter 11 debtor representation and the plan confirmation process.



**Jean Marie  
PECHETTE**

Polsinelli, P.C.  
Shareholder  
Tech Transactions & Data Privacy

J.D., Indiana University Maurer School  
of Law, B.A., summa cum laude, Indiana  
University - Indianapolis

Jean Marie has over 20 years of experience in information technology, privacy and intellectual property law, with an emphasis on health care and life sciences. She served as a division General Counsel for GE Healthcare where she earned her Six Sigma Green Belt and received multiple management awards for her leadership. She has authored numerous published articles and presented on a variety of industry issues, including cloud computing and artificial intelligence. Jean Marie is a Past President of the Asian American Bar Association of Chicago, and the founding Chair and currently a Vice-Chair of the Healthcare Technology Committee of the American Bar Association Science & Technology Section. She serves on the Indiana University Maurer School of Law Board of Visitors and was inducted into the invitation-only International Women's Forum.



**Jeanah  
PARK**

Vedder Price P.C.  
Shareholder  
Litigation

J.D., University of Illinois College of  
Law, B.A., Northwestern University

Jeanah Park is a Shareholder at Vedder Price and a member of the firm's Litigation practice area and Antitrust and Competition, and Financial Services sub-practice groups.

She counsels and represents clients in business and employment disputes, including commercial contract, wrongful discharge, securities, intellectual property and business tort disputes.

Ms. Park is Chair of the Firm's Diversity Committee. In 2015, Ms. Park assisted in creating the firm's women's affinity group, "Women at Vedder Empowering Success" (WAVES) and served as the Chicago office Chair. She also serves on the Firm's Associate Hiring Committee and the Associate Evaluation Committee. In 2018, Ms. Park was named to the Crain's Custom Media "Chicago Notable Women Lawyers" list.



**Jeanne M.  
GILLS**

Foley & Lardner LLP  
Partner  
IP Litigation

Michigan State University and  
University of Chicago Law School

Jeanne M. Gills is a Partner and Vice Chair of Foley's national Intellectual Property Department and also sits on her firm's Management Committee. She has previously served as the former Vice-Chair of Foley's IP Litigation Practice. Over her career, she has tried and been lead counsel in numerous complex patent, trade secret, trademark, copyright, and unfair competition litigation and appeals—including PTAB post-grant proceedings—in diverse industries (from electronics to biotechnology). Her trial experience includes "bet the company" cases with over \$500 MM at stake. Her litigation experience has dovetailed into counseling clients on global IP strategy, including leading the IP team on significant M&A transactions for Fortune 200 companies ranging from multimillion to multi-billion dollar deals."



**Jerry O.  
ALLEN**

Bricker & Eckler LLP  
Partner  
Taxation

LL.M. New York University  
J.D., Capital University  
B.A., Capital University

Jerry began his legal career as an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service's National Office. In 1987, he joined the law firm of Bricker & Eckler, where he routinely counsels clients on transactional matters, particularly as they relate to federal taxation. Over the years, Jerry has worked with countless hospital systems, colleges, universities, churches and other exempt organizations to accomplish mergers, reorganizations, the formation of new ventures and the like.

Over the course of his career, Jerry has been listed in Best Lawyers in America from 2005 through 2019 and was named the 2014 "Columbus Lawyer of the Year in Tax Litigation" from Best Lawyers. He also received the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Capital University, the Multicultural Leadership Award from the Ohio Diversity Council, the Community Service Award from The Columbus Bar Association, and the 2013 David B. White Award from Capital University.



**Jessica  
KIMBROUGH**

United Airlines, Inc.  
Managing Director - Labor Relations &  
Legal Strategy  
Labor Relations

J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law,  
Illinois Institute of Technology, B.A.,  
Purdue University

Jessica Kimbrough is the Managing Director - Labor Relations & Legal Strategy at United Airlines. She joined the company 8 years ago. Earlier in her career she worked as an Associate General Counsel at the Office of the Governor, State of Illinois. Before this she served as an Attorney for The City of Chicago.



**Jorge M.  
LEON**

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP  
Partner  
Employee Benefits & Executive  
Compensation

J.D., University of Illinois College  
of Law, 1998 (magna cum laude),  
B.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign, 1995

Jorge is a proven lawyer, leader and influencer. Jorge enjoys the confidence of C-suite leaders of major companies in various sectors and industries. Recently, he handled multi-billion dollar transactions and advised retirement plans holding approximately \$13B. Jorge helps secure the retirements of over 100,000 individuals. Jorge co-chairs the Employee Benefits group and chairs the firm's D&I Committee where his leadership helps hundreds of workers throughout the U.S. feel welcome and included. His diversity efforts help the most vulnerable individuals in underserved communities. Publishers like Reuters, Law360 and others seek his insights. Other achievements include: Gads Hill Center board member, Economic Club member, Chambers USA ranking, Law360 rainmaker, Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, 2018 LCLD Fellow, and top influential Latino lawyer recognition by Crain's, Latino Leaders Magazine and Negocios Now.



**Joseph  
HANNA**

Goldberg Segalla LLP  
Partner

J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, M.S.A., Canisius College, M.P.A., Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, B.A., State University of New York at Buffalo

Joseph Hanna is a commercial litigator and legal adviser nationally recognized for his work in media and entertainment law, as well as for being a leading voice for diversity in the legal and business communities. Joe is the founder and chair of Goldberg Segalla's Sports and Entertainment Practice Group, chair of its Retail and Hospitality Practice Group, editor of the Sports and Entertainment Law Insider blog, and chair of the firm's Diversity Task Force. Joe is widely recognized for his extensive work as an innovator, mentor, author, editor, and speaker on diversity and inclusion in the legal world. He has held diversity-related leadership positions at national organizations like DRI as well as the ABA, where he served for several years as chair of the Minority Trial Lawyer Committee and editor-in-chief of Minority Trial Lawyer. He has received accolades that include the Minority Corporate Counsel Association George B. Vashon Innovator Award, the New York State Bar Association Diversity Trailblazer Award, and the University at Buffalo George W. Thorn Award. In 2014 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) selected Joe for their Fellows program; he now chairs the New York chapter for the LCLD Success in Law School Mentoring Program. He is also a mentor with New York Legal Education Opportunity (NY LEO), an organization designed to ensure a diverse legal community by promoting academic success in law school for individuals historically underrepresented in the legal profession, and administered through the New York State Judicial Institute. In addition to his legal practice, Joe is the founder and president of Bunkers in Baghdad, a charity that collects and ships new and used golf balls, clubs, and other equipment to active duty troops in over 65 countries and to veterans recuperating at home.



**Juliet  
HUANG**

Chapman and Cutler LLP  
Partner  
Public and Institutional Banking & Finance

University of Chicago Law School, J.D., 2005; Northwestern University, B.A., 1998

Juliet Huang is a partner in the Public and Institutional Banking & Finance Group and National Public and Health & Education Finance Department of Chapman and Cutler LLP. Juliet represents financial institutions in a broad range of public finance transactions, including direct lending, credit-enhancement, mini-leasing, public offerings, portfolio sale transactions, syndications, secondary market tax-exempt securitizations and municipal distress workouts. Juliet has considerable experience with sustainable energy and energy efficiency projects using lease-purchase structures with state and local governments (and qualified 501(c)(3) entities) and also has experience serving as bond counsel and underwriter's counsel. Juliet is a frequent speaker on public finance topics and serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Governmental Leasing and Finance. Juliet also serves as Chapman's Diversity Co-Partner, managing firmwide diversity and inclusion initiatives.



**Karim A.  
ALI**

Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP  
Partner  
Business Transactions

J.D., The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law, M.B.A., The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, B.A., Talladega College

Karim is an experienced corporate transactional attorney with extensive experience drafting and negotiating real estate purchase agreements, commercial leases, supply agreements, consulting agreements. In addition, Karim counsels clients in connection with a range of business transactions including the purchase and sale of real estate, private placements, mergers and acquisitions, emerging and privately held companies, manufacturing facilities and electronic financial service providers.

Karim previously served as a real estate attorney at L Brands, Inc., where he negotiated a variety of real estate agreements for Victoria's Secret, Bath & Body Works, Express and The Limited, including various high profile shopping center and mixed-use developments throughout the United States. Before pursuing a legal career, Karim was a community development officer helping low-to-moderate-income communities obtain banking services, suitable lending products and critical lending-based education.



**Kendric  
COBB**

Morton Salt, Inc.  
Managing Counsel - Compliance, Labor & Employment  
Employment

J.D., University of Illinois College of Law, B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kendric Cobb serves as Senior Counsel responsible for Compliance, Labor and Employment at Morton Salt Inc. in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to Morton Salt, he served at Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois where he active in the company's award winning Pro Bono Program and represented pro bono clients in a variety of civil litigation matters ranging from criminal records to family law.

Kendric served in the Litigation, Labor and Employment Section of Caterpillar's Legal Services Division, managing a wide range of employment, product, commercial, insurance coverage, and mass tort litigation while providing advice and counsel on all areas of employment law in the U.S. and Canada.

Prior to his career at Caterpillar, Kendrick was an Associate at three law firms in Chicago: Winston & Strawn, LLP, Butler Rubin, LLP, and Reed Smith, LLP.



**Kenneth P.  
WILLIAMS**

Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd.  
Shareholder  
Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith, Insurance Coverage, Premises Liability, Negligence, and Personal Injury Litigation.

J.D., Wayne State University, 1998, B.A., University of Michigan, 1992

Mr. Williams focuses his practice on representing insurers and providing coverage advice for both commercial and personal lines carriers. His additional areas of expertise focus on insurance coverage and claim analysis for insurance carriers and private clients. Mr. Williams is recognized as a Michigan Leading Lawyer and as a Lawyer of Distinction for 2019. Mr. Williams' professional affiliations include the American Bar Association (ABA), Defense Research Institute (DRI) and the Christian Legal Aid of Southeast Michigan (CLASM). Mr. Williams is also a participant, speaker and writer for Segal McCambridge's Technology & Cyber Risk Practice Group as well as chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Outside of work, Mr. Williams is an avid car and movie buff, and spends his time with weight training and practicing yoga.



**Lacy  
JOHNSON**

Ice Miller LLP  
Partner  
Public Affairs and Gaming

J.D., Indiana University McKinney  
School of Law, B.A. Purdue University

Lacy Johnson's primary areas of practice focus on public affairs services. He is a member of the Indiana Bar Association and Federal Southern District, Indiana Federal Court. Lacy has received numerous awards including the Sagamore of the Wabash, the IU Cornerstone Award and the IU Foundation 2018 Partner in Philanthropy. He is actively involved in numerous boards and community organizations where he demonstrates his support for the Indianapolis community, especially regarding efforts to increase diversity and inclusion for minorities. Before joining Ice Miller, Lacy served as attorney, Government Relations Services, Sagamore-Bainbridge, Inc.; director of security for the Indiana State Lottery; liaison with the Indiana General Assembly and Lt. Colonel and deputy superintendent for Support Services for the Indiana State Police. Lacy is a former Lt. Commander of the United States Naval Intelligence Reserves.



**LaToya C.  
MERRITT**

Phelps Dunbar LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., North Carolina Central University,  
B.A., Grambling State University

LaToya Merritt, a community leader and experienced litigator, aims to assist her clients make the best decisions whether that includes taking a case to trial or working to resolve a case through alternative resolutions. She has been recognized by a number of media outlets as an active and engaged member of the Jackson community through devoting her time to volunteer with Mississippi organizations. For nearly 20 years, LaToya has practiced exclusively in the area of labor and employment with a focus on Civil Rights and Title VII, as well as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. She currently serves as the deputy practice coordinator of Phelps Dunbar's Jackson labor and employment group.



**Leander A.  
DOLPHIN**

Shipman & Goodwin LLP  
Partner  
School Law

J.D., Howard University School of Law,  
B.A., Wesleyan University

Leander is a partner in the firm's School Law practice group and represents public school districts, independent schools, and colleges and universities in education and employment matters, including student discipline, sexual harassment (Title IX) matters, disability-related matters, employee discipline and discharge, special education disputes, and investigations. In addition, she represents clients in claims before state and federal courts and administrative agencies.

Leander previously served as Vice President, HR & General Counsel at Girl Scouts of Connecticut, developing an HR infrastructure and assisting the organization in navigating various corporate, real estate, contractual, and employment issues to successful results. Leander has conducted numerous professional development workshops for private and public sector clients on topics such as sexual harassment, bullying, special education, disability discrimination, and confidentiality issues.



**Leslie D.  
DAVIS**

Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Iowa College of Law,  
M.A., University of Iowa School of  
Journalism and Mass Communication,  
B.A., University of Iowa

Leslie's contagious energy and valuable insight mixed with her natural talent has been her formula for success. Leslie has successfully defended numerous corporations in multi-million-dollar exposure cases, including catastrophic injury and wrongful death product liability cases, negligence and premises liability cases, insurance and consumer putative class actions with thousands of potential class members, and business and employment disputes. Leslie routinely leverages her broad experience and honed trial skills with early offensive strategies to achieve unmatched results for clients.

Honored by a number of professional and community organizations, Leslie is recognized as a connector, a mentor, and a trailblazer among her peers, colleagues, and friends. She has served on several educational, health, and other non-profit boards to support the needs of both the legal field and the broader community.



**Leslie D.  
MINIER**

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP  
Partner and Chief Diversity Partner  
Corporate; Mergers and Acquisitions

J.D., Northwestern University, 1994, B.S.,  
Tuskegee University, 1987

As Katten's first and only Chief Diversity Partner, Leslie D. Minier works to bring about meaningful change while she maintains a thriving practice handling mergers and acquisitions.

In her dual role, she has been the force behind many diversity-focused initiatives that have fostered a culture of inclusion at Katten and helped boost the recruitment, employment, promotion and retention of talented minority attorneys. Leslie is a leader and advocate, helping craft workplace policies and supporting diverse attorneys to overcome any potential obstacles for career advancement.

As a valued partner in Katten's Corporate practice, Leslie represents clients in various industries in connection with mergers and acquisitions and venture financing.

Leslie was named among the Most Influential Black Lawyers by Savoy magazine and Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers by Crain's Chicago Business in 2018.



**Lewis W.  
ADKINS, Jr.**

Roetzel & Andress, LPA  
Shareholder, Practice Group Manager  
Public Law

J.D., The University of Akron School of  
Law, B.S., The City College of The City  
University of New York

Mr. Adkins focuses his practice on public law. He serves as lead counsel to numerous large, public and private entities throughout Ohio and Washington, D.C. He has also acted as lead counsel for several multi-million dollar development projects. His clients include public and private entities, as well as diversified energy companies, governmental entities, housing authorities, and nonprofit organizations. Additionally, Mr. Adkins previously served as General Counsel to Summit County, Ohio.



**Loan T.  
HUYNH**

Fredrikson & Byron P.A.  
Shareholder  
Immigration Law

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
B.A., University of Houston (cum laude)

Loan Huynh is a Shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron and has practiced immigration law for over 20 years. She focuses on employment-based immigration, corporate immigration compliance and global mobility solutions for employers, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to mid-size companies, entrepreneurs/investors, and family-owned farms by developing practical immigration policy and strategies to meet their global mobility and immigration goals.

Loan is also a frequent speaker at national conferences and has written extensively on immigration issues. She is a member of the Board of Advocates for Human Rights, the Board of Trustee of the American Immigration Council and a member of the national American Immigration Lawyer's Associations DOL Liaison Committee. She is also the Co-Chair of Fredrikson & Byron's Inclusion & Diversity Committee.



**Malini  
MOORTHY**

Medtronic plc  
Vice President and Chief Deputy  
General Counsel  
Litigation, investigations, employment  
law and regulatory law

J.D., Queen's University in Ontario, B.A.  
, University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill, (with honors)

Malini leads litigation, investigations, employment and regulatory law as well as Legal operations developing and implementing strategies across the enterprise and brings over 25 years of experience to the role.

Malini was the Head of Global Litigation and Vice President & Associate General Counsel of Bayer and lead the Litigation Group at Pfizer Inc., where she and her team were awarded In-house Counsel Litigation Team of the Year by Benchmark Litigation. Recognized for her handling some of the most complex litigation in the life sciences industry, Malini was named Visionary Leader in litigation by Inside Counsel. She has been recognized by the National Center for Law and Economic Justice for her extraordinary service to the legal and nonprofit community, the South Asian Bar Association for her achievements as corporate counsel and Lawyers for Civil Justice for her contributions to civil justice reform.



**Marisa  
MURILLO**

Locke Lord LLP  
Partner  
Debt Finance

J.D., University of Southern California  
Gould School of Law, 2002, B.A., Yale  
University, 1998

Marisa's practice focuses on representing lenders and borrowers in a variety of secured and unsecured financings and other general corporate, equity and M&A matters. Previously, Marisa was a Partner at Schiff Hardin and an in-house corporate transactions lawyer at General Motors Company. She is also a former Regional President of the Hispanic National Bar Association. An enthusiastic and active member of the Chicago community, Marisa holds many leadership positions, including on the Board of Directors of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, the Advisory Board of the Museum of Contemporary Photography and the Sustaining Fellows Program Committee of the Art Institute of Chicago.



**Marty  
DUNN**

Partner  
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

For more than thirty years, Marty Dunn has served as an adviser and counselor to a variety of businesses and is a champion of advancing economic development through entrepreneurial alliances involving for-profit, non-profit, and governmental entities. He serves as outside general counsel to closely held companies and has represented large corporations, many of which are Fortune 100's, in acquisitions, leasing, mergers and an array of loan transactions. Marty handles numerous real estate and structured finance projects that have utilized New Markets, Historic, and Low Income Housing Tax credits as private equity vehicles. He also co-leads a task force within the firm focusing on the development of Opportunity Zones.

Marty is a servant leader within the firm as chair of the Diversity Committee, a member of the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors.



**Maya  
EWING**

Allstate Insurance Company  
Senior Corporate Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Loyola University Chicago  
School of Law, B.A., Southern Illinois  
University, Carbondale

Maya Ewing is the senior corporate counsel at Allstate. She is an accomplished in-house counsel and legal business partner with both in-house and law firm litigation experience. She has led a team of attorneys providing counseling on legal risk management, legal and regulatory compliance, and litigation strategy and management. She is an experienced strategic advisor to C-Suite, mid-level, and senior executives for Fortune 100 Companies.



**Melanie FA.  
VITALIS**

Eli Lilly and Company  
General Counsel, Connected Care and  
Insulins, Digital Health and Devices  
Health Care

J.D., Wayne State University Law  
School, B.S., Indiana University  
Bloomington

Melanie Vitalis serves as a General Counsel, Connected Care and Insulins, Digital Health and Devices at Eli Lilly and Company. Melanie is a strategic business partner, providing solutions-oriented legal advice. Delivering prudent and forward-thinking counsel, helping the business meet and exceed business goals, while mitigating legal and compliance risks. Melanie cultivates an inclusive environment and the diverse perspectives of others to create the overall best output and business results.



**Melissa Bema  
PRYOR**

Miller Shakman Levine & Feldman LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Yale Law School, B.A., Michigan  
State University

Ms. Pryor practices in federal and state court. She has represented clients in a variety of areas including: breach of contract and breach of warranty matters, employment disputes involving the enforcement of restrictive covenants, fraud claims, and breach of fiduciary duty matters. Ms. Pryor also has broad experience representing clients in domestic relations matters, concentrating on complex, high net worth divorces. Additionally, Ms. Pryor represents attorneys and law firms in legal malpractice cases.



**Melvin J.  
MALONE**

Butler Snow LLP  
Practice Group Leader, Regulatory and  
Government Group  
Administrative Law

J.D., University of Tennessee, B.S.,  
University of Tennessee

As Practice Group Leader of the firm's Regulatory and Government Group, Mr. Malone focuses on telecommunications, public utilities, governmental relations, commercial litigation and administrative law.

Melvin was one of the first practitioners before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission to obtain approval of capital recovery riders under Tennessee's newly passed legislative initiative authorizing alternative regulatory mechanisms for public utilities. Recently, Melvin successfully litigated on behalf of a coalition of over 200 retail fuel providers in an alternative fuel anti-competition case.



**Michael P.  
CHU**

McDermott Will & Emery  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., College of William and Mary  
School of Law, B.S., University of Illinois

Michael Chu is the local Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Group leader in McDermott's Chicago office and focuses his practice on all aspects of patent law, including complex litigation, opinions and prosecution. Mike is also currently co-chair of the Firm's Racial & Ethnic Diversity Committee.

Michael maintains a strong domestic and international licensing and enforcement practice, and has extensive experience with issues relating to overseas outsourcing, particularly with respect to consumer products, electronics, software and medical devices. Leveraging his litigation and enforcement experience in combination with his two decades of experience drafting and prosecuting patent applications, Michael advises his clients on strategic growth and management of worldwide intellectual property portfolios, including audits, competitive analyses, and prosecution to maximize the value of his client's IP assets.



**Michelle P.  
CROCKETT**

Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone,  
P.L.C.  
Hiring Chair, Diversity and Professional  
Development Principal  
Employment and Labor

J.D., Wayne State University Law  
School, B.A., North Carolina State  
University

Michelle Crockett leads the firm's hiring of all attorneys, recruitment, diversity & inclusion initiatives, mentoring programs, professional development and continuing education initiatives.

She also specializes in defending Fortune 500 companies and public-sector clients against a variety of employment-related claims. She is a skilled litigator, but she also believes in pursuing preventive measures to avoid lawsuits. In her role as a traditional labor attorney, Michelle provides similar counsel to public-sector clients, handling grievances and arbitrations as necessary.

In addition, Michelle provides litigation and traditional labor advice and support to school districts throughout Michigan, which includes but is not limited to assistance with special education issues, due process hearings, student discipline and collective bargaining.

She also served as general counsel for the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan from August 2013 to November 2014.



**Michelle  
SPELLER-THURMAN**

Abbott Laboratories  
Division Counsel, Licensing &  
Acquisitions  
Acquisitions

J.D., Northwestern University Pritzker  
School of Law, B.S., University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

Michelle Speller-Thurman is Division Counsel with the Licensing & Acquisitions group of Abbott Laboratories and focuses her practice on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and private equity investments.

As a former partner at Winston & Strawn LLP and Jenner & Block LLP, Ms. Speller-Thurman advised public and private corporate borrowers, financial institutions, and private equity investors in a variety of corporate lending transactions, including acquisitions and leveraged financings.

Ms. Speller-Thurman was selected by DiversityMBA as a 2018 Top 100 under 50 Executive Leader. She has been featured as a 2009 and 2008 Illinois Rising Star for corporate law. She was also listed in "Who's Who in Black Chicago" in 2006.



**Monica  
MOSBY**

McDonald's Corporation  
Senior Counsel, Commercial Litigation  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., DePaul University College of Law,  
B.S., DePaul University

Monica Mosby is the Senior Counsel, Commercial Litigation at McDonald's Corporation. She is a Litigation and Dispute Resolution Attorney with over a decade of experience handling all aspects of complex civil and class action litigation in state and federal courts, in addition to conducting and facilitating internal investigations of major corporations. Before joining the company she spent 10 years at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP.



**Muzette Hill  
STALLINGS**

Ford Motor Credit Company LLC  
Associate General Counsel  
Corporate Law

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
- School of Law, B.S., Northwestern  
University

Muzette Hill Stallings is Associate General Counsel: Consumer Finance Litigation, Strategic Planning and International, Ford Motor Credit Company. In this role, she supports the International team in transactions, to assure that Ford's customers financial needs are met globally, through the FCE Bank, operating in the United Kingdom, joint ventures, private label operations and alternative business arrangements. Prior to joining Ford, Muzette was a partner for several years with the Chicago firm of Lord, Bissell & Brook, having primary responsibility for the Directors and Officers Liability practice and the Employment Practices Liability area, which she developed and managed. Muzette clerked for Chief Judge Donald P. Lay and Judge Donald R. Ross, United States Court of Appeals, for the Eighth Circuit.



**N. Neville  
REID**

Fox, Swibel, Levin & Carroll, LLP  
Partner  
Bankruptcy

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Harvard  
College (cum laude)

Neville Reid is a capital partner and co-chair of the Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Group. He has represented a wide array of clients in all aspects of bankruptcy, restructuring, insolvency and creditors' rights cases and transactions for over 25 years.

Neville's clients include receivers and bankruptcy trustees, distressed businesses seeking to restructure their debt and financial affairs, corporate unsecured creditors, secured lenders, and investors seeking to acquire assets from distressed entities. His experience includes investigating fraudulent transfers by corporate and individual debtors and recovering the proceeds of such transfers for creditors; stabilizing distressed entities and seeking the optimal disposition of those entities' assets for the benefit of creditors and other parties in interest.



**Nate  
LAMPLEY**

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP  
Managing Partner, Cincinnati  
Litigation

J.D., University of Cincinnati College of Law, 1988 (honors), B.A., University of Dayton, 1985 (honors)

Nate Lampley is an accomplished civil trial lawyer having handled complex business and commercial matters in both state and federal courts. He has first chair civil jury trial experience in a wide range of cases including class actions and significant business disputes. He has also handled several commercial arbitrations before the American Arbitration Association. He has been recognized repeatedly as an "Ohio Super Lawyer," an "Ohio Leading Lawyer," and one of the "Best Lawyers in America." Nate has spoken at seminars on the subject of successful partnering between inside and outside counsel for the American Corporate Counsel Association and is a frequent lecturer on trial advocacy skills for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.



**Neema  
BELL**

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick,  
LLP Partner  
Civil Litigation

J.D., University of Toledo College of Law, M.A., Bowling Green State University, B.A., Bowling Green State University

Ms. Bell's principal area of practice is civil litigation with an emphasis in commercial litigation. Ms. Bell has extensive experience in all types of commercial defense litigation and has substantial experience in media and constitutional law, class actions, medical malpractice and employment law.

Ms. Bell has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America. She is a member and officer of the WGTE-TV Board of Trustees, The University of Toledo Foundation Board of Trustees and the YMCA/JCC Regional Board of Trustees.

Ms. Bell received her Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo College of Law where she graduated as Valedictorian and member of the Order of the Coif. She obtained her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts from Bowling Green State University.



**Neuman  
LEVERETT**

Johnson Controls International plc  
Vice President & Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer  
Ethics & Compliance

J.D., Rutgers University School of Law - Newark, B.A., The College of New Jersey

Neuman Leverett serves a Vice President & Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer at Johnson Controls. In this position he leads several global teams and programs with responsibility for anti-corruption and fair competition risks, Third Party Program management, internal investigations, and regional compliance counsels.

Before joining the firm, he was an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where he prosecuted and tried dozens of violent crime, public corruption, and complex fraud cases. Mr. Leverett started his legal career as an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and law clerk to Chief Judge Theodore A. McKee, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and Judge Cynthia M. Rufe, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He is a 2004 graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Newark.



**Nigel F.  
TELMAN**

Proskauer Rose LLP  
Partner  
Employment & Labor

J.D., Boston University School of Law, 1993, B.A., Cornell University, 1986

Nigel F. Telman leads the employment practice in the Chicago office and is co-head of the Employment Litigation & Arbitration Group.

Nigel's practice is concentrated in litigating disputes arising out of claims of workplace harassment, employment discrimination, and violations of wage and hour laws. He also maintains an active investigation practice centered around conduct involving senior level executives. In addition, Nigel has significant experience defending and enforcing Restrictive Covenant Agreements, as well as protecting employers' trade secrets and other confidential information from misappropriation by former employees through the institution of emergency litigation seeking temporary and permanent injunctive relief. Nigel utilizes his experience litigating employment-related disputes to counsel clients on effective ways to avoid such litigation.

Nigel's clients describe him as a "business-savvy" attorney who routinely delivers "stellar results."



**Parag  
SHAH**

Nationwide  
Chief Ethics Officer  
Compliance & Ethics

J.D., University of Illinois, 2000, B.S., The Ohio State University, 1997 (summa cum laude)

Parag Shah is Nationwide's Chief Ethics Officer and has overall responsibility for maintaining Nationwide's high standards of ethics and business practices. This includes leading the Office of Ethics, with oversight of the company's ethics program and internal investigations. Prior to becoming the Chief Ethics Officer, he held various legal, regulatory, transactional (including M&A), and corporate governance roles within Nationwide's legal department with increasing scope and responsibility.

Parag is the current vice Executive Sponsor for the Nationwide legal department's D&I Council, whose mission is to promote Nationwide's D&I commitment internally and through external partnerships. He is also a member of the local and national Asian bar associations and a 2015 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Fellow.



**Paul  
STEPHENS**

Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of Michigan, 1998,  
M.S.E.E., University of Michigan, 1995,  
B.S.E.E., University of Michigan, 1993  
(magna cum laude)

Mr. Stephens obtains and protects his clients' most-valued technology and intellectual property, through procurement, counseling, and IP strategizing. Mr. Stephens' practice covers a range of complex and emerging technologies in software, electrical engineering, medical diagnostics, and AI/machine learning, among many others. Whether working with Fortune 100 companies, universities, or mid-sized companies, with in-house counsel or corporate division heads, each day Mr. Stephens has the privilege of working with some of the smartest people imaginable. A firm believer in a team-based approach at work and in life, Mr. Stephens is a member of a local cycling team, has established a family-named minority scholarship with his mother at their alma mater, and chairs the firm's Pro Bono committee. Mr. Stephens received his B.S.E.E., M.S.E.E., and J.D. degrees from the University of Michigan.



**Peter M.  
ELLIS**

Reed Smith LLP  
Equity Partner and Global Department  
Chair  
Litigation & Dispute Resolution

J.D., The Ohio State University, 1998;  
B.A., University of Michigan, 1994

Reed Smith partner Peter Ellis serves as global chair of the firm's litigation department and member of the firm's executive committee and senior management team. Before assuming his current roles in 2019, Ellis chaired the clients and markets committee of the executive committee, which frames and implements the firm's competitive strategy. He also chaired the U.S. commercial disputes practice group, Reed Smith's largest practice group. He regularly speaks on the value of mentoring and diversity within the legal profession and dedicates significant time to civic and pro bono matters. He has been recognized by Crain's Chicago as one of the Most Influential Minority Lawyers (2017), by Savoy Magazine as one of the Most Influential Black Lawyers (2018), and by Crain's as one of the 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law.



**Raj N.  
SHAH**

DLA Piper LLP  
Partner, Chair, Chicago Litigation  
Group, Co-Head India Practice  
Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan, 1997,  
B.B.A., University of Michigan, 1995  
(high distinction)

Raj serves as lead counsel for global companies litigating complex commercial disputes and provides counseling on strategic and multi-disciplinary matters. His focus is class action defense. Raj serves as National Co-Hiring Partner and a member of the Firm's Policy and Partner-Slating Committees. He has served as National Co-Chair of the Firm's Class Action practice and on the office's Diversity and Inclusion and Pro Bono Committees. Raj was a fellow in Leadership Greater Chicago and formerly served on the board of the Chicago Appleseed Foundation for Justice and the advisory board for the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession. His recognitions include: Crain's 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law, National Law Journal's Top 40 Under 40 Rising Stars, and the Illinois State Bar Association's Young Lawyer of the Year.



**Reginald  
JOHNSON**

Signet Jewelers  
Senior Vice President NA Field Human  
Resources & Chief Diversity Officer  
Litigation and Employment

J.D., Loyola University, 1998, B.S.M.E.,  
Missouri University of Science &  
Technology, 1995

Reginald (Reggie) Johnson began his legal career in 1998 in New Orleans, LA practicing in the area of litigation and labor & employment. During his time in private practice, Reggie worked with prestigious law firms in New Orleans and St. Louis, MO. Reggie has over 20 years of legal and employment experience (8 years as in-house counsel), including significant class and collective action litigation. Reggie has also managed high stakes litigation, which has gained national attention. In late 2018, Reggie transitioned from the legal department to the HR department at Signet Jewelers where he has responsibility for Diversity & Inclusion, Field Human Resources, Employee Relations, HR Compliance and Training & Development. He has served as in-house for the following companies, Tyson Foods, Family Dollar and Dollar Tree.



**Reginald J  
HILL**

Jenner & Block LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., John Marshall Law School, 1994  
(cum laude), M.S.E.E., Georgia Tech,  
1985, B.S.E.E., Tuskegee Institute, 1984  
(highest honors)

Reginald Hill has been a patent trial lawyer for 24 years. Co-chair of Jenner & Block's patent litigation and counseling practice, Hill has experience in exploitation, development and protection of intellectual property in myriad technologies, including digital communications, internet and emerging technologies. Hill spent 10 years as an engineer in research and product development at AT&T Bell Laboratories and Motorola, distinguishing himself in the design of computer hardware and audio and video technology. Since 2008, Hill has been recognized annually as an Illinois Super Lawyer in intellectual property.

Hill's community work centers around opportunities for youth and includes serving since 2008 as a member of the board for Chicago Scholars. He has served as pro bono counsel for indigent individuals accused of crimes ranging from battery to murder.



**Richard L.  
MOORE**

Frost Brown Todd LLC  
Member  
Labor and Employment

J.D. University of Cincinnati, 1993, B.S.  
Bowling Green State University, 1987

Rich defends employers against allegations of various forms of protected class discrimination, and violations of the FMLA, ADA, and other statutory and common law claims. Rich also prosecutes and defends claims involving enforcement of non-compete agreements and misappropriation of trade secrets. Rich has first chair trial experience in both state and federal court and in arbitration. He has also conducted numerous training sessions for employers on various employment law topics.

He has also served as chair on several non-profit boards, including: The Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program, The Mercantile Library Association, The Cancer Support Community of Greater Cincinnati, and The Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

Rich has been recognized as one of the Cincinnati Business Courier's Forty Under 40 and as an Ohio Super Lawyer for Employment Litigation since 2018.



**Richik  
SARKAR**

McGlinchey Stafford PLLC  
Member and Chief Privacy Officer  
Complex Commercial and Consumer  
Litigation, Cybersecurity and  
Cybersecurity Litigation

J.D., Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, 1998, M.S.W. (Social  
Policy and Planning), University of  
Michigan, 1994, B.A., University of  
Michigan, 1993 (Honors)

Richik Sarkar is a staunch advocate, advisor, and fixer for his clients and affiliated organizations, including the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), and the Cleveland Leadership Center. Richik spearheads commercial, consumer, and cyber security litigation and special projects for his small, middle market, and Fortune 500 companies and is consistently recognized in publications such as The Best Lawyers in America® and Ohio Super Lawyers for his expertise.

Differentiating Richik from other attorneys is his willingness to challenge assumptions and employ creative, strategic thinking to resolve immediate and underlying business and governance issues and disputes. Richik succeeds because he recognizes that his clients are not in the business of litigation or legal analysis; rather, they want commercial judgment strategically deployed to make their organizations successful.



**Romeo S.  
QUINTO, Jr.**

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Partner  
Financial Services

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School  
of Law, B.S., DePaul University

A litigator at the trial and appellate levels, Romeo S. Quinto, Jr., represents businesses in commercial disputes and antitrust matters. His representations focus on issues that are significant to banks and other financial institutions, manufacturers, and consumer services companies. Romeo handles cases primarily in federal court, matters involving regulators of financial institutions, and business counseling related to the implementation of and compliance with federal consent judgments. He is also a member of the Pro Bono Committee for the firm's Chicago office and previously served as the office's hiring partner.



**Ronald S.  
OKADA**

Baker & Hostetler LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., Carleton College, (cum laude)

Ron Okada is the Partner-in-Charge of the firm's Chicago office and is the firm's Professional Development Partner. He is responsible for directing and coordinating the firm's efforts in diversity, recruiting, associate training and retention, admission and integration of lateral partners, and pro bono activities. Ron is also the firm-wide Hiring Partner and Chair of the Diversity Committee. Ron previously was a member of the Policy Committee, the firm's governing body, and served as the Coordinator of the Cleveland Litigation Group for 10 years, from 2000 through 2009.



**Sailesh (Sal)  
PATEL**

Schiff Hardin LLP  
Executive Comm. Member, Co-Chair of  
IP Group, Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D. Boston College Law School, 1999,  
B.S. Northwestern University, 1996  
(Honors)

Sal Patel is on Schiff Hardin's Executive Committee and leads the firm's Intellectual Property and Pharmaceuticals/Biologics groups, as well as its diversity initiatives. Sal focuses on intellectual property litigation with an emphasis in patent litigation in the pharmaceutical, chemical and electrical arts. Sal is listed in SuperLawyers, Best Lawyers, Leading Lawyers, AV Preeminent, LMG Lifesciences Star, Managing IP Star and was recognized as a "Top 40 under 40" by the National Law Journal in 2012.



**Samuel  
MENDENHALL**

Winston & Strawn LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., University of Illinois, 1991; M.Div.,  
University of Chicago, 2011; B.A.,  
University of Illinois, 1988

Samuel Mendenhall is a nationally-ranked litigation partner in Winston's Chicago office, who concentrates his practice in complex commercial litigation. Over his 27-year career at Winston, he has represented numerous Fortune 500 companies, as well as governmental entities, including ExxonMobil, Dell, Nissan, and the Chicago Housing Authority. He also recently represented the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team in their fight for equal pay. Mr. Mendenhall has tried a number of cases in both state and federal court, and is a member of the Northern District of Illinois' trial bar.

Prior to joining Winston, Mr. Mendenhall served in the U.S. Army, where he graduated first in his training class. He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his leadership abilities, and the Good Conduct Medal for his exemplary conduct and discipline.



**Sanford E.  
WATSON**

Tucker Ellis LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Morehouse College

Sanford Watson is a trial lawyer practicing in the areas of business litigation, products liability litigation, and public law.

As first chair, Sanford tried more than a dozen jury trials to verdict and hundreds of bench trials. In addition to his trial practice, Sanford devotes a significant portion of his time to shaping equity and inclusion policy at Tucker Ellis and throughout the Northeast Ohio community. He has served as chair of the firm's Equity & Inclusion Committee for eight years, and he led the Committee in shaping its mission and objectives for the promotion of diversity and inclusion. Under his leadership, Tucker Ellis has received awards and recognition for its diversity and inclusion best practices.



**Sang-yul  
LEE**

K&L Gates LLP  
Partner  
Labor & Employment and Litigation

J.D., University of Illinois, 1995, B.A.,  
Northwestern University, 1990

Sang-yul Lee advises on all aspects of labor & employment law and restrictive covenant issues. He represents clients before federal and state courts government agencies including the NLRB, the U.S. Dept. of Labor, and the EEOC. He serves on the boards of the Chicago Bar Foundation and Japan America Society of Chicago and is a member of the Board of Governors for the International Association for Korean Lawyers in the U.S. He is a former Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Committee on Minorities In Large Law Firms and past President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Law Foundation. He also served for over a decade as a Chair of the Hearing Board for Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.



**Shanna  
COHN**

AEP Energy, Inc  
Corporate Counsel  
Transactions

J.D., Yale Law School, B.A., Vanderbilt  
University

Shanna Cohn is a Corporate Counsel at AEP Energy. She has been in this position since 2015. Ms. Cohn is a skilled corporate transactional attorney. Accomplished in closing complex matters and managing ongoing projects. Also, a highly competent advisor, project manager, and compliance counselor, with expertise in facilitating transactions and communications with business teams and non-lawyers. She has excellent organizational and written and oral communication skills. Robust work ethic and outstanding attention to detail.



**Sherrie L.  
FARRELL**

Dykema Gossett PLLC  
Detroit Office Managing Member,  
Dykema Gossett PLLC  
Commercial Litigation and Bankruptcy

J.D., Michigan State University, 1997  
(honors), B.A., Wayne State University

Sherrie L. Farrell is the Office Managing Member for Dykema Gossett's Detroit office. She also is the Chair of the Firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She advises clients on all aspects of business disputes, including a broad range of complex litigation, corporate bankruptcy and public policy matters. She also has significant experience serving as a National Coordinating Discovery Counsel for Fortune 25 companies. Ms. Farrell's recent honors include 2016 Straker Bar Association Trailblazer of the Year. She also has been featured in Law360's Minority Powerbrokers series. In 2015, she was named a Michigan Chronicle 2015 Woman of Excellence. Each year since 2013, she has been recognized as a Super Lawyer for Business Litigation, Top Lawyer by dBusiness Magazine; Top Women Lawyers in Michigan and Best Lawyers® for Commercial Litigation.



**Shilpi  
GUPTA**

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom  
LLP  
Partner  
M&A

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
1994

B.S., Columbia University, 1991”Shilpi Gupta is head of the M&A/ Corporate Group in Skadden’s Chicago office, concentrating on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and other corporate governance and securities matters. Mr. Gupta has represented companies acting as acquirers or sellers, as well as investment banking clients, in mergers, stock and asset acquisitions and divestitures, takeovers (negotiated and contested), venture capital transactions, restructurings, joint ventures and other strategic alliances. He also has represented issuers and investment banking institutions in initial and other public offerings.

Mr. Gupta has been recognized by Chambers USA and also has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America for M&A. He also was named as a 2019 BTI Client Service All-Star by BTI Consulting Group and a 2019 Notable Gen X Leader in Law by Crain’s Chicago Business.



**Sonia (Chen)  
ARNOLD**

Eli Lilly and Company  
General Counsel- Lilly Oncology

J.D., Indiana University School of Law–  
Bloomington, B.A., Vanderbilt University

Raised by a lawyer and a musician, Sonia Chen Arnold was taught early in life to balance art and academia and to always prioritize education. Having moved to Indianapolis during elementary school, Arnold decided to attend the Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington. Arnold would then spend the first eight years of her career in private practice as a litigator.

Arnold follows a drive for diversity and inclusion to the center of her personal success and satisfaction. She has maintained her parents’ example of balancing art and academia and, along the way, discovered that using her time and legal expertise to enhance lives, to advance careers, and to speak up for minorities is the thing she cannot live without.



**Stacia  
JONES**

Abercrombie & Fitch Co.  
Vice President, Associate General  
Counsel and Chief Diversity & Inclusion  
Officer  
Employment, Labor, Health & Safety

B.S., The Ohio State University, 1997  
(Magna Cum Laude); J.D. The Ohio  
State University, 2000 (With Honors)

Stacia serves Abercrombie in two roles. First, she is VP, Associate General Counsel, leading global efforts on employment in more than 20 countries, including labor, health and benefits, union management, discrimination, work authorization, litigation, and policy creation and implementation.

Stacia partners with several departments on health and safety, public accessibility, store construction and design, brand image and decency, general store operations, and loss prevention.

Stacia is also VP, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, leading the overall strategy on diversity and inclusion initiatives that aim to create and maintain a culture of inclusive leaders. “We are bold in our celebration of authenticity and fearless in the pursuit of equality for our customers, associates and shareholders. We believe that when working together, and embracing our unique backgrounds and experiences, we are stronger.”



**Steven V.  
HUNTER**

Quarles & Brady LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Brown University

Steven V. Hunter is a trial lawyer with first-chair experience representing companies in: discovery, motions practice, arbitration, mediation, jury trials, bench trials, and appeals in the US and abroad.

Mr. Hunter has served as lead counsel in more than fifty (50) arbitrations in the United States and abroad. He has represented clients in securities claims before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and other commercial disputes before the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). Managing high-volume ESI productions, computer forensic analysis, and complex data preservation issues is an area where Mr. Hunter has had significant experience.

In addition, he is regularly invited to speak on issues related to electronic discovery, trial practice, legal ethics, pro bono, and diversity in the legal profession.



**Sulema  
MEDRANO NOVAK**

SmithAmundsen LLC  
Partner  
Business Litigation and Insurance  
Coverage

Michigan State University; Chicago  
Kent College of Law

As a litigator, Sulema Medrano goes the extra mile for her clients and makes the same commitment in promoting diversity in the legal profession and helping her community. Sulema serves as the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Region IX President and Latina Commission Co-Chair. Sulema received the 2018 Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois Latina Lawyer of the Year award and was named one of the top attorneys under 49 in the Nation by the Hispanic National Bar Association in 2016. She led initiatives supporting her firm’s mission to recruit and mentor minority attorneys and empower members of the firm to become active and engaged in their communities while serving as co-chair of SmithAmundsen’s Diversity Committee. Sulema volunteers with the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network and La Casa Norte, having learned first-hand the importance of community involvement as a former Cook County State’s Attorney in the domestic violence and criminal appeals division.



**Tarun J.  
CHANDRAN**

FisherBroyles, LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Real Estate

J.D. University of Michigan, 2003, B.A.,  
University of Michigan, 2000 (honors)

I represent a variety of clients in complex commercial transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, real estate-secured financing and commercial leasing transactions (including sale leaseback transactions). In addition to general commercial real estate transactions, I advise nonprofit foundations in connection with affordable housing-oriented real estate transactions, including acquisitions financed with tax-exempt bonds issuances.



**Teresa Metcalf  
BEASLEY**

Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., Cleveland State University –  
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law,  
B.A., University of Alabama

Teresa Metcalf Beasley is a Partner with Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP's Cleveland office, and she serves as Chair of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Her practice focuses on real estate development, public finance, historic and new markets tax credits, economic development incentives, tax increment financing, government relations, and public law.

She has represented private entities and local and county governmental agencies, including municipalities, port authorities, and healthcare entities on business, financing, real estate matters, construction, and government relations.

Teresa is currently serving her second four-year term as the Law Director for the City of Warrensville Heights. She has been named a Cleveland YWCA Woman of Achievement (2017) and serves on the Board of The Cleveland Foundation as well as other professional boards in Northeast Ohio.

**Thao  
PHAM**

UnitedHealth Group, OptumRx  
Deputy General Counsel

Thao Pham is a Deputy General Counsel at OptumRx. She joined the company in 2018. Before this, she spent 16 years as a Senior Legal Counsel at CVS Caremark Corporation.



**Thomas M.  
CRAWFORD**

Litchfield Cavo LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

LL.M., Georgetown University Law  
Center, 1993, J.D., Western Michigan  
Cooley Law School, 1992 (cum laude),  
B.S., University of Iowa (1989)

Thomas Crawford is a trial attorney whose practice includes representing and defending companies in a broad range of high-profile and high-exposure civil and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts across the country. Before joining Litchfield Cavo in 1999, Mr. Crawford was in-house counsel, where he provided strategic legal oversight on claims with an exposure of greater than \$5 million. Mr. Crawford is involved in the Korean American Bar Association, is a founding member of Litchfield Cavo's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and a member of the Defense Research Institute. Mr. Crawford also volunteers as an attorney Willow Creek Community Church's Legal Ministry, acts as a reconciliation neutral for the Church and regularly provides pro bono services to individuals. Mr. Crawford has received the Leading Lawyer Distinction for multiple years.



**Tiffany P.  
CUNNINGHAM**

Perkins Coie LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Harvard Law School, 2001; SB,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
1998 (Phi Beta Kappa)

Tiffany Cunningham is a patent litigator who counsels leading Fortune 500 technology companies, including Intel and Microsoft. She serves an important leadership role on many of Perkins Coie's client legal teams. Recently, she was involved in a complex, large-scale patent litigation pending in California against a leading technology client. Tiffany is a champion of Perkins Coie's diversity and inclusion efforts and chairs the Chicago Office's Diversity Committee. She also serves as a member of local and national firm management committees: Lateral Partner Committee, Information Governance Advisory Board and the Chicago Committee. She has been recognized on the 2016-2019 Illinois Super Lawyers lists, the 2017-2019 Leading Lawyers lists, and the 2018 Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers list by Crain's Chicago Business.



**Toni Y.  
HICKEY**

Cummins Inc.  
Chief IP Counsel & Deputy General  
Counsel  
Intellectual Property, Data Protection,  
Cybersecurity

J.D., Southern Methodist University,  
1998; B.S., University of Colorado, 1995,  
Institut Savoisien D'etudie Francaise,  
Annecy-France (1992)

At Cummins, Toni Y. Hickey is responsible for the Company's global IP portfolio, data protection and cybersecurity. Prior to joining Cummins, she was Senior Counsel at an AM100 law firm where her practice focused on global IP protection, monetization and enforcement. Prior to private practice, Ms. Hickey held various roles at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, including Deputy Chief of Staff, an IP attaché to the US Embassy in Mexico, attorney-advisor in international IP, and as an Examiner. She was a Silver and Bronze Medal Recipient, an Executive Leadership Honoree, and an American Intellectual Property Law Association Examiner of the Year. She has been recognized by Legal 500, the National Bar Association's "40 Under 40", and Inside Counsel's R3-100. She is a recent graduate of Cummins' Executive Development Leadership program.



**Tony  
DENT**

Harley-Davidson Motor Company  
Assistant General Counsel -  
International Operations  
Corporate Generalist

J.D., University of Miami, 2007, B.A.,  
Princeton University, 2002

Tony Dent, currently based in Singapore, is responsible for leading Harley-Davidson's international legal team and advising Harley-Davidson's sales and manufacturing operations outside of the United States. Tony also serves as a member of the Harley-Davidson International Leadership Team.

Tony joined Harley-Davidson in 2011 as Corporate Counsel for Harley-Davidson's Latin America operations, where he advised Harley-Davidson's sales and manufacturing operations in the Latin America region. Prior to his current role, Tony served as Director, Legal Affairs – Asia Pacific where he advised Harley-Davidson's sales and manufacturing operations in the Asia Pacific region.

Prior to joining Harley-Davidson, Tony practiced law in Miami, FL in both in-house and private practice capacities. Tony is a 2015 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow and a 2019 member of The Legal 500's GC Powerlist, Southeast Asia edition.



**Tonya L.  
COMBS**

Eli Lilly and Company  
Vice President – Deputy General Patent  
Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Indiana University Robert H.  
McKinney School of Law, B.S., Rose-  
Hulman Institute of Technology

Tonya Combs is the Sr. Director – General Patent Counsel for Lilly Bio-Medicines at Eli Lilly and Company. She and her team are responsible for global patent procurement, valuation and freedom to operate assessment, and providing IP advice regarding agreements and third party collaborations for Lilly's Bio-Medicines therapeutic areas. Prior to April 2017, She was general counsel for Lilly's Oncology Business unit, where she was accountable for a variety of pharmaceutical and corporate legal matters. Other practice areas of focus include patent litigation, trade secret loss investigations, pharmaceutical law and regulations, and alternative dispute resolution. She received her J.D. summa cum laude from IU McKinney School of Law, and holds a B. S. in Chemical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.



**Uma  
CHANDRASEKARAN**

Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Partner  
Labor and Employment

J.D., University of Illinois College of  
Law, B.A., Smith College

Ms. Chandrasekaran's practice focuses on representing management in a broad range of employment matters including claims of employment discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, as well as wage and hour disputes and whistleblower matters. She also counsels employers on ways to proactively avoid litigation. She has extensive experience drafting employer policies and handbooks, training employees and managers on anti-harassment policies, advising on independent contractor issues, reviewing employment contracts and non-competition agreements and conducting internal investigations. Ms. Chandrasekaran chairs diversity and inclusion in Seyfarth Shaw's Chicago office. In 2017, she was named one of the Top 15 Business Women in Illinois by the Illinois Diversity Council. She is a 2019 Fellow at the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity.



**Yvette  
McGEE BROWN**

Jones Day  
Partner  
Business & Tort Litigation; Appeals

J.D. The Ohio State University, 1985,  
B.S., Ohio University, 1982

Yvette was Ohio's first Black Female Supreme Court Justice and served for nearly a decade as a Common Pleas Court Judge. Her experience handling complex litigation has been honed from her time before and behind trial and appellate court benches. She divides her time between initial trial court representations and appellate matters. Her practice includes defending clients from spurious employment and fraudulent contract claims, Federal and State regulatory issues, Title VI, VII and Title IX investigations and representing policy holders in insurance coverage matters. Yvette is also the Partner-In-Charge of Diversity, Inclusion and Advancement for Jones Day. She is listed in Best Lawyers in America. She is an Arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association and, she serves on the board of directors for Motorists Insurance Group and Claremont McKenna College.



SHUTTS & BOWEN LLP  
PROUDLY RECOGNIZES

**Sidney C. Calloway, Esq., B.C.S.**

LAWYER OF COLOR NATION'S BEST LIST HONOREE

**Sidney Calloway, Esq., B.C.S. | Partner**

**Civil Trial Law**

SCalloway@shutts.com

200 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 2100

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 | 954.524.5505

WWW.SHUTTS.COM

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We are proud to congratulate **Richik Sarkar** and all the honorees on *Lawyers of Color's* inaugural "Nation's Best" list.

**Your superior client service is long-recognized. Your dedication to advancing diversity in the legal profession inspires us all.**

McGlinchey Stafford is committed to fostering diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in our firm and across the legal profession.

We know that any group is made stronger with a cross-representation of the public it represents. We're proud of our roots in some of America's most diverse cities, and honor the range of perspectives that form the fabric of our firm.





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BEST  
SOUTHERN  
REGION

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## Lisa Tavares

2019 Lawyers of Color Nation's Best Honoree

We are proud to recognize Lisa for her leadership of the Venable Success Network and her dedication to the advancement of diversity within the legal profession.

Congratulations to Lisa and her fellow honorees.



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proudly supports  
**Lawyers of Color**

Congratulations to our colleague  
**Rachel A. Gonzalez**  
on her inclusion on its  
Nation's Best List



**N**ation's Best Honorees had a magnificent time at the Southern Region Reception held in Miami and hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP where Leslie Smith welcomed guests. Remarks were offered by Lawyers of Color's Southern representative, Seanne Murray, as well as Rainer Lorenzo of Viacom International Media Networks, Maria Eugenia Ramirez of Hogan Lovells, and Deidre Richardson of Chico's FAS, Inc. (Photo credit: Matthew Brown).

# FOLEY

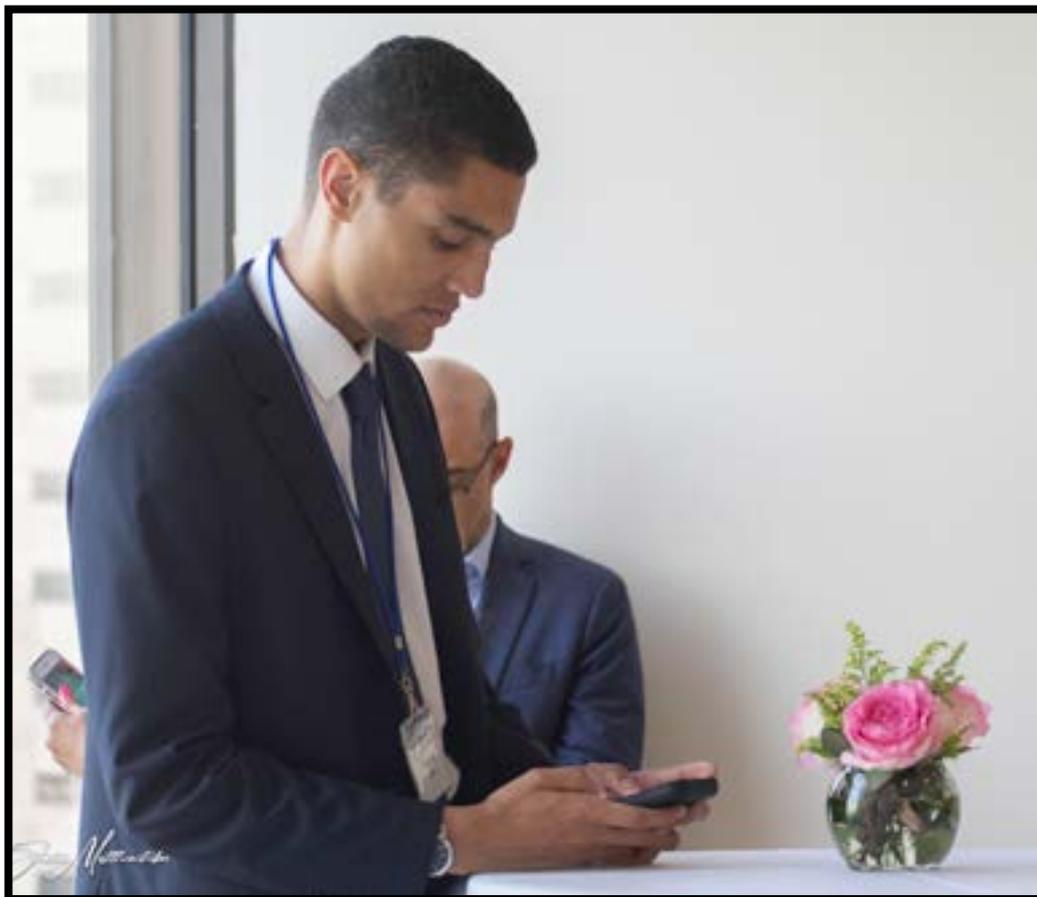
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP















**A. Chantelle  
ROBERSON**

Unum Group  
Assistant Vice President/Sr. Regulatory  
Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law,  
B.A., Sewanee-The University of the  
South

A former trial attorney, Chantelle Roberson brings proven expertise and leadership to her role as assistant vice president and legal counsel at Unum. In her role, she handles regulatory affairs for all 50 states to ensure product compliance and consumer protection, as well as advancing the regulatory and legislative agenda of Unum's expansive financial protection portfolio. She is also the co-leader for the Race & Ethnicity employee resource group and an active participant in Women in Leadership group, using her voice to empower and encourage women and people of color. Roberson is a founding member of Sankofa Fund for Civic Engagement, a philanthropic group that invests directly into arts, culture, education, and entrepreneurship in Chattanooga's communities of color.



**Aba N.  
ROGERS**

The Coca-Cola Company  
Counsel, Corporate Finance and Mergers  
& Acquisitions  
Corporate Finance

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., Columbia University in the City of  
New York

Aba Rogers is counsel, corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions at The Coca-Cola Company. In her current role, Ms. Rogers negotiates strategic acquisitions in the Middle East and Southwest Asia for Coca-Cola. In her prior role as counsel, global growth function, Aba negotiated talent, music and gaming sponsorships, as well as various marketing, consulting and vendor agreements for the Diet Coke and tea brands. Prior to joining Coca-Cola, Aba was senior division counsel for Georgia-Pacific Corporation's consumer products division, supporting the business operations and procurement functions for the Brawny and Sparkle paper towel businesses. Ms. Rogers received her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University in 1997 and her Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School in 2000. She also studied abroad at University College of London's school of law in 1999.



**Al  
BRIGHT JR.**

Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis, PLLC  
Partner  
Corporate & Securities

B.B.A., University of Memphis and J.D.,  
University of Tennessee College of Law

Al Bright, Jr. is a Partner of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis, PLLC, where he is a member of the Corporate Practice Group. Biotechnology, pharmaceutical, life sciences, medical device companies as well as manufacturers, distributors, and other emerging companies look to Al for counsel on a wide range of corporate and transactional matters. Serving as outside general counsel to these clients, Al enjoys a diverse and varied practice in which he provides assistance and advice on mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, and capital raising activities along with the negotiation of licensing and development collaborations and supply, distribution, and sales agreements. Al's experience also includes serving as company counsel in a number of cross-border or international transactions.

Known as a dedicated and hard-working attorney, Al provides practical solutions and efficient representation to companies across the spectrum from start-ups to well-established corporations. Balancing his focus on transactional corporate matters, Al also has experience in commercial litigation, including the management of litigation matters for a variety of clients.

Al is recognized in The Best Lawyers in America for his experience in Commercial Transactions / UCC Law, and he has been recognized as a Rising Star for business and corporate law by Mid-South Super Lawyers. Currently, Al serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County ("EDGE"), and he is a member of the Board of Directors for Evolve Bank & Trust.



**Alison  
BETHEL**

AutoNation  
VP, Chief Litigation Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Yale Law School, B.A., Yale  
University

Alison Bethel is the VP, Chief Litigation Counsel at AutoNation. She serves in this position for the last 18 years. Before this she acted as Associate at Steel Hector & Davis LLP.



**Amy  
CISROW-PETERSON**

Rack Room Shoes Inc./Off Broadway  
Shoes Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Capital University Law School,  
B.A., North Carolina Agricultural and  
Technical State University

Amy Cisrow-Peterson is a trusted In-House Counsel with more than 10 years experience. As Assistant General Counsel, she has achieved favorable results in high profile litigation matters through hands-on involvement and remaining corporate client focused. Her distinctive blend of courtroom, corporate and private practice experience equips her to provide decisive and tactical advice that aide retained counsel in developing unique resolutions that best benefit corporate culture. Her strong sense of integrity has made her a valuable asset to the company as a trusted advisor to senior management. She has firmly established herself as a key contact to multiple corporate departments who rely not only on my ability to draft and negotiate various documents and transactional agreements, but also to serve as the liaison between these departments and the Legal Department.



**Andra Jean  
TERRELL**

Cajun Operating Company  
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel  
and Assistant Secretary Franchise

J.D., Howard University Law School,  
1995, B.A., Johns Hopkins University,  
B.S. (1992)

Mrs. Terrell currently serves as Vice President and General Counsel for Cajun Operating Company, d/b/a Church's Chicken, at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. She also is a Board member of, and counsel to, the Church's Foundation. Prior to her tenure at Church's, Mrs. Terrell was the Assistant General Counsel for Luxottica Retail (an Italian eyewear manufacturer and retailer, and the franchisor of more than 400 and operator of 200 Pearle Visions in the United States and Canada, and franchisor of approximately 100 Oakley locations outside the United States), at its corporate office in Mason, Ohio. Mrs. Terrell also worked as the General Counsel of Decorating Den Systems, Inc., an Easton, Maryland-based franchisor of home decorating services in the United States and Canada. Mrs. Terrell is a member of the American Bar Association (Forum on Franchising), and has been active in the Corporate Counsel Steering Committee and Diversity Caucus, as well as serving as the Liaison to the ABA Commission on Disability Rights. She is also a member of the International Franchise Association (IFA), and served two terms on its Task Force. Mrs. Terrell has several publications to her credit, including the 2019 ABA Forum on Franchising Judicial Update (Disclosure Violations) and The Annotated Franchise Agreement (Transfers) in September 2018.



**Andre P.  
HYLTON**

Georgia-Pacific LLC  
Chief Counsel – Georgia-Pacific  
Professional

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A.,  
Dartmouth College

Andre Hylton currently serves as the Chief Counsel of the Georgia-Pacific Professional business. In that capacity, he provides legal advice to the business-to-business division of the Georgia-Pacific consumer products business. Prior to his employment at Georgia-Pacific, Andre practiced at two prominent Atlanta law firms. Andre is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, and resides in southwest Atlanta with his wife, Tamera, an attorney at Turner Broadcasting, and his two children, Sophie and Warren.



**Andrew  
COOPER**

UPS Airlines  
Vice President, CLO  
Aviation

Emory University School of Law

Andrew Cooper is the Chief Legal Officer and Department Manager for UPS Airlines. He is responsible for overseeing legal matters and developing strong, cooperative government partnerships.



**Anita Wallace  
THOMAS**

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough  
LLP  
Partner  
commercial litigation, product liability  
and employment litigation

J.D., Mercer University School of Law,  
B.A., Spelman College

Anita Wallace Thomas is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP's Atlanta office. She practices litigation involving general commercial litigation, automotive product liability, drug and medical device litigation, product liability, and employment litigation and toxic tort. Anita serves as counsel and trusted advisor to local governments in all phases of litigation, internal investigations, and personnel training. She defends automobile manufacturers in product liability matters, and defends clients against charges of employment discrimination, harassment and wrongful discharge. Anita counsels employers in hiring, employing and firing employees and conducts pre-litigation internal investigations. She has served as lead counsel in over 60 jury trials held in state and federal court. She previously worked as an Assistant District Attorney prosecuting felonies for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.



**Antonio D.  
ROBINSON**

Carter's, Inc.  
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel  
and Chief Compliance Officer  
Intellectual Property, Labor and  
Employment, Contracts, Corporate  
Governance, Ethics and Compliance,  
Litigation, Corporate Investigations,  
Privacy, Cyber Security

J.D., Southern University Law Center,  
1998 (cum laude), B.A., Louisiana Tech  
University, 1994

In his current role, Robinson has responsibility for managing teams focused on intellectual property, labor and employment, securities law and corporate governance, regulatory, and transactional issues. Robinson also provides oversight of the Company's ethics and compliance program. Prior to joining Carter's in 2010, Robinson was a shareholder in the Atlanta office of Littler Mendelson, a leading labor and employment firm. During his tenure with Carter's, Robinson served as the Board Chair (2016-2018) for Quality Care for Children, a nonprofit focused on early childhood education. In addition to Quality Care for Children, Robinson also serves on the board of YMCA of Metro Atlanta. Robinson is a member of the 2019 class of Leadership Atlanta.



**Beatriz  
AZCUY**

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
B.A., Florida International University

Beatriz Azcuy is a partner in Weil's Real Estate practice and is based in Miami. Ms. Azcuy has extensive experience advising and representing financial institutions, investment banks and other institutional clients in a broad range of commercial real estate transactions involving mixed-use condominium, multifamily, office, hospitality, industrial and retail properties throughout the U.S.

Ms. Azcuy is recognized as a leading lawyer for Real Estate Law in Miami by Best Lawyers in America and recommended for Real Estate by Legal 500 US. Ms. Azcuy was named a "Top Dealmaker of the Year" for Real Estate Finance by the Daily Business Review in 2011 for her work on restructuring the \$2.7 billion Beacon Capital Partners loan.



**Bhavin V  
PATEL**

Compass Group USA  
Assistant General Counsel  
Labor and Employment, Corporate and  
Government Compliance, Litigation

J.D., University of Tulsa 2001 (honors),  
B.S. Metropolitan State University 1996  
(honors)

I have practiced in the labor and employment and corporate compliance arena for the last 15 years. In my current role I am also responsible for managing litigation defense for our company. I first started my legal career in criminal defense. Prior to beginning my undergraduate studies I joined the U.S. Air Force and spent just over 10 years in the service before receiving an honorable discharge so that I could fully concentrate on my law school education. I enjoy spending time with family and volunteering in my community with my 10 year old daughter.



**Brian  
HESLIN**

Duke Energy Corporation  
Deputy General Counsel  
Security Compliance

J.D., George Mason University School  
of Law, B.A., University of Southern  
California

Brian Heslin is deputy general counsel for Duke Energy, one of the country's largest electric power companies and distributors of natural gas. Heslin manages state and federal regulatory matters for Duke Energy's local distribution companies, power generation fuels group and midstream pipeline investments. Prior to joining Duke Energy, Heslin was a partner at the law firm, Moore & Van Allen PLLC. At MVA, a significant portion of his practice focused on the representation of companies and public utilities in the natural gas and other regulated energy industries. Prior to his time at MVA, Heslin was a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice, defending departmental and regulatory federal agencies in various civil matters. In addition, he served as a prosecutor and defense attorney in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.



**Brie L.B.  
BUCHANAN**

Neenah, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel and  
Compliance Officer  
General

J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School,  
2006, B.S., Northwestern University  
2003

Ms. Buchanan's vast responsibilities at Neenah, Inc. include intellectual property portfolio management, corporate ethical policies, training and compliance, workers' compensation, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, contract development, negotiation and maintenance, SEC compliance, and enterprise risk analysis. In 2016, she was recognized as a Georgia "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers. She is also frequently called upon to serve as a panelist on race and gender issues in the legal profession and provides diversity and inclusion training to corporate entities. She is licensed to practice in Georgia, Alabama, and before the USPTO.

Ms. Buchanan resides in Atlanta, Georgia with her husband, Ryan K. Buchanan, a federal prosecutor, and daughters, Brynn (8) and Keller (5). She enjoys serving her community as a youth sports coach, Girl Scout Troop leader, and active PTA member.



**Cari K.  
DAWSON**

Alston & Bird LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard University, B.A., Princeton  
University

Cari Dawson is a creative problem solver, legal strategist, and committed advocate. She chairs the Class Action & MDL Practice Team and has a winning track record defending Fortune 500 companies as lead counsel in high-profile enterprise litigation nationwide. Cari assists clients in the areas of commercial litigation, strategic counseling, and crisis management.

Cari was named one of the top female litigators in the United States by Benchmark Litigation in the publication's 2018 edition of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation."

In 2018, Cari was honored by the National Black Law Students Association, who recognized her with its Sadie T.M. Alexander Women in Leadership Award. In 2015, Cari was named one of the country's "Most Influential Black Lawyers" by Savoy Magazine.



**Carl Q.  
CARTER**

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International Paper Company  
Associate General Counsel  
Commercial Law

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., Morehouse College

Carl Carter is an experienced Associate General Counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the paper & forest products industry. He joined International Paper Company ten years ago. A strong legal professional skilled in Commercial Law, Global Supply Chain, Global Sourcing, Litigation, Taxation, Negotiation, Legal Compliance, Mediation and Arbitration and Antitrust.

Earlier in his career he served as a Senior Trial Attorney at U.S. Justice Department. Before his law career, he worked as a Tax Accountant at Arthur Andersen and a Commercial Lender at Chase Manhattan Bank.



**Carolyne  
HILTON**

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The Coca-Cola Company  
Senior Managing Counsel, Sparkling

J.D., University of Georgia School of  
Law, B.S., University of Virginia

Carolyne Hilton is the Senior Managing Counsel, Sparkling at The Coca-Cola Company. She has been with the company since 2008. Before this, she spent six years at Miller & Martin PLLC as an Associate, Labor & Employment.



**Catherine  
HILTON**

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UPS Capital Corporation  
Vice President of Legal

J.D., Emory University School of Law,  
B.S., Emory University

Having been a member of the UPS team for over 10 years, Cathy Hilton currently holds responsibility for UPS Capital's legal and compliance matters and oversees the processes and procedures that help UPS Capital comply with all laws and regulations. Her team strives to provide competent, timely, cost-effective and solution-oriented legal advice to support UPS Capital's business partners. She has helped improve contracting processes, reduce the number of litigation matters and decrease legal and compliance costs.



**Chonda Jordan  
NWAMU**

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Ameren Corporation  
Senior Vice President and Deputy  
General Counsel

J.D., Univeristy of Pennsylvania, B.A.,  
University of Virginia

Chonda Nwamu is Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Ameren. Chonda joined Ameren in 2016 and serves as key advisor to the Senior Vice President & General Counsel on legal department strategy and operations. She provides advice, counsel, and oversight on a broad range of legal, transactional and regulatory topics across multiple operating business segments.



**Christopher J.  
CHAN**

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Eversheds Sutherland LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Georgia State University College  
of Law, B.M.E., Georgia Institute of  
Technology

Whether advising in-house counsel at a Fortune 100 corporation, or counseling principals at a technology start-up, Chris Chan helps clients identify key intellectual property and implement state of the art legal strategies to protect it. His practice encompasses all facets of patent law including international and domestic portfolio management and strategy, patent procurement, opinions and clearance studies, due diligence, licensing and related litigation. Chris offers clients a unique combination of intellectual property legal knowledge, advanced technical training and an intimate understanding of the international marketplace. He obtains and enforces key patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret rights for a variety of technologies, from computers, software, and financial transaction systems, to power generation equipment and controls.



**Clyde E.  
MIZE, Jr.**

Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., University of Iowa College of Law  
(1998); BA, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign

Clyde E. Mize, Jr. is a Partner in the Real Estate Practice of Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP (MMM), an AmLaw 200 law firm with national and international reach. He represents clients in all phases of residential and commercial real estate including acquisitions, developments, financing and sales. Mr. Mize is the chair of MMM's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He is an active member of the Atlanta real estate community and often speaks on a variety of issues of interest concerning the financial and real estate industries. He earned his B.A. in Political Science and Speech Communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law. He and his wife are the parents of two children.



**J. Conrad  
GARCIA**

Williams Mullen  
Partner  
Tax Law

J.D., Washington & Lee University  
School of Law, B.A., New Mexico State  
University

As chair of the Tax Law Practice at Williams Mullen, Conrad Garcia concentrates his practice on domestic and international tax planning for businesses and individuals. Conrad counsels clients on choice of entity issues; formation, acquisition, disposition and liquidation of business entities; corporate reorganizations; like-kind exchanges; foreign tax issues; and federal and state tax disputes. He regularly guides investors and developers through the tax issues associated with historic, low income and new market credit transactions. In addition, Conrad advises clients on excise tax issues associated with the acquisition/operation and disposition of aircrafts. Prior to joining the firm, Conrad served as a tax associate with Coopers & Lybrand, where he focused on tax issues relating to partnerships, foreign and domestic corporations, S-corporations and individuals.



**Corey B.  
COLLINS**

MasTec, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
B.A., University of Notre Dame

Corey B. Collins is Associate General Counsel at MasTec, Inc., a specialty infrastructure contractor with an international footprint. In that capacity, he negotiates complex construction contracts and manages litigation. Beyond practicing law, Collins chairs the board of directors of the James B. Collins Memorial Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization. He also serves on the board of directors of the St. John Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of ensuring the availability of affordable housing in Miami's Overtown community. In his spare time, Collins enjoys writing short stories and running, having completed four marathons and twelve half marathons.



**Damany F.  
RANSOM**

The Ransom Firm  
Managing Partner  
Civil Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., Morehouse College

For more than a decade, Damany has represented individuals and businesses in civil litigation. He focuses on business disputes—such as claims for professional liability, breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and other business torts—and personal injury and premises liability claims. Damany represents clients in a variety of industries, including technology companies, professional services firms, financial institutions, manufacturers, food processors and entertainment companies. Over the past few years, Damany has obtained dismissals, summary judgments and defense verdicts for a number of his clients. He has been just as successful on the plaintiff side, having tried cases and obtained sizable settlements for individuals and companies in business tort and contract cases.



**Damian D.  
DALEY**

DLF Attorneys-at-Law  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Florida, B.A.,  
University of Florida, (cum laude)

Damian Daley is the managing partner of DLF Attorneys. He has achieved an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, a testament to the fact that his peers rank him at the highest level of professional excellence. Prior to founding DLF Attorneys, Mr. Daley was a partner in one of Florida's most prominent civil defense litigation law firms, where he represented Fortune 500 companies, insurance carriers, small businesses and individuals. He actively litigates in both state and federal courts, representing clients in several areas of civil litigation including: products liability, professional liability, medical malpractice, general liability and first-party insurance litigation.

Damian is known among his clients and peers for finding creative solutions to complex problems. He draws on both his personal and professional experience to design litigation strategies for individuals and businesses.



**David  
LONG-DANIELS**

Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
Chair, Global Labor & Employment  
Practice  
Labor & Employment

J.D., Mercer University Walter F.  
George School of Law, (cum laude),  
M.P.A., Valdosta State University, B.S.,  
Culverhouse College of Commerce &  
Business Administration, The University  
of Alabama

David Long-Daniels is Co-Chair of Greenberg Traurig’s Global Labor & Employment Practice and Co-Chair of the Labor & Employment Practice’s Complex Employment Litigation & Trials group. David has tried more than 50 jury trials and approximately 20 bench trials and arbitrations. He is recognized as a leading defense trial attorney for bet-the-company cases and handles complex litigation matters, often with sizable monetary values throughout the country.

David taught as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alabama School of Law and the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. David has also written for the Defense Research Institute, has been quoted in The National Law Journal, and has been featured on ABC’s “20/20” program. David served in the United States Air Force and often litigates USERRA issues.



**Dawn  
CROFT**

KFC Corporation  
Director, Legal

J.D., University of Kentucky College of  
Law, B.A., Yale University

Dawn Croft is an experienced Legal Director with a demonstrated history of working in the retail industry at Brand and Public Company levels. He is a strong business partner skilled in Marketing and Digital, Licensing/IP, Technology and Procurement Contracts, M&A, Securities and Governance and general corporate. As a Corporate Counsel he is responsible with overseeing legal teams in charge of Marketing and Advertising, Digital, Trademarks/Patents, Procurement and Technology and Data related matters for the Brand.



**Deidre  
RICHARDSON**

Chico’s FAS, Inc.  
Senior Director, Corporate Counsel  
Intellectual Property; Advertising,  
Marketing & Media; Entertainment  
& Sports; Litigation Management;  
Regulatory Compliance

J.D., Georgetown University Law  
Center, 2004, M.B.A., Pennsylvania  
State University, 2007, B.A., Georgetown  
University, 2001

Deidre Richardson is Senior Director, Corporate Counsel at Chico’s FAS, Inc., overseeing matters related to the Chico’s®, White House Black Market®, Soma® and TellTaleSM brands. She serves as a strategic business partner and the key point of legal contact in the US and internationally for marketing, intellectual property, litigation management and regulatory compliance matters. She also is a member of the company’s Inclusion & Diversity Council.

Prior to joining Chico’s FAS, Ms. Richardson was Lead Counsel for Marketing & Trademarks at Restaurant Brands International, with responsibilities related to the Burger King®, Popeyes® and Tim Hortons® brands globally. Before that, she was in-house at Michelin North America, Inc. managing transactional intellectual property and licensing, research and development activities, credit and bankruptcy, logistics, real estate, and a variety of other initiatives.

Early in Ms. Richardson’s career, she worked in private practice focusing on entertainment and sports law.



**Demetrius O.  
HOLLOWAY**

Stites & Harbison, PLLC  
Member  
Employment

University of Louisville and University  
of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School  
of Law

A seasoned litigator with over 18 years’ experience, Demetrius represents employers in the defense of employment-based claims asserted under both Kentucky and federal law including, but not limited to, claims asserted under the ADA, ADEA, FMLA, Title VII, and the Kentucky Civil Rights Act. His experience includes defending civil actions filed in both state and federal court, as well as defending against administrative actions before state and federal administrative agencies. In addition to his litigation practice, Demetrius assist clients with drafting and implementing employee handbooks and other workplace policies, and also conducts on-site training on the issues of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Demetrius currently serves on the American Diabetes Association of Kentucky Board of Directors and is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Louisville Urban League.



**Derek  
BOTTOMS**

The Home Depot Inc.  
Vice President Employment Practices &  
Associate Relations  
Employment

J.D., Georgia State University College of  
Law, B.B.A., The University of Georgia

Derek Bottoms is Vice President of Employment Practices and Associate Relations at Home Depot. He has been with the Atlanta-based company for about 18 years, previously having worked for a law firm.

Derek Bottoms is listed as being on the board of directors for the Grady Health Foundation, which raises private and philanthropic funds in support of the health system, and the Georgia Justice Project, which provides legal defense, counseling and rehabilitation for clients. Mr. Bottoms is listed as a member of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, a volunteer organization with programs to support Atlanta’s challenged communities.



**M. Derek  
HARRIS**

Carlton Fields, P.A.  
Shareholder  
Product Liability

University of Delaware (B.A. 1999) /  
Georgetown University Law Center  
(J.D. 2002)

Derek Harris is a commercial litigator and trial lawyer. Derek has tried cases in the areas of product liability, health care, business torts and real estate in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. He also has extensive experience with class action, commercial contract, construction, and creditors' rights litigation. Derek has served as lead counsel on cases in multiple areas of law and provided legal assistance through all phases of litigation including discovery, motions practice, mediation, and bench and jury trials. His practice focuses primarily on complex commercial litigation defending manufacturing clients in product liability litigation and defending hospitals in health care litigation.



**Douglas  
KELLY**

Marriott Vacations Worldwide  
Corporation  
Senior Vice President & Associate  
General Counsel - Litigation &  
Compliance  
Litigation & Compliance

J.D., University of Florida – Fredric  
G. Levin College of Law, B.S., Florida  
Agricultural and Mechanical University

Douglas Kelly is a Senior Vice President & Associate General Counsel - Litigation & Compliance at Marriott Vacations Worldwide Corporation. He joined the company in 2006, starting from the position of Corporate Counsel. His specialties are state government liaison; commercial, state, federal and international litigation; state, federal and international privacy, lending and collection regulations, hospitality law. Before joining Marriott he served as Associate Attorney at Holland & Knight LLP.



**Dwayne L.  
DICKERSON**

Dunay, Miskel, and Backman, LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., University of Florida Levin College  
of Law, B.A., University of Florida

Dwayne L. Dickerson is a partner in the firm's Land Use & Zoning practice group. Mr. Dickerson represents developers, property owners and local governments seeking development entitlements and environmental permit approvals for their real estate projects. Additionally, he works closely with real estate attorneys on land use, zoning and environmental issues affecting real estate transactions for buyers, sellers and lenders. A focus of Mr. Dickerson's practice has been several high profile land use matters that have resulted in favorable outcomes for his clients, including well-known national retailers, utility companies, financial institutions, restaurant companies and commercial and residential developers. Mr. Dickerson routinely negotiates with town, city and county officials; counsels clients regarding environmental and land use development issues; oversees the preparation of development applications for submittal to local governmental bodies.



**Erica V.  
MASON**

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete,  
LLP  
Partner  
Employment

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law  
School, B.B.A., Georgia State University

Erica Mason is a Labor & Employment Shareholder at one of the nation's top ten employment law firms. She serves as regional and national defense counsel for a number of mid-size and large companies, defending her clients from single-plaintiff, class, and collective employment law actions asserted against her clients in federal and state courts across the country. Erica also defends employers against governmental audits and investigations conducted by the United States Department of Labor, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and their state-level counterparts. Erica also assists employers with drafting policies, procedures, handbooks and employment contracts; advises clients on employee terminations, reductions-in-force, and internal investigations into employee misconduct; and trains hourly and management employees and executives on topics related to EEO, anti-harassment/non-discrimination, diversity, inclusion, and respectful workplace norms.



**Erick  
BURROUGHS**

Mailchimp  
Corporate Counsel/Director of Human  
Resources  
Human Resources

J.D., University of Tennessee College of  
Law, B.A., Tennessee State University

Currently, Erick Burroughs serves as Corporate Counsel and Director of Human Resources at MailChimp. Prior to MailChimp, Erick was a Labor and Employment Counsel at Southwest Airlines. Prior to Southwest Airlines, Erick served as Assistant General Counsel to Atlanta Public Schools. Prior to joining APS, Mr. Burroughs practiced as a Senior Attorney at an employment law boutique firm that represented public institutions in cases involving Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, Section 1983 of the US Constitution, and employment disputes. Mr. Burroughs also serves as Business Development Manager of Next Generation Recruitment and Staffing Agency. Next Generation partners with fortune 500 companies headquartered in Georgia and Tennessee to place candidates in IT, Accounting, Finance, Legal and HR executive level positions.



**Harold E.  
FRANKLIN**

King & Spalding LLP  
Partner  
Product Liability

J.D., Georgia State University, B.A.  
Emory University

Harold Franklin specializes in defending corporations in complex and high-stakes product liability litigation. As a partner in the firm's nationally ranked Product Liability practice, Harold's national litigation and trial practice focuses heavily on high-profile product liability litigation and has also included business disputes and internal investigations. He has represented many of the world's largest automotive, pharmaceutical, beverage, logistics, and tobacco companies throughout the continental U.S. and abroad in "bet-the-company" litigation and trials. He has utilized his fluency in Spanish in his law practice in matters in Puerto Rico, Europe and South America. Five of his recent trials include four high-stakes tobacco trials and a high-profile automotive product liability trial, the letter of which was selected and featured in 2014 by the Daily Report's "Litigation Department of the Year" award publication. Harold has been named a Georgia Super Lawyer for 2008-2017 by Law & Politics and Atlanta Magazine, as a Legal Elite by Georgia Trend Magazine, recognized by the Daily Report in 2007 as 1 of the Top 15 Lawyers in Georgia under the age of 40, and in 2016 by the Daily Report as a Georgia Attorney of the Year Finalist and he has been recognized by Legal 500 for his national profile as a litigator.



**Hassia T.  
DILOMBI**

Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.  
Partner  
Business Litigation

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, (cum laude), B.A., University of Southern California

Hassia Diolombi's practice involves defending Fortune 500 clients in complex litigation across a variety of industries, concentrating on cases involving mass torts and class action product liability claims. Ms. Diolombi's experience includes handling and managing cases from the filing of initial pleadings, through discovery, trial preparation and trial. Ms. Diolombi is counsel for Philip Morris USA in tobacco litigation currently pending throughout the state of Florida.

Ms. Diolombi is actively involved in ensuring the continued success of the firm in achieving the advancement and promotion of the firm's diverse attorneys and creating a broader, richer environment from which to produce innovative solutions for our clients.



**Hope Thai  
CANNON**

U.S. District Court  
Magistrate Judge

J.D., University of Alabama School of Law, (cum laude), B.S., University of South Alabama

Hope Thai Cannon has been appointed as a full-time magistrate judge in the Pensacola Division of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. A lead trial attorney and former member of Bradley's Litigation Practice Group, Ms. Cannon has significant experience handling complex commercial, real property, employment and product litigation matters. She represents clients in a variety of industries, ranging from banking and financial to manufacturing. She has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts in Texas, Florida and Alabama and has argued before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and state appellate courts in Alabama and Florida.

Ms. Cannon received her J.D. (magna cum laude) from the University of Alabama School of Law and her Bachelor of Science (cum laude) from the University of South Alabama.



**Irene  
ORIA**

FisherBroyles, LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Litigation

Columbia University, B.A.; Cornell Law School, J.D.

Irene Oria, the current National President-Elect of the HNBA, is a Partner at the national law firm FisherBroyles, LLP resident in the firm's Miami Office. Irene has over 18 years of experience in complex commercial business litigation in federal and state courts and arbitration tribunals with a focus in recent years on Financial Services, Insurance, Real Estate and Securities Litigation, including a nationwide class and multi-district litigation defense specialty. Irene obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Cornell Law School and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University. Before FisherBroyles, Irene served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division of United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida (Miami), as a federal judicial law clerk to U.S. District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida (Miami Division), and she also previously worked for the Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, Hunton Andrews Kurth, Morgan Lewis & Bockius, and Lowenstein Sandler law firms.



**Jaimmé A.  
COLLINS**

Adams and Reese LLP  
Partner and Chair, Diversity  
Committee Litigation and Corporate/  
Transaction Law

J.D., Loyola University New Orleans  
College of Law, 2005, B.A., Emory  
University, 2000

Honored by many national and regional organizations for both her service to clients and diversity work, Jaimmé Collins counsels clients on corporate governance, contractual and general business matters and government regulatory compliance issues. Jaimmé investigates internal allegations for companies, drawing on years of experience in quickly assessing risks and managing the response, with clients, by working with investigating governmental authorities, the media and outside consultants.

As a commercial litigator, Jaimmé has also represented clients entangled in disputes involving breach of contract, property, insurance coverage and products liability and helped resolve conflicts between corporate directors and shareholders. Her commercial litigation experience enhances her transactional work for clients, for example by enabling her to identify certain clauses in a business contract that may pose litigation risks in the future.



**Jaron R.  
BROWN**

Novelis Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Commercial Contracts

J.D., Case Western Reserve University,  
2002, B.S., University of Hartford, 1999

At Novelis, I am the corporate legal office's lead attorney for managing the negotiation, drafting and counseling with respect to all global contracts of the commercial department and the global procurement department. I also have responsibilities related to M&A, general corporate matters, intercompany transactions, commercial litigation and real estate.



**Jason  
CHANG**

AT&T Inc.  
Assistant Vice President - Senior Legal  
Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.S., Georgia  
Institute of Technology

Jason Chang is the Assistant Vice President - Senior Legal Counsel at AT&T. He joined the company eight years ago. Before this he acted as a Patent Attorney at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP for seven years.



**Jennifer  
SALINAS**

Lenovo  
Executive Director of Litigation  
Litigation (IP and Commercial)

J.D., Loyola Law School, Los Angeles,  
B.A., San Diego State University

Jennifer Salinas is Lenovo's Executive Director of Litigation and is responsible for all intellectual property litigation and high stakes commercial litigation worldwide. Jennifer reports to the CLO and she is a member of the legal senior leadership team. Lenovo is a Fortune 500 multinational technology company with headquarters in Beijing, China, and Morrisville, North Carolina, United States. Lenovo has an annual revenue of \$45 Billion, 54,000 employees and is the number one PC company in the world. Lenovo has operations in more than 60 countries and sells its products in around 160 countries. Lenovo is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Prior to joining Lenovo, Jennifer was an equity partner at an AmLaw 100 law firm where she was lead counsel for a number of large patent and trademark infringement matters. Jennifer is particularly skilled in managing large client teams. She has extensive experience, including trials, in patent infringement litigation involving computer hardware and software, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, electrical and mechanical technologies, and semiconductor manufacturing equipment. Jennifer has a demonstrated commitment to the advancement of Latinos and women in the legal industry. She is currently the National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA"). Jennifer has been recognized by a number of legal associations for being a key contributor to launching numerous pipeline programs to diversify the profession.



**Joe  
PIERCE**

Hornets Sports & Entertainment  
Vice President & General Counsel  
In-house

J.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1998,  
MBA, University of Pennsylvania, 1998,  
BSBA, Georgetown University, 1991

Joe Pierce is Vice President & General Counsel for Hornets Sports & Entertainment, where he manages all legal affairs for the Charlotte Hornets and Spectrum Center. He provides counsel on media rights, sponsorships, finance, governance, arena operations, litigation, employment, intellectual property, basketball operations, risk management and governmental affairs. Joe previously served as SVP & Associate General Counsel for Global Marketing & Corporate Affairs at Bank of America, Vice President of Legal & Business Affairs for Comcast Sports Group, Associate General Counsel for the Jacksonville Jaguars and as an associate at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Joe serves on the Boards of the Fletcher School, the Charlotte Hornets Foundation and North Carolina Travel and Tourism. Joe graduated from Georgetown University and earned dual JD/MBA degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Jon-Peter F.  
KELLY**

Delta Air Lines, Inc.  
Director & Assistant General Counsel  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Harvard  
University

Jon-Peter Kelly is an Assistant General Counsel for Delta Air Lines, Inc. Jon-Peter manages commercial litigation in which Delta is a party, as well as regulatory enforcement actions brought by government agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and others. Jon-Peter joined Delta in 2009. Prior to that, he worked as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta, and as a commercial litigator in New York. Upon graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He graduated cum laude with a J.D. from Harvard Law School and magna cum laude with an A.B. in English from Harvard University. JP lives with his wife and two children in Atlanta.



**Katrina S.  
LINDSEY**

Office Depot, Inc  
SVP, Deputy General Counsel, Chief  
Compliance Officer  
Litigation

J.D., Stetson University, College of Law,  
1999 (cum laude), B.S., Florida State  
University, 1996

Katrina Lindsey has overall responsibility for Office Depot’s Litigation matters as well as its Ethics & Compliance program. She assists with daily operation and management of the Office Depot North American Legal Department and serves as Secretary for the Office Depot Board of Directors’ Audit Committee. Katrina was recognized on the Lawyers of Color 2014 Hot List – Southeastern Region. She was also named one of the most powerful and influential women by the Florida Diversity Council in 2012 and earned a 2016 First Chair Award for Top Employment Counsel.



**Keith  
THORNTON**

SunTrust Bank  
Senior Vice President and Deputy  
General Counsel  
Employment Legal team

J.D., George Washington University Law  
School, B.A., University of Maryland  
College Park

Keith joined SunTrust in 2018 and is responsible for all employment practices, benefits and rewards reviews, executive compensation, ERISA, and Employment litigation.

Previously, Keith served as Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel on the Global Executive Compensation and Benefits team for Bank of America. In this role, he led a team of lawyers that provided legal support for Bank of America’s Employee Benefits Plans including ERISA claims and litigation. He worked in a similar capacity at Wells Fargo for eight years and was a labor and employment associate at Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.

Keith served as the Chair of the Mecklenburg County Bar Association’s Corporate Counsel Section and was a member of Bank of America’s Legal Department’s Pro Bono Committee and the Diversity & Inclusion Business Council.



**Kenneth W.  
LEWIS**

Nexsen Pruet, PLLC  
Member  
Corporate

J.D., Harvard Law School, 1986, A.B.,  
Duke University, 1982

Ken Lewis is a business attorney in Raleigh, with over three decades of experience in a wide range of corporate, transactional, and securities matters. He represents clients in mergers and acquisitions, and in the formation of strategic alliances. He is also well versed in domestic and international commercial transactions and has advised clients in all aspects of corporate and real estate finance, including representing lenders, borrowers, and investors in negotiating and documenting debt and equity transactions. A native of North Carolina, Ken is a graduate of Duke University and the Harvard Law School. Ken has received the Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating, and is listed in Best Lawyers in America. In 2010, Ken was a candidate in North Carolina for the United States Senate.



**Kenyen  
BROWN**

Maynard Cooper & Gale, LLP  
Shareholder  
General Litigator

J.D., University of Tennessee College of  
Law, B.A., University of Alabama

At Maynard Cooper, Kenyen’s practice focuses primarily on white collar criminal litigation, complex civil litigation, internal and governmental investigations as well as compliance counseling. Maynard Cooper represents numerous businesses and individuals working in highly regulated industries that are frequent targets of compliance regulatory proceedings and criminal investigations.

Kenyen started his career in the Montgomery County, AL, District Attorney’s office in 1995. Shortly thereafter, in 1996, Kenyen joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Mobile, AL as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

In 1999, he joined the U.S. Senate Ethics Committee where he worked for eight years and conducted numerous high profile Congressional ethics investigations.

Prior to accepting the post of U.S. Attorney, in 2008, and again in 2009, Kenyen was listed by Roll Call (a Capitol Hill publication) as one of the “Fabulous Fifty” Hill staffers.



**Kevin  
LYN**

Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of North Carolina  
School of Law, M.S., Duke University,  
B.S.E., Duke University

Kevin Lyn helps global companies create and provide better, more-competitive products for their customers. As a result of his intellectual property counsel, major appliances are more user friendly, airplanes are more efficient, building materials are more fire-resistant.

A registered patent attorney, Kevin has invested a career in helping clients, from start-ups to major multinationals, maximize and protect their investments in new products and product improvements, and achieve their business goals.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, he was a product safety testing engineer for Underwriters Laboratories and as a semiconductor processing engineer for Mitsubishi Semiconductor – experience that facilitates his practical, business-focused approach to counseling clients.

Kevin is Womble Bond Dickinson’s (US) Diversity Committee chair, leading diversity and inclusion initiatives within the firm, and serving as primary liaison to prominent diversity organizations.



**Kiyooki  
KOJIMA**

Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP  
Partner  
Corporate Law

J.D., Indiana University–Maurer School  
of Law, B.A., University of Rochester

Kiyo advises clients in corporate formation, governance and compliance matters; mergers and acquisitions; secured transactions; joint ventures; leasing and licensing matters; distribution, franchise and finance arrangements; and a wide-range of commercial transactions.

Active in the community, Kiyo is a member of the Atlanta Bar Association, a board member of the Japan America Society of Georgia and a board member of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia. When not practicing law, Kiyo “moonlights” as a bassoonist and saxophonist in and around Atlanta and the Southeast.

He is admitted to practice in the state of Georgia. Kiyo is bilingual and bicultural in Japanese.



**Kobi  
KENNEDY BRINSON**

Winston & Strawn LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard University, B.A., University  
of North Carolina

Kobi Kennedy Brinson is a partner in Winston & Strawn LLP’s Charlotte office in the White Collar, Regulatory Defense & Investigations practice group who defends financial services and other clients in government regulatory enforcement inquiries and investigations, as well as class action litigation. Kobi has spent more than 20 years defending corporate clients as both in-house counsel for some of the nation’s largest financial institutions and as outside counsel to corporate clients nationwide.

Prior to joining Winston, Kobi was Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at both Bank of America and Wells Fargo, where she coordinated responses to consumer regulatory enforcement actions from prudential and other regulators, including the CFPB, DOJ, and state Attorneys General. She has directed responsive strategy for hundreds of individual and class action litigation matters.



**Kwame A.  
BENJAMIN**

Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., Tulane University Law School, B.S.,  
Louisiana State University

Kwame Benjamin is a partner in the Real Estate Department of Seyfarth Shaw, and is the leader of the Atlanta office’s Real Estate team. His practice focuses on commercial real estate matters. He represents clients in all facets of transactions involving the leasing, acquisition, disposition, financing and development of commercial real estate, including multi-family, retail, office and industrial assets. His practice encompasses the representation of construction, bridge and permanent lenders making loans secured by commercial real estate. Mr. Benjamin’s real estate practice is enhanced by his experience assisting both secured and unsecured creditors with the defense of their rights in bankruptcy proceedings as well as his representation of lenders in connection with loan work-out transactions.



**Lauren  
LINDER**

The Weather Channel  
Vice President, Associate General  
Counsel

J.D., Duke University School of Law,  
B.A., Brown University

As associate general counsel for The Weather Channel, Lauren Linder leads the company’s legal team, which provides legal and business strategy, support and counsel to the company.

Linder joined the network in 2015 as as director of business and legal affairs. In that role, she provided real-time legal support for the company’s television division on issues relating to live news coverage. Before The Weather Channel, Linder worked for Turner Broadcasting, where she served as counsel for Turner Studios and her responsibilities included negotiating and drafting development, production and program acquisition agreements as well as development of content.

Previously, Linder was an associate for Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton where she served as counsel to clients regarding trademark, copyright, licensing and right of publicity matters in a range of industries, including news media, entertainment and technology.



**Leslie Kali  
EASON**

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP  
Office Managing Partner (Atlanta,  
Birmingham, Jackson)  
Employment Law

J.D., University of Georgia, 2003 (cum  
laude), B.S., Vanderbilt University, 2000

Ms. Eason’s employment practice centers on assisting corporate entities with all aspects of employment-related business operations, including the creation and implementation of policies and procedures; training for staff and supervisors; administrative investigations; mediation; litigation; trial; and appeal. A particular focus of Ms. Eason’s practice is the representation of clients against FLSA claims, discrimination claims, and disability claims. Ms. Eason regularly provides counseling to employers on a variety of personnel issues, including hiring, termination, leaves of absence, overtime compensation, and disability. She also regularly speaks on topics including recent developments in employment law, common employment issues, and wage and hour laws.



**Lillian  
BLACKSHEAR**

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC  
Member  
Public Finance

J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 2008 (highest honors), B.A., Spelman College, 2005 (summa cum laude)

Since 2010, Lillian Blackshear has represented clients in public finance transactions totaling more than \$10 billion. Governments and banks look to Lillian as counsel to secure the financing necessary to green-light a wide range of development projects and debt refundings. Exclusively focused on public finance, Lillian represents an array of governmental entities, investment banks and commercial banks on debt issuances throughout Tennessee.

Lillian is the Chair of the African-American Affinity Group at Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, is a founding board member and Secretary of the Tennessee Chapter of Women in Public Finance and has served as a commissioner on the Metropolitan Planning Commission since 2014. In 2018, Lillian was named one of the Nashville Business Journal's 40 Under 40.



**Lynne  
FULLER-ANDREWS**

Hanesbrands Inc.  
Vice President and Deputy General Counsel  
Commercial Transactions, Intellectual Property, Antitrust, Privacy

J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1991, B.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1988

Lynne Fuller-Andrews is Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Hanesbrands Inc. Based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Hanesbrands Inc. is a global consumer goods company with a portfolio of leading apparel essentials. Some of the company's brands include Hanes, Champion, Playtex, Bali, Leggs and Maidenform.

Lynne's responsibilities include protecting the company's interests with regard to all commercial matters including those related to sales, advertising and marketing. Additionally, she is tasked with overseeing the management of the company's intellectual property portfolio. She is responsible for negotiating complex commercial sales transactions, product development and licensing agreements, and sponsorship and endorsement agreements. She regularly advises and counsels her clients on antitrust issues, advertising, marketing, and general intellectual property issues, including those relating to talent rights, rights of publicity, copyrights, trademarks, social media marketing, e-commerce and privacy laws.

She is a member of numerous professional associations including the American Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar Association. Lynne is also a current member of the Board of Directors of the UNC School of Law Foundation, the Novant Health Foundation Board at Forsyth Medical Center and the Children's Law Center, both located in Winston-Salem, NC.



**Maisha  
SHAW**

Aflac Inc.  
Corporate Counsel, Employment Law  
Employment

J.D., Western New England University School of Law, B.B.A., Andrews University

Maisha Shaw is the Corporate Counsel, Employment Law at Aflac. She joined the company in 2015 as Associate Counsel. Before Aflac she served as an Associate Attorney at Daley Mohan Groble P.C. Earlier, in 2006 she accepted the position of Assistant Attorney General - Employment Litigation Unit at Illinois Attorney General's Office.



**Marcus A.  
MCDANIEL**

ServiceMaster Global Holdings Inc.  
Vice President and Deputy General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Wheaton College

Marcus McDaniel provides strategic leadership and direction to a team of attorneys and legal professionals who manage ServiceMaster's litigation, compliance and labor and employment functions. He joined the company in 2011, holding multiple positions until today. Before this he was the owner of his own company, The Mediation Office of Marcus A. McDaniel. Earlier in his career he served as an Associate for 16 years at Latham & Watkins LLP.



**Marcus  
DELGADO**

Cox Enterprises, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles - School of Law, B.A., Boston University

As Assistant General Counsel and Chief IP Counsel for Cox Communications, his experience includes designing and implementing company-wide patent programs, leading litigation teams to multi-million dollar victories, working with product development clients to launch new services and brands, conducting IP due diligence, for corporate acquisitions, and counseling clients on a range of IP issues.

He is a frequent speaker on the topics of managing patent litigation, electronic discovery, inter partes review and battling NPEs. This year, he received the IP Specialist of the Year Award from the ACC and Atlanta Business Chronicle. He is active in community service and serves on several non-profit boards. For the past two years, he has served as the Chairman of Partnership Against Domestic Violence.



**Maria Eugenia**

**RAMIREZ**

Hogan Lovells LLP  
Partner  
International Arbitration

J.D., Cornell Law School, 1998; A.B.  
Georgetown University, Cum laude, 1995

Maria Eugenia Ramirez, partner in the Miami office of Hogan Lovells, focuses her practice on international arbitration and litigation with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. She represents clients in both commercial and investment treaty arbitrations across various industries including construction, energy and natural resources, financial services, and telecommunications. Maria regularly handles international arbitrations matters in English and Spanish before the world's major arbitral institutions. Maria is Chair of the Miami office Women's Initiative and Diversity committees, formal groups committed to the advancement and retention of women lawyers and bringing awareness to the value of diversity and inclusion at the firm. She is a frequent speaker at conferences across Latin America related to trends in international and investment arbitration as well as diversity within the practice.



**Mark A.**

**BAUGH**

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell &  
Berkowitz, PC  
Shareholder  
Litigation

J.D., Vanderbilt University School of  
Law, B.S., Tennessee State University

Mark Baugh has advised and successfully represented educational institutions, national and regional retailers, health care providers, service providers, trucking companies and technology service providers in the defense of claims of discrimination, claims of harassment, wrongful termination, breach of contract and retaliation, at the federal, state and administrative levels. He also has extensive experience representing insurance companies in coverage disputes and workers' compensation insurance regulatory matters. Mr. Baugh also represents cargo and passenger transportation service providers and transit companies, advising on federal transit laws, Department of Transportation regulations and drug testing claims. Mr. Baugh also represents school clients in administrative proceedings with the EEOC, the Office of Civil Rights of the United States Education, and other state and federal agencies. Mr. Baugh has extensive federal and state trial experience representing local, regional, and national clients.



**Meisha**

**SMITH**

Spirit Airlines  
Senior Director & Legal Counsel

J.D., Nova Southeastern University  
Shepard Broad College of Law

Meisha Smith is the Senior Director & Legal Counsel at Spirit Airlines. She has been on this position for 12 years. Just before joining the company Ms. Smith served as Captain and Attorney at US Army for 3 years.



**Michael**

**BAKER**

Qorvo, Inc.  
Chief Intellectual Property Counsel  
Intellectual Property

Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology,  
B.A., Florida Agricultural and  
Mechanical University

Before becoming a lawyer, Baker completed his undergraduate work at Florida A&M University and earned a PhD from the Georgia Institute of Technology, focused on semiconductor manufacturing. Baker held positions at Hewlett-Packard, Sharp Laboratories of America, and IPValue, a partner of Xerox. Now he is helping Qorvo navigate IP litigation, protection, and patent procurement. Baker has also created successful patent portfolio development strategies, in which he focuses on building synergy between patents. It also has the added benefit of positioning or arming the company to make impactful, multipatent assertions, should legal proceedings arise. Although Baker says his team doesn't drive innovation, it does complement Qorvo's innovation through various legal means by which the company's innovations are protected.



**Michael K. K.**

**CHOY**

Burr & Forman LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Cumberland School of Law,  
1984; B.A., University of Alabama at  
Birmingham, 1980

Litigation and trials in federal and state courts. American Bar Association; National Bar Association; Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America. Admitted to practice in Alabama and Georgia. Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama. Northern District of Georgia. Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. United States Supreme Court.



**Michael  
CHOY**

First Citizens Bank  
Partner  
Senior Vice President, Managing Senior Counsel

J.D., Rutgers Law School, M.I.A.,  
Columbia University in the City of New York, M.A., Duke University

Michael Choy is a pragmatic, collaborative and solution-oriented lawyer with diverse legal experience gained over 18 years in large law firms and in-house legal departments. He is a demonstrated leader managing highly effective legal teams. He possesses a management style that focuses on positivity, empowerment, optimism, and encouragement. He strives to see the best in everybody. Mr. Choy tracks record of building meaningful relationships with business partners at all levels, and providing effective and practical legal advice and counsel on strategic, regulatory, risk, and day-to-day business issues facing banks. Embraces change and he is not afraid to take some chances in life. Values candor, humility, empathy, and sense of humor.



**Michael C.  
MARSH**

Akerman LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo, B.A., State University of New York at Stony Brook

An experienced first chair trial lawyer and trusted counselor, Michael Marsh represents clients in high stakes business disputes and provides strategic input and guidance on business issues. With a wide ranging litigation practice in federal and state courts throughout the United States, he is a go-to resource for clients engaged in disputes involving high stakes securities and other class action defense, proxy contests, shareholders, antitrust. Recognized by Benchmark Litigation as a Litigation Star, Michael has served as lead counsel in dozens of jury and bench trials on behalf of aviation, consumer electronics, retail, sports, entertainment, automotive clients. Michael is a member of our firm's Executive Committee, a past chair of Akerman's Equality and Inclusion Committee, a fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, and the chair of Friends of South Florida Autism.



**Miles L.  
PLASKETT**

Duane Morris LLP  
Partner  
Corporate/Project Finance and Development

Georgetown University; Georgetown University Law Center

Miles L. Plaskett is a partner at the law firm of Duane Morris LLP, resident in its Miami office. Mr. Plaskett focuses his practice on corporate, municipal and project finance, with an emphasis on renewable energy, infrastructure and development projects in the U.S., the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Caribbean and Latin America. Mr. Plaskett represents corporate, municipal, utilities and private and sovereign investor and sponsor clients. He is also a member of the firm's Cuba Business Group. Among his transactions, Mr. Plaskett has represented Goldman Sachs Lending Partners in a \$1.1 billion financing to restart an oil refinery in the U.S. Virgin Islands and advised a large institutional investor in its \$1.3 billion investment in Freeport LNG's \$4 billion construction project to build the first two trains of its natural gas liquefaction and LNG loading facility on Quintana Island near Freeport, Texas.



**Nicole  
DUMANGANE**

UnitedHealth Group, Inc.  
Senior Associate General Counsel  
Healthcare Law

J.D., The College of William and Mary - Marshall Wythe Law School, B.A., American University

Nicole Dumangane is a Senior Associate General Counsel at UnitedHealth Group. She is a strategic and analytical attorney with strong leadership experience. Her practice areas include Healthcare Law in the Government Program areas, Privacy Security, IP and Marketing. Lead counsel for Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, and North Carolina Medicaid Health Plans as well as Privacy lead counsel. She has been with the company for the last 12 years. Before this, she spent 7 years as a Regulatory Compliance Attorney at The Federal Communications Commission - Frye Williams PC.



**Nikki Lewis  
SIMON**

Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
Shareholder and Chief Diversity Officer  
Litigation

J.D. (cum laude), University of Miami School of Law, B.S. (cum laude), Florida A&M University

Nikki Lewis Simon, a commercial litigator with more than 20 years of experience, primarily serves as Greenberg Traurig's Chief Diversity Officer. As part of this evolving role, Nikki is the firm's executive-level diversity and inclusion strategist, working to align the firm's diversity and inclusion initiatives and programming with client needs, as well as the needs of the firm and our communities. Nikki collaborates enterprise-wide as an integral component of the firm to ensure our core value of inclusion informs the firm's operations and legal business in meaningful, positive ways.



**Odell  
HORTON, Jr.**

Wyatt Tarrant & Combs LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Litigation and Government  
Affairs

J.D., University of Tennessee College of  
Law, B.A., Morehouse College

Odell Horton, Jr. is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Service Team. He concentrates his practice in the areas of governmental affairs, municipal law, commercial litigation, healthcare litigation and entertainment law. Mr. Horton assists businesses with navigating governmental issues, contracts, workforce issues, and litigation and also has experience in conducting general and healthcare/research investigations. In addition, Mr. Horton represents and provides counsel, including contract review, to artists and management companies in the entertainment industry. He Chairs the Firm's Diversity Committee. Mr. Horton is Vice Chair of the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility. He is the Former President and General Counsel of the Pink Palace Family of Museums Board of Trustees and a member of the Board of Trustees of Elmwood Cemetery.



**Pilar  
CABALLERO**

Ryder System, Inc.  
Vice President, Chief Compliance  
Officer & Chief Privacy Officer, Deputy  
General Counsel  
Compliance

J.D., Stetson University College of Law,  
(cum laude), B.S., University of Florida

Pilar Caballero is the Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer & Chief Privacy Officer, Deputy General Counsel for Ryder System, Inc., a Fortune 500 global commercial fleet management, dedicated transportation and supply chain solutions company. The Company, founded in 1933, operates behind the scenes, managing critical transportation and logistics functions for more than 50,000 customers, many of which make the products that consumers use every day. Ryder employs more than 40,000 people, manages a fleet of more than 250,000 commercial vehicles, and operates over 50 million square feet of warehouse space. Before joining the company she acted as a Senior Director, Global Corporate at Biogen. Earlier in her career she held multiple Attorney positions at companies like Jackson Lewis LLP or Thompspon, Sizemore & Gonzalez.



**Raedtha  
VASQUEZ**

Jones Walker LLP  
Partner  
Real Estate

J.D., BCL, Louisiana State University  
Paul M. Hebert Law Center, 2002 ; BA,  
Louisiana State University, 1997

Rae represents clients in a broad range of commercial, finance, and real estate transactions. Rae advises clients on a variety of commercial transactions, including real estate matters, corporate transactions, and construction lending in connection with affordable housing transactions. She is among the first Hispanic female partners in Jones Walker 80-year history, and has been recognized since 2014 as a "Rising Star" in the area of real estate in Louisiana Super Lawyers. She leads the Jones Walker Baton Rouge office's recruiting program and is active with the diversity committee. In the community, Rae currently serves as the board chair of Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, and currently serves on the board of directors for the Knock Knock Children's Museum and LSU's National Diversity Advisory Board. In 2010, Rae was recognized as a Forty Under 40 honoree by the Baton Rouge Business Report and most recently as a 2019 Influential Women in Business honoree. Rae is a graduate of the Baton Rouge Area Leadership Program, the Council for a Better Louisiana's Leadership Louisiana, and Business Report's Executive Leadership Academy.



**Rainer  
LORENZO**

Viacom International Media Networks  
VP, Business and Legal Affairs  
Entertainment

Harvard Business School – Executive  
Education (2019), Master in Law,  
ICADE-Spain 2000, JD, UCAB-  
Venezuela 1998.

Rainer Lorenzo began his professional career in 1996. While in Caracas, Venezuela, he worked as a Junior Associate for Baker & Mc. Kenzie, an International Law Firm. After leaving the firm, Mr. Lorenzo gained employment as a Legal Counsel for the Venezuelan National Telecommunication Commission. He remained there for over a year before he became Senior Director of Legal & Business Affairs for the award winning, entertainment leader, known globally as HBO Latin America. After over a decade of dedicated service to HBO, Mr. Lorenzo became Vice President, Business Affairs for Viacom International Media Networks where he remains today.



**Raja J.  
PATIL**

Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP  
Partner  
Banking and Financial Institutions

J.D., Washington University School of  
Law, M.B.A., Washington University,  
Olin School of Business, B.A., Vanderbilt  
University

Raja is the Chair of the Hotel, Hospitality, and Franchising Practice Group. He has a multidisciplinary practice that concentrates on commercial real estate, finance, mergers and acquisitions, franchising, general contract and business law. He regularly negotiates and documents for financings, leases, corporate formation and restructuring, mergers and acquisitions. Raja assists clients ranging from relatively small start-up companies to large publicly traded corporations. He counsels clients in a variety of industries, including hotels and hospitality, financial institutions, retail, software development, senior and post-acute care facilities, healthcare, real estate development, franchising and distribution, restaurant, energy and natural resources and manufacturing. In addition to his law practice, Raja is an active member of various organizations including The Asian American Hotel Owners Association, The Indian Professional Council, Louisville Bar Association, American Bar Association.



**Raoul  
CANTERO**

White & Case LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard University, B.A., Florida State University

Former Justice Raoul Cantero leads White & Case's Miami Disputes Practice. He is board-certified in appellate practice and is ranked Band 1 by Chambers USA in Florida Appellate Practice. Mr. Cantero has represented many global clients at the trial and appellate levels, specializing in complex, class-action, and high-profile litigation. In his 30 years as a lawyer, he has handled over 400 appeals.

Justice Cantero is consistently recognized in leading independent legal directories, including: named Miami Appellate Practice "Lawyer of the Year" by The Best Lawyers in America in 2017; listed as one of the "Top 500 Lawyers" in the US by LawDragon in 2016; has ranked in "Band 1" Florida Litigation: Appellate by Chambers USA every year since 2012.



**Reginald  
HENDERSON**

Lowe's Companies, Inc.  
VP, Associate General Counsel

LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., University of Arkansas School of Law, B.A., Hendrix College

Reginald Henderson joined Lowe's, a Fortune 40 retailer, in 2007 and led large legal practice teams for several years focusing on commercial and consumer law, employment law, government contracts, and law department administration. Reginald then transitioned to the human resources department for two years to lead the company's talent management function. Reginald has now returned to the Legal and Government Affairs department to lead government relations where he is responsible for leading the strategic development and management of the company's relationships with international, federal, state and local government policymakers and influencers to enable Lowe's efficient delivery of the right products to customers and strengthen the company's brand. SAVOY magazine recently named Reginald among the Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America and among the Most Influential Black Lawyers.



**Rochelle  
NUNEZ**

Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.  
Partner  
Nursing Home Litigation

J.D., St. Thomas University, 2009, B.A., University of Miami, 2002

Rochelle Nunez focuses her practice on nursing home litigation, long-term care, health care, medical malpractice, and general civil litigation. Ms. Nunez is admitted to practice in the State of Florida. She is a member of the Dade County Bar Association, American Bar Association, Hispanic National Bar Association, and Florida Association of Women Lawyers.

While in law school, Ms. Nunez received the highest grade award in Contract Law, Trial Advocacy Practice, and Art of Lawyering. She served as Vice President of Membership for Moot Court, Chair of the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review, Vice Justice of Phi Alpha Delta, and Treasurer of the Student Bar Association. Ms. Nunez was distinguished for her leadership and community service in 2008, receiving a scholarship award from the Florida Association of Women Lawyers.

Prior to joining Cole, Scott & Kissane, Ms. Nunez was a Certified Legal Intern for the Appellate Division of the Public Defender's Office in Dade County, where she received exceptional training in litigation. Ms. Nunez also interned at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to conduct extensive research on finance for development.



**Roger M.  
GOODE**

Sam's Club  
Sr. Associate General Counsel, Walmart, Inc.  
Transactions, eCommerce, Marketing, Merchandise

J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill, 1990, MBA, Goizueta Business School - Emory University, 2002, B.A., NC State University, 1986

Legal support to various Sam's Club business units, including, Merchandise, Pricing, Global Sourcing, Marketing, Member Services, E-Commerce, Innovations, Corporate Communications and Credit Services. Currently serving in the following organizations: National Bar Association Commercial Law Section (Officer); Leadership Council for Legal Diversity (2012 Fellow); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Arkansas (Board of Directors) and the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences - N.C. State University.



**Shalanna L.  
PIRTLE**

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP  
Partner  
Employment & Labor

J.D., University of Georgia, B.A., Indiana University

Shalanna Pirtle represents management-side clients in all industries and aspects of the employment relationship. An analytical counselor with intuitive problem-solving skills, she concentrates her practice in the areas of employment counseling, internal investigations, and litigation.

A trusted business advisor, Shalanna offers insightful guidance to clients making critical decisions that impact both employee relations and legal risk management. She is highly regarded for her innate ability to develop cost-effective solutions that are tailored to fit the needs of each client.

She is chair of Parker Poe's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. In that role, she leads initiatives to improve the diversity and inclusion within the firm and the legal profession at large.

Prior to joining Parker Poe, Shalanna worked for several years as a corporate trainer for one of the largest international dining restaurant companies.



**Shaun  
WILLIE**

Macy's, Inc.  
Senior Counsel  
Transactional Law

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law, B.E., Manhattan College

I am a versatile attorney with extensive experience in transactional and contract law supporting procurement, IT, marketing, operations, Intellectual Property (IP), transportation, construction, real estate, employment and maintenance. I have been recognized for my ability to develop effective client relationships to create open and direct dialog for addressing companies' and clients' needs. I collaborate with business leaders to provide effective counsel and direction for new and existing initiatives. I have been lead counsel for regulatory matters and major client programs. I have leveraged engineering experience to counsel clients in areas of construction, procurement, maintenance and technical agreements. I am always focused on protecting the company's brand and interests in the market.



**Sherica  
BRYAN**

Del Monte Fresh Produce N.A., Inc  
AVP, Associate General Counsel,  
Employment & Compliance  
Employment

J.D., University of Florida, B.A.,  
Universidad de Cantabria

Sherica Bryan is the AVP, Associate General Counsel, Employment & Compliance at Del Monte Fresh Produce. She offers labor and employment law advice and counsels to human resources and various members of management. Ms. Bryan is responsible for counseling and training business partners in connection with lawsuit prevention and compliance with to Title VII, FLSA, FMLA, ADA, ADEA, OSHA and similar state laws. She advises management on handling employment-related emergencies and high profile events. Works with internal business partners to draft and negotiate employment, severance, and non-compete agreements as well as other employment-related agreements.



**Sherry D.  
WILLIAMS**

Jabil Inc.  
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel  
and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer  
Compliance, litigation, corporate  
governance, leadership development

J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
1992; B.A., University of Oklahoma

Sherry is an experienced executive with a strong track record of leveraging legal and regulatory expertise to facilitate business growth. In senior legal and compliance roles, she has provided C-level executives and Boards of Directors with the strategic and practical guidance necessary to achieve company goals while actively mitigating legal risks and managing budgets. She is a compassionate leader with a unique ability to cultivate a culture of trust and integrity and motivate employees for more engaged teams. Sherry is a big picture strategic thinker who can communicate persuasively and work effectively cross-functionally. Sherry is originally from Ft. Worth, Texas and is the mother of nine year old Sloane Williams.



**Shontaia  
RILEY**

Express Scripts, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., Saint Louis University School of  
Law, B.S., Washington University in St.  
Louis

Shontaia Riley is an Assistant General Counsel at Express Scripts. She joined the company in 2015 as Senior Legal Counsel. Earlier in her career she served as an Attorney at companies like Lashly & Baer, P.C. and also Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C. Before starting her legal career she was active in the medical field, working as a Clinical Supervisor and an Emergency Medical Technician.



**Sidney C.  
CALLOWAY**

Shutts & Bowen LLP  
Partner  
Civil Trial Law, Government Affairs and  
Local Government Law, Land Use &  
Zoning

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis,  
1988, B.A., Florida State University,  
1985

A longtime Martindale-Hubbell AV<sup>®</sup>-rated and recognized Florida Super Lawyer, Sidney Calloway is a Leadership Florida Cornerstone XXX member. He is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law, a distinction accorded to less than 2% of Florida's lawyers. Mr. Calloway's practice includes complex, high-exposure litigation in state and federal court, with expertise in eminent domain, economic development and land use and zoning matters. He currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Shutts Government Law Practice Group, the Chair-Elect of the Urban League of Broward County, and mostly recent served on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Calloway also serves on the Board of Directors for the Port Everglades Association and the BB&T Advisory Board.



**Sonia  
ZELEDON**

Nokia Corporation  
Regional Counsel–Americas BIG  
Compliance, investigations, regulatory

University of Miami School of Law and  
Wellesley College

Sonia Zeledon is the Regional Counsel for Nokia – Business Integrity Group- Americas and advises on complex transactional and litigation issues of the highest risk and conducts multi-jurisdiction internal investigations. She has over 15 years working on complex financial fraud cases both at major international law firm and in-house. Prior to Nokia, Sonia has held positions both in-house and at law firms. At her previous in-house roles, Sonia had oversight in the day to day operations of the company’s global regulatory and compliance program. She collaborated with businesses, regions and departments to raise awareness and compliance with the global program. Sonia graduated from the University of Miami School of law and obtained her BA from Wellesley College.



**Tammy D.  
NICHOLSON**

BB & T Corporation  
Senior Vice President and Associate  
General Counsel  
Banking/Financial Institution

J.D., North Carolina Central University  
School of Law, (with honors), B.S.B.A.,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill

Tammy Nicholson is a member of the Lending Practice Group at BB&T. In her role at BB&T, she provides legal support to the Credit Card and Commercial Lending Groups and serves as the Co-Chair of the Legal Department’s Diversity and Inclusion Council. Also, she serves as Treasurer of the North Carolina Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section and is a 2015 Fellow of LCLD (Leadership Council on Legal Diversity).



**Tanya  
REED DEDO**

Office Depot, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
B.A., University of Central Florida

Tanya Reed Dedo is the Assistant General Counsel at Office Depot. She took this position in 2014. Before this she acted as an Associate at Gunster Yoakley and also at Panza, Maurer & Maynard, P.A.



**Thomas  
EVANS**

XPO Logistics, Inc.  
Senior Vice President, North American  
Transportation, CounselTransportation

J.D., Washington and Lee University  
School of Law, B.A., Trinity University

Thomas Evans is the Senior Vice President, North American Transportation, Counsel at XPO Logistics, Inc. Before this she served as Of Counsel at Conner & Winters. Previously, she spent 15 years at Walmart serving as Vice President & General Counsel.



**Tiffani G  
LEE**

Holland & Knight LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
(cum laude), B.S., University of Florida,  
(with honors)

Tiffani G. Lee is a partner in Holland & Knight’s Miami office and a member of the firm’s South Florida Litigation Group. She concentrates her practice in the area of complex commercial litigation in the state and federal courts of Florida. She is experienced in handling contract disputes, corporate dissolution actions, securities fraud actions, shareholder derivative actions and actions alleging various business torts. Ms. Lee tries cases in the state and federal courts of Florida.

Ms. Lee has been involved in the firm’s diversity and inclusion initiatives throughout her career at the firm. Since 2009, she has served as the firmwide Diversity Partner. In that capacity, she leads the Diversity Council and serves on the firm’s Practice & Operations Committee and Partner Compensation Committee.



**Tizgel  
HIGH**

LifePoint Health Vice President,  
Associate General Counsel  
Healthcare Law

J.D., University of Georgia School of  
Law, B.A., Princeton University

Mr. High provides legal counsel to LifePoint Health's employed physician practices and to the physician services department "to ensure awareness of and compliance with all applicable laws and company policies and procedures," according to LifePoint Health. She provides legal guidance and support on various matters, including healthcare operational and regulatory issues, physician and business arrangements.

Prior to LifePoint Health, Ms. High was operations counsel at Franklin-based Community Health Systems. In that role, she was responsible for providing legal counsel on hospital operations issues for CHS-affiliated hospitals in eight states.

She is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association and currently is vice chairwoman of the In House Counsel Practice Group. She also is a founding board member of Intrepid College Preparatory School and is vice chairwoman of the board of directors.



**Tonya  
WILKES MOORE**

Darden Restaurants, Inc.  
Vice President, Associate General  
Counsel - Compensation, Benefits and  
Mandated Leaves  
Compensation

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law  
School, B.A., DePaul University

Tonya Wilkes Moore is a seasoned attorney with 15+ years of global experience handling HR concerns for technology, banking, and non-profit organizations as well as Fortune 100 clients. She leverages deep knowledge of benefits, executive compensation, and employment law to resolve issues quickly and effectively. Ms. Moore is uniquely experienced in managing benefits, employment issues and employment agreements for a changing global workforce. She possesses an LLM in Employee Benefits.



**Tressa  
COPENHAVER**

Equifax Inc.  
Vice President & Group Counsel  
Commercial Law

J.D., University of Arizona, James E.  
Rogers College of Law, B.A., University  
of Arizona

Tressa Copenhaver is Assistant General Counsel for Equifax Inc. where she provides business-focused legal advice to senior leadership in sales, marketing, and operations on all aspects of commercial law and support for day-to-day business matters.

She provides strategic direction and leadership on sophisticated, complex enterprise deals and her flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and organizational needs makes her a trusted business partner.

Prior to joining Equifax, Tressa was a well respected member of the legal departments at ADP, Inc. and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. She is an active member of the Georgia Asian and Pacific American Bar Association and enjoys volunteering with Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta.



**Valecia  
MCDOWELL**

Moore & Van Allen, PLLC

Valecia McDowell is the Co-Head of MVA's White Collar, Regulatory Defense and Investigations practice with experience in conducting internal investigations for publicly-traded, privately-held and non-profit institutions in the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America.

McDowell possesses trial, arbitration, regulatory defense experience in high-stakes cases, including financial services, securities, manufacturing, telecommunications and healthcare industries.

To name a few, McDowell's representations include leading a review of consumer sales practices for a national bank; defending a privately held mortgage company against false claims allegations; leading an international investigation into allegations of public corruption; conducting a highly publicized investigation for the City of Charlotte

McDowell is recognized by Chambers Partners USA, Best Lawyers in America, NC Super Lawyers, Benchmark Litigation, Litigation Counsel of America and Legal Elite for excellence in the practice of the law.



**Valencia  
PORTER**

Waffle House, Inc.  
Vice President & Employment Counsel  
Employment

J.D., Mercer University - Walter F.  
George School of Law, B.E., University  
of South Florida

Valencia Porter serves as the Vice President & Employment Counsel of Waffle House, Inc. Valencia started at Waffle House, Inc. She was appointed in this position 21 years ago. in April of 1998. Valencia currently resides in the Greater Atlanta Area.



**Veronica Hayes  
GROMADA**

Walmart Stores, Inc.  
Senior Associate General Counsel II and  
Section Head - Tort Litigation  
Litigation

J.D., Texas Southern University—  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, B.A.,  
Lamar University

Veronica Hayes Gromada is the Senior Associate General Counsel II and Section Head of the Litigation Support Group for Walmart Stores. Veronica leads a diverse team of more than sixty legal professionals with nationwide and some international responsibilities for developing and executing knowledge management and discovery strategies for Legal and Global Investigations across the Walmart enterprise. She provides legal and advice and counsel to drive consistency across class actions, commercial/IP, employment, products and premises liability. Veronica relies on cross-functional collaboration with company stakeholders in Global Governance, Walmart Technology, Human Resources, and business teams to develop best practices around information governance, e-discovery, and cross-border discovery. Her passion for diversity and inclusion is fueled by her conviction to ensure that talented people are positioned to succeed, and the belief that doing so breeds excellence.



**William D.  
PURNELL**

SPX Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel  
Litigation

J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School,  
B.A., Tougaloo College

William Purnell is Assistant General Counsel at SPX Corporation. His responsibilities include providing legal counsel to SPX and its subsidiaries in North America primarily focused on claims and litigation. He supervises staff of litigation managers responsible for day-to-day oversight of claims and litigation, and directly manages significant litigation. Assists and advises Senior Business Counsel on issues related to commercial, contract, product liability, environmental and other litigation and consumer products safety matters. Mr. Purnell manages internal team and external national coordinating council with respect to toxic tort and related insurance coverage matters. His responsibilities also include working with Accounting and Risk Management to establish appropriate reserves on a quarterly and annual basis.



**William  
LANGSTON**

Hertz Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel  
Finance

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., Rice University

William Langston is the Assistant General Counsel at Hertz. He has been in this position for the last 7 years. In this position he reports to General Counsel, interacts routinely with the board of directors and senior executive officers and manages team of legal professionals. He supports senior management and various departments, including investor relations, accounting, finance, tax, franchise operations, real estate and human resources. Before joining the company he acted as an Associate for companies like Morgan, Lewis and Bockius and also Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP.



**William K.  
WHITNER**

Paul Hastings LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Yale Law School, 1996, B.A.,  
Georgetown University (honors)

William K Whitner is a Partner with Paul Hastings. He serves as the Global Co-Chair of the Complex Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group. He also serves as the Global Co-Chair of the Firm's Diversity Council. Routinely handling "bet the company" cases for global and national companies in federal, state and arbitration tribunals at the trial and appellate levels, his practice focuses on business litigation with a particular emphasis on complex corporate matters. Named a Best Lawyers' "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" and a Best Lawyers' "Georgia Lawyer of the Year"; identified by Georgia Super Lawyers as one of the "Top 100 Attorneys in Georgia"; named a Legal Eagle by Franchise Times; and recognized as a leading litigation lawyer in Euromoney's Benchmark: America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys.



**Yami  
HURTADO**

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.  
Senior Manager, Employment &  
Litigation Counsel  
Employment

J.D., The George Washington University  
Law School, M.A., Florida International  
University, B.A., Florida International  
University

Yami Hurtado is the Senior Manager, Employment & Litigation Counsel at Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Before this, she worked as an Associate for various law firms like K&L Gates and Patton Boggs LLP.



**Yendelela Neely  
HOLSTON**

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP  
Partner / Chief Diversity & Inclusion  
Officer  
Labor and employment

Duke University School of Law

Yendelela Neely Holston is a partner with and the first Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer (CDIO) for Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. Yendelela has spent her entire career advising corporations and helping businesses meet their objectives while minimizing risk and liability. She litigates and counsels clients in the areas of employment discrimination, occupational safety and health, wage and hour, background checks, and credit reporting. In addition to her practice, Yendelela has worked extensively to increase diversity within the legal profession and equality of access for all people. Yendelela has enhanced her legal practice with substantial board experience. She is the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Furman University and a member of the board of directors of Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Jumpstart, and Families First.



**Youhao  
DONG**

Sealed Air Corporation  
Associate General Counsel and Assistant  
Secretary  
Corporate Governance; Corporate  
Finance; Securities Regulations

J.D., Rutgers School of Law - Newark,  
2007 (honors, order of the coif), B.S.,  
Utah State University, 1996

As Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Sealed Air Corporation, Youhao Dong manages legal matters in the areas of Corporate Governance, Securities Regulation and Corporate Finance. Prior to his current position, Mr. Dong served as Division Counsel – Product Care at Sealed Air, overseeing legal matters of the company's Product Care division. Mr. Dong joined Sealed Air from Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, where his practice focused on capital markets and securities law matters, as well as financing transactions.

# Congratulations to our partner **JULIAN CHUNG** and all of the Honorees named to Lawyers of Color's Nation's Best List

Fried Frank advises the world's leading corporations, investment funds and financial institutions on their most critical legal needs and business opportunities. The Firm's approximately 500 lawyers are based in North America and Europe.

At Fried Frank, we believe a robust diversity and inclusion initiative isn't just good for our diverse population, but good for everyone. We welcome—and actively look for—diverse perspectives. Our open-minded and progressive environment fosters an inclusive and professional atmosphere that builds on the strengths and potential of everyone.

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## Congratulations, Jerry Allen!

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NATION'S  
BEST  
SOUTHWEST  
REGION



**N**ation's Best Honorees had a magnificent time at the Southwest Region Reception held in Dallas and hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP where Aaron Chibli welcomed guests. Remarks were offered by Lawyers of Color's Southwest representative, Scotty Culbert, as well as Elsa Manzanares of Akerman LLP and Otis Grisby and Rhonda Matthews Ware of Major, Lindsey & Africa. (Photo credit: Eva Coleman).















**Akshar  
PATEL**

FlowsERVE Corporation  
Vice President, Associate General  
Counsel - Corporate & Commercial,  
Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Corporate & Commercial Law

J.D., Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law, B.A., Southern  
Methodist University - Cox School of  
Business

Akshar Patel is the Vice President, Associate General Counsel - Corporate & Commercial, Assistant Corporate Secretary at FlowsERVE Corporation. He reports directly to General Counsel and leads international team responsible for all aspects of Commercial legal matters, SEC compliance, financial reporting and strategic transactions. Provides legal support to the senior executive team, governance, investor relations, tax and treasury functions within the Company. Also, he is directly responsible for legal support of operational teams in domestic and international mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, large commercial contracts, corporate finance and structuring functions. Serves as assistant corporate secretary, which includes leading the team responsible for preparing and distributing board meeting materials and regularly preparing, reviewing and delivering board-level presentations.



**Alaina  
KING BENFORD**

Jordan, Lynch & Cancienne PLLC  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law,  
B.A., Texas Southern University

Alaina King Benford is a trial-tested litigator with nearly two decades of experience trying cases in state and federal courts. Clients of all sizes turn to her as a trusted advisor based on her experience in multi-party cases involving complex disputes across a range of industries including the energy, mining, commodities and transportation sectors.

Alaina is part of a small group of lawyers in Texas with extensive experience representing entities involved in acquiring easements, property and rights-of-way for large projects involving pipelines, water pipelines and transportation projects. After advocating for clients in more than 100 eminent domain and condemnation matters from project inception through trial, it's no wonder that international and national energy companies, governmental entities and property owners turn to and rely on Alaina's insight and experience.



**Alex  
ARELLANO**

American Airlines Center  
General Counsel  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law, B.A., Southern  
Methodist University

Alex Arellano is currently the General Counsel at the American Airlines Center. Previously a member of Winstead's Corporate, Securities/Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Group, his practice focused on counseling private and public companies in general corporate matters as well as mergers and acquisitions. He also provided representation to various sports clients in connection with corporate and commercial issues. At his previous position with Oversys LLC, he dealt with numerous complex regulatory, compliance and contract issues, managed employees in both the U.S and Latin America, and negotiated cross-border business deals. Much of his daily work involved navigating manufacturer—representative relationships around the U.S. and Europe.

**Alexander  
WHITE**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Manager, Advisory – Consumer Markets

M.B.A., The University of Texas at  
Austin – Red McCombs School of  
Business, B.A., University of California,  
Berkeley

Alexander White currently serves as Advisory Manager at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers. Alexander is a relationship leader adept at collaborating with clients across multiple industries (Life Sciences, Consumer Goods, Utilities, Energy, and Government) and functions (Marketing, Sales, HR, Supply Chain, Operations, and Finance). He is a People-Centric Collaborator proficient at managing executive-level relationships, driving the work of 5+ member teams, and coordinating with external groups in order to create sustainable, client-centric solutions. He has a value focused with a passion for developing data-driven strategies to enhance organizational effectiveness and enterprise performance.



**Alvin  
BENTON**

Capital One Financial Corporation  
Director, Assistant General Counsel  
Financial Services, Loss Mitigation,  
Bankruptcy

J.D., Florida A&M University College  
of Law, 2007 (cum laude); B.A., Florida  
A&M University, 2002 (magna cum  
laude)

Alvin is licensed to practice law in Florida, Texas and New York, and spent roughly eight years as an associate attorney at an AMLaw50 law firm practicing in the areas of bankruptcy litigation and general business litigation prior to joining Capital One. During his time in private practice, Alvin was continuously involved in his firms' pro bono and diversity and inclusion efforts.

Alvin was a recipient of the FAMU Quasquicentennial Alumni Award by Florida A&M University and the "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Under 40" award by the National Bar Association and IMPACT. Alvin was named as Rising Star for the Florida SuperLawyers publication (2012, 2013), Rising Star for the Texas SuperLawyers publication (2014), and was the recipient of the Orange County Bar Association New Attorney Award of Excellence for his pro bono service in the Central Florida area. Alvin served as an Inaugural Fellow of the Florida Bar Leadership Academy and served as a member of 2015 Leadership Class of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

He has served as a panelist during the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges addressing many topics, and is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and the Association of Corporate Counsel. Alvin also volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club of Collin County, and serves as the co-chair of the Capital One Plano Office's Pro Bono Committee and a member of Capital One Legal Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Alvin was recently accepted into Capital One's Emerging Leader Development Program, a fast-paced, high-impact development program, where Capital One high potential associates will be given the opportunity to enhance and transform their leadership skills.



**Angela T.  
RICHARDS**

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Sidley Austin LLP  
Partner  
Tax

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
B.S., University of Texas at Austin

Angela Richards' practice includes experience in various federal income tax matters with an emphasis on domestic business transaction planning. She has significant experience advising publicly traded partnerships (MLPs) on capital formation, acquisition and recapitalization activities and has served as tax counsel to both issuers and underwriters in connection with numerous MLP initial public and follow-on offerings. Angela also advises clients on federal income tax issues in mergers and acquisitions, including tax-free reorganizations.

Angela has been acknowledged in numerous industry publications. Texas Monthly recognized her as a Texas Rising Star (2016–2017) and The Best Lawyers in America recognized her for Tax Law (2016–2017). Angela was featured as one of the leading Tax lawyers in the U.S. by The US Legal 500 (2015–2017). She was also named a Top Lawyer in Houston by Houstonia Magazine.



**Angela  
WILSON**

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Hallmark Cards  
Assistant General Counsel, Intellectual  
Property and Licensing  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of Arkansas School of  
Law, Fayetteville, B.A., University of  
Arkansas

Angela Wilson is the Assistant General Counsel at Hallmark Cards. She joined the company in 2019 and handles aspects regarding Intellectual Property and Licensing. Before this she spent 6 years at GSK as a Senior Counsel and 5 years as a Trademark Attorney at Parks Wood LLC.



**Aparna M.  
DAVE**

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Wells Fargo Bank  
Managing Counsel  
Intellectual Property & Marketing

J.D., South Texas College of Law, 2002,  
B.S. Houston Baptist University (double  
major), 1999

Aparna M. Dave is Managing Counsel in the Houston office of Wells Fargo Bank, which she joined in 2006. She leads the team that provides legal and strategic support on the company's brand marketing, global trademark and copyright portfolio and corporate communications matters.

Aparna served on the company's Legal Diversity & Inclusion Council and as its 2015 Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. She also served on the Texas Minority Counsel Program for ten years and is an active member of both the South Asian Bar Association and the International Trademark Association. She has received recognition and honors for her commitment to diversity and inclusion, leadership and mentorship including the National Bar Association's Diversity in Tech Award and the National Diversity Council's Top 50 Women Lawyers in Houston.



**Ba  
NGUYEN**

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C&J Energy Services  
Assistant General Counsel - Litigation  
Litigation

J.D., University of Texas School of Law,  
1996, B.A., Rice University, 1996

Ba Nguyen is the head of litigation for C&J Energy Services, a publicly-traded oilfield services company with operations throughout the U.S. Ba manages controversies across the Company's service lines and areas of operation, including matters involving contracts, tort and personal injury, labor/employment, trade secrets, indemnities, liens, collections, and insurance coverage. Previously, Ba represented plaintiffs and defendants in business and tort litigation at trial, appeal, and arbitration and was recognized as a Texas "Super Lawyer" and, prior to that, a Texas "Rising Star".



**Bethel  
QUANDER**

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Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Managing Counsel Mergers,  
Acquisitions and Divestments  
Acquisitions

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., The University of Texas at  
Austin

Bethel Quander is the Managing Counsel, Mergers, Acquisitions and Divestment (Exxon Mobil Corporation). She has been in this position since 1996.



**Bipasha  
MUKHERJEE**

Cinemark Holdings, Inc.  
Vice President-Associate General  
Counsel  
Corporate & Securities

J.D., Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law, 2002, M.A.,  
Tulane University, 1996, M.A., Jadavpur  
University (India), 1990, B.A., Jadavpur  
University (India), 1988

Bipasha Mukherjee is Vice President-Associate General Counsel at Cinemark Holdings, Inc., a leading domestic and international motion picture exhibitor, headquartered in Plano, Texas. Ms. Mukherjee's practice areas include corporate transactions, securities law, corporate governance, executive compensation, privacy and cybersecurity. Since 2018, she has also been co-chair of Cinemark's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She was selected by the National Diversity Council to be in the 2017 Top 50 General Counsels in Dallas and the 2017 Top 50 Multicultural Lawyers in Dallas.

Ms. Mukherjee earned her J.D. from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in 2002, a M.A. in International Relations from Tulane University and her B.A. and M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India.



**Brad Y.  
CHIN**

Bracewell LLP  
Partner, Chair of Intellectual Property  
Group  
Intellectual Property

LL.M., Intellectual Property, Franklin  
Pierce Law Center, 2003, J.D., Franklin  
Pierce Law Center, 2003, B.S. Chemical  
Engineering, Texas A&M University,  
1997

Brad Chin is a registered patent attorney who represents clients in the energy and high-tech industries. His practice focuses on patent and trademark procurement and enforcement, licensing and technology transfer, invalidity, non-infringement and freedom-to-operate opinions, post-grant review proceedings, IP DFARS/FARS government contracting compliance, and corporate due diligence. Brad prosecutes patents in the chemical, electrical and mechanical arts. He also represents clients in intellectual property litigation matters before state and federal courts. Prior to entering private practice, Brad served as a patent examiner for the USPTO and as an intellectual property manager and counsel at Raytheon Company. Before entering the legal profession, he was a technology licensing manager for Texas A&M University and a multi-disciplined process engineer at Raytheon Company. Brad is a certified Six Sigma Green Belt specialist.



**Brittany  
PEREZ**

Match Group  
VP, Associate General Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Brittany Perez is vice president and associate general counsel at Match Group, the global leader in dating. Ms. Perez currently supports popular Match Group brands Tinder and PlentyOfFish on matters relating to new product initiatives, marketing and public relations (including digital and offline advertising, influencer campaigns, product placements, content production and talent engagement), trademark and intellectual property enforcement matters, general legal compliance, end-user agreements and vendor contract review. Prior to joining Match Group, Brittany was an associate at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in the mergers and acquisitions group. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin and her Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center.



**Buena Vista  
LYONS**

Ford Harrison LLP  
Partner  
Employment Litigation

J.D., University of Texas School of Law,  
B.A., Cornell University

Buena Vista Lyons has focused her practice on exclusively defending management in employment litigation matters for over 20 years.

In addition to her national litigation practice, Vista also regularly provides advice and training to managers on state and federal employment compliance issues and regulations, workplace investigations, anti-harassment/discrimination policies and complaint procedures, and effective management techniques to minimize the risk of disputes and litigation.

Vista is also actively involved in her community and local bar associations. She served as a Director of the Dallas Bar Association in 2004 and 2005, and as President of the J.L. Turner Legal Association in 2005. She currently serves on the board of directors of two local non-profit organizations, Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and Beacon Hill Preparatory Institute.



**Carmen  
NG**

Sysco Corporation  
Vice President & Associate General  
Counsel, Transactions  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
M.S., Baylor University, B.S., Baylor  
University

Carmen Ng is the Vice President, Mergers & Acquisitions at Sysco Corporation. She joined the company in 2011, assuming various positions. Before this she acted as an Attorney at Winstead PC and also a Counsel at Tanox Inc.



**Carolyn Benton  
AIMAN**

Shell Oil Company  
Managing Counsel Capital Projects  
CONSTRUCTION, EPC, SUPPLY  
CHAIN, PRE-LITIGATION  
CLAIMS AND DISPUTES

University of Missouri

Carolyn Benton Aiman is a trusted member of Shell's senior extended legal leadership team, with business, transactional and litigation experience. She has proven people and project management skills, with a strong commercial mindset, outstanding cultural awareness and ability to quickly adapt to new situations and manage deep learning curves as needed to identify critical issues of focus and sharp decision-making.

Leader accountability includes oversight of work supporting global supply chain for contracting and procurement of Shell capital expenditures. Direct management responsibility of a team of 10, located in three countries, with additional functional accountability and indirect accountability for work across the global in other countries in which Shell operates.



**Carolyn  
LAM**

Stream Home  
Vice President - Associate General  
Counsel  
Generalist

J.D., Cumberland School of Law  
(2006), B.A., University of Alabama-  
Birmingham 2003

Prior to joining Stream Home, Carolyn was Senior Labor & Employment Counsel for PLH Group, Inc. At PLH Group, Carolyn spent four years assisting her business partners in navigating numerous sensitive issues, including mergers and acquisitions, labor and benefits issues, government investigations, and litigation. Prior to going in-house, she practiced at a national defense labor & employment boutique firm.

Ms. Lam serves on the Board of Directors of the National Employment Law Council and co-chairs the NELC Academy. Ms. Lam is also an active member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Dallas Asian American Bar Association.

Before moving to Dallas, Ms. Lam practiced in Birmingham, AL, where she received a Distinguished Service Award from the Birmingham Bar and the Multicultural Friendship Award from the Birmingham Urban League.



**Catosha  
WOODS**

Houston ISD  
Deputy General Counsel  
Employment

J.D., University of California, Berkeley -  
School of Law, B.A., Tuskegee University

Catosha Woods serves as Deputy General Counsel at Houston ISD. She joined the company 6 years ago. In this position she provides legal advice on implementation of key educational initiatives, high-profile investigations and high-profile employment decisions. She also coordinates and approves responses to investigations and inquiries by government agencies, elected officials, and media. Before joining the company she acted as an Attorney at Kazan Law Firm.



**Chanekka "Nikki"  
BUCKINGHAM**

Regional Operations Counsel  
Health Care

J.D., University of Arkansas School of  
Law, Fayetteville, B.A., Pacific University

Chanekka Buckingham serves as a Regional Operations Counsel at Tenet Healthcare. She has been in this position since 2017. Before this, she spent 4 years as a Senior Attorney at SSM Health. This role included: providing advice on regulatory, compliance, risk management issues, medical staff issues and other operational and legal matters; interpreting legislation and legal documents; advising management of legal matters and providing guidance on health care fraud and abuse laws.



**Christine A.  
POMPA**

YETI Coolers  
Director, Intellectual Property  
Counsel Intellectual Property

J.D., DePaul University College of Law,  
2004 (cum laude), B.A., Wayne State  
University, 2001

Christine Pompa is the Director of Intellectual Property at YETI Coolers in Austin, Texas, where she is responsible for the management and oversight of all aspects of YETI's global intellectual property portfolio. Prior to joining YETI, Christine was the lead patent lawyer responsible for managing The Kraft Heinz Company's global patent portfolio and negotiating a wide range of technology agreements. Before joining Kraft Heinz, Christine was a partner at Fitch Even Tabin & Flannery, a boutique IP firm

Christine has been recognized by Illinois Super Lawyers as a Rising Star from 2010 through 2016 and in 2018 she was selected as a Rising Star by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.



**Christine  
GUILLORY**

Ochsner Health System  
Associate General Counsel  
Health Care

J.D., University of Southern California  
Law School, B.A., Emory University

As the associate general counsel at Ochsner Health System—Louisiana’s largest nonprofit, academic healthcare system—Guillory’s clients are the more than 1,100 physicians spread across Ochsner’s thirty owned, managed, and affiliated hospitals. Risk management, litigation, and medical staff issues are the three divisions of Guillory’s work. She mitigates for loss and helps physicians restore trust with their patients after unanticipated events occur. She crafts policies and meets with groups about how to follow regulatory requirements.



**Dan  
CRANSHAW**

Polsinelli, P.C.  
Shareholder  
Commercial Litigation

J.D., University of Kansas School of Law,  
2003, A.B., Princeton University, 1991

Dan Cranshaw provides individual and business counsel for breach of contract, business torts, professional liability, personal injury disputes, and complex commercial litigation. Former roles in education, marketing, and legislation have provided Dan with a unique skillset that clients highly value. Dan serves as Chair of Polsinelli’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee, co-chairs the local chapter of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, and serves on the Board of Directors for School Smart Kansas City and the Urban Neighborhood Initiative. Dan also chairs Swope Community Enterprises, an organization committed to enhancing the urban core. Ranked in Benchmark Litigation, Dan was honored with the Missouri Lawyers Media 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Award. Dan is a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow Alum and a graduate of the Harvard University Accelerated Leadership Program.



**Daria  
RUSSELL**

Mattress Firm, Inc.  
Vice President, Senior Counsel

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A.,  
Southwestern University

Daria Russell is the Vice President and Senior Counsel/Assistant Secretary at Mattress Firm, Inc. She joined the company in 2015. Before this, she served as an Associate Attorney at Fullbright & Jaworski and also a Corporate Counsel at Cooper Industries.



**Demetra  
LIGGINS**

Thompson & Knight LLP  
Partner  
Bankruptcy and Restructuring

J.D., Cumberland School of Law at  
Samford University, 2000 (cum laude),  
B.S., Christian Brothers University, 1997  
(cum laude)

Demetra Liggins is a Bankruptcy and Restructuring attorney in Thompson & Knight’s Houston office. She has nearly two decades of experience representing large and small public and private companies. She is involved in numerous organizations, including Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation, Women’s Business Alliance, Greater Houston Partnership, Houston Bar Association, Cumberland Law School Advisory Board, and Women’s Energy Network. She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, American Bar Association, Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, and Texas Bar Foundation.

She has been named to The Best Lawyers in America®, Texas Super Lawyers®, Texas Rising Stars®, Houston’s “Top Lawyers” by H Texas magazine, and as a Law Firm Rainmaker by Diversity & the Bar. She was also featured in Law360’s Minority Powerbroker Q&A series.



**Dwight M.  
FRANCIS**

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton  
LLP  
Partner  
Business Litigation

J.D., The University of Virginia School  
of Law, 1992; B.A., Augusta University,  
1989.

Dwight handles class actions and other complex corporate litigation and has extensive courtroom experience. He defends and prosecutes disputes involving claims of tortious interference with contractual and business relations, directors and officers disputes and breach of fiduciary duty claims, among many others, in federal and state courts across the country. Dwight has significant experience defending class actions asserting violations of the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act, unfair competition, false advertising, and other business torts. He is member of the State Bar of Texas, the American and Dallas Bar Associations, and a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Dwight has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation, from 2016-2019, and received the Award of Excellence, from the Dallas Bar Association.



**Earsa R.  
JACKSON**

Clark Hill PLC  
Member, Chair of Franchise &  
Distribution  
Franchise

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Earsa Jackson is the Chair for Clark Hill Strasburger’s Franchise & Distribution team and the Chair of the firm’s Diversity Committee. Earsa structures franchises and assists franchisors with on-going transactional needs. Earsa also handles business and commercial litigation matters.

Earsa is a former Director of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Division for the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising. She is the co-author of Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments 2016 published by the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising (November 2016).

She was presented the 2019 “Ronald E. Harrison Diversity Award” by the International Franchise Association (IFA) at IFA’s 59th Annual Convention. The award recognizes businesses and individuals who have made significant contributions to diversity in franchising either within their own franchise organization or within the franchise community.



**Elia  
DIAZ-YAEGER**

Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin &  
Hubbard  
Shareholder  
Insurance Defense

J.D., Loyola University School of Law,  
1994, M.S., University of Southwestern  
Louisiana, 1989 (cum laude), B.S  
University of Southwestern Louisiana,  
1987 (cum laude)

The winner of the Chambers USA 2017 Women in Law Future Leader – Gender Diversity award, Elia Diaz-Yaeger’s primary areas of practice include industrial employment/long-latency lung disease litigation, insurance defense and coverage, environmental law, commercial litigation, and Board Governance/ Cybersecurity. In the last twenty years, Ms. Diaz-Yaeger has successfully defended thousands of occupational exposure claims, including exposure to asbestos and silica-containing products. She has served as defense counsel for insurers in commercial and residential property insurance cases resulting from hurricanes, hailstorms, and other first-party claims. Her experience enables her to provide clients with an early strategic plan, vigorous defense and efficient litigation. Certified in Cybersecurity Litigation, Mrs. Diaz-Yaeger trains clients on protecting themselves regarding the ever-growing risk of data breaches.



**Elsa  
MANZANARES**

Akerman LLP  
Partner, International Trade and  
Customs  
International Trade

J.D., University of Texas School of Law,  
2001; M.P.P., Harvard Kennedy School,  
1998; B.A. Yale University, 1995

Elsa advises clients on global and U.S. regulations governing the import and export of goods, technology, software, and services. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative appointed Elsa to serve on the roster of panelists eligible to review antidumping duty disputes involving the U.S., Canada, and Mexico under Chapter 19 of NAFTA. She formerly served as in-house counsel for Latin America and Canada for Mary Kay Inc. Elsa serves on the boards of Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, and Friends of Solar Prep. In 2018, she received the Outstanding Minority Attorney Award from the Dallas Bar Association, La Cima Entrepreneur Award from the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and was named to the list of Most Powerful Women in Law by Latino Leaders Magazine.



**Endya E.  
DELPIT**

Entergy Corporation  
Assistant General Counsel - Commercial  
Transactions  
Commercial Transactions

J.D. (Southern University Law Center,  
1995 (Magna Cum Laude) ; Howard  
University, 1992 (Cum Laude)

For 24 years, Ms. Delpit has gained expertise in legal issues related to the energy and utility industries. She began her career in 1995 with the law firm of Liskow & Lewis in New Orleans where she worked to develop a complex litigation practice. She continued her litigation practice as in-house counsel at Entergy Services, Inc. (an affiliate of the New Orleans based utility company, Entergy Corporation) in 2001. Following Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Delpit and her family relocated to Houston, Texas where she became a shareholder at Liskow & Lewis and later joined Exxon Mobil Corporation, where she supported both downstream and upstream business units in a broad range of multi-million dollar domestic and international commercial transactions. In 2017, her family returned home to Louisiana and she rejoined Entergy.



**Enid A.  
WADE**

Baylor Scott & White Health  
Vice President, Legal Counsel, Lead  
System HR Attorney  
Human Resources

J.D., The University of Texas School of  
Law, B.A., Duke University

After working for the district attorney’s office and a private law firm, Enid Wade moved in-house with Baylor Scott & White Health. Now she serves as vice president of legal services and the lead human resources attorney for the hospital system. There, she works closely with executives and physician leaders in all areas relating to Human Resources, including: employee relations, physician contracting, vendor contracting, executive compensation, benefits, graduate medical education, corporate governance, labor readiness, and social media, among others.



**Ephraim  
DEL POZO**

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Porter Hedges LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Lending & Finance

J.D., South Texas College of Law, (cum laude), B.S., University of Houston, (cum laude)

Ephraim del Pozo's practice focuses on energy finance and also includes a broad range of corporate transactions, including commercial lending and acquiring and disposing of energy-related assets and companies.

He regularly assists clients with onshore, offshore, upstream and mid-stream operations, including acquisition and divestiture of energy related assets; conventional and mezzanine energy financing and related secured transactions; commercial lending transactions; independent power project financing; project financing; reserve based lending; letter of credit facilities; hedging, derivative, swap and ISDA agreements; financing of mergers and acquisitions; syndicated bank revolving and term credit facilities; single bank revolving and term credit facilities; mezzanine and subordinated debt facilities; entity formation and governance agreements; and intercreditor arrangements in financing and hedging facilities.



**Franz  
HARDY**

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Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Colorado School of Law, B.A., Colorado State University

Franz Hardy serves as co-managing partner of the Denver office. He is a trial attorney with a focus on business and insurance litigation, including commercial disputes, directors and officers liability, coverage, and employee benefits. Mr. Hardy is also recognized as an accomplished professional liability practitioner representing attorneys and law firms.

Mr. Hardy has held various leadership positions within in the legal community. He is the immediate past president of the Denver Bar Association. He previously served as chair of the University of Colorado Law School Alumni Board. Mr. Hardy is also a past president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado.

Mr. Hardy is a frequent author and lecturer on various topics affecting attorneys and the practice of law, including ethics, privileges, confidentiality, and diversity.



**Gabe  
VAZQUEZ**

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Vistra Energy Corp.  
Vice President & Associate General Counsel  
Energy and Retail

J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, B.A., Southern Methodist University

As vice president and associate general counsel of operations for Vistra Energy, he is responsible for managing and supporting the day-to-day legal operations of Vistra Energy and its Luminant and TXU Energy subsidiaries with fossil generation and mining, nuclear generation, wholesale operations, retail and supply chain. As an Executive partner with significant experience in energy and retail sectors, he understands that good business lawyers facilitate solutions through timely collaboration with business partners and effective communication to all levels of management.



**Gail (Navarro)  
SALCIDO**

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Fluor Corporation  
VP Law  
Employment

J.D., Notre Dame Law School, B.A., St. Edward's University

Gail (Navarro) Salcido is the VP Law at Fluor Corporation. She joined the company 3 years ago. Before this she served as an Associate at multiple law firms like Bracewell & Giuliani LLP and Jenkens & Gilchrist.



**Genetha  
TURNER**

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Academy Sports + Outdoors  
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel  
Employment

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, B.A., Louisiana State University

Genetha Turner is a Vice President, Deputy General Counsel at Academy Sports + Outdoors. She took this positions in 2018, but joined the company in 2014, holding multiple positions until now. Previously, she served as a Legal Counsel on Labor & Employment at Shell Oil Company. Before this, she worked as an Associate and then Partner at Locke Lord LLP.



## **George CHEN**

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

Massachusetts Institute of Technology;  
Arizona State University

George Chen is on the Board of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, which has 1,400 lawyers in 35 offices worldwide. Leading the Intellectual Property practice of the Phoenix office, George protects, litigates, and licenses patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. He is a Super Lawyers "Top 50 Attorney" in Arizona, Best Lawyers of America's Phoenix Patent Law "Lawyer of the Year," World Trademark Review's "World's Leading Trademark Professional," State Bar of Arizona's "Member of the Year," and Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education's "Top Pro Bono Attorney." As President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), George represented the interests of 50,000 Asian Pacific American lawyers and judges. He testified before Congress, appeared in media, including on NBC News, and is a co-inventor of 4 U.S. patents.



## **Gillian HOBSON**

Vinson & Elkins LLP  
Partner  
Capital Markets and Mergers &  
Acquisitions

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
1998, B.A., Harvard University, 1993

Gillian's practice focuses on securities offerings and securities regulation. She represents public and private companies and investment banks in all forms of capital raising transactions with particular experience with Master Limited Partnerships. Gillian also advises on complex M&A and conflicts transactions, and counsels public and private companies on general corporate governance and disclosure matters.

Additionally, Gillian is a member of V&E's Management Committee and is Co-Chair of V&E's Diversity Council. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Houston Ballet and the Houston Zoo and has been selected to the Texas Super Lawyers list, Super Lawyers (Thomson Reuters) since 2013. Additionally, Gillian is a member of the steering committee for the National Association of Corporate Directors and was named a 2018 Rainmaker by the Minority Corporation Counsel Association.



## **Greg GAUTAM**

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.  
Partner  
Employee Benefits

Washington University School of Law  
(J.D., 2008), University of Wisconsin  
(B.S., Political Science, 2005)

Greg Gautam has a passion for helping people from all walks of life. The practice of law has inspired him to challenge the status quo and to use his position, education, and resources to serve and improve the community in which he lives and works. He strives to recognize and foster the amazing work of underrepresented groups in the law and to help spread the message and practice of inclusivity. Greg has served as co-chair of Snell & Wilmer's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee since November 2016. In his practice, Greg focuses on various areas of employee benefits. He uses his knowledge of employee benefits laws, regulations, and the Internal Revenue Code to assist clients in achieving their human capital and compensation objectives.



## **Helen YOON**

Brink's, Incorporated  
Assistant General Counsel  
Corporate In-House

J.D., The University of Houston Law  
Center, 2000, B.A., The University of  
Texas at Austin, 1994

Ms. Yoon's current practice areas include Contracts, Antitrust, Financial Services, Employment/Labor, Environmental, Intellectual Property, Litigation, Data Privacy, and Real Estate. She is responsible for negotiating and leading complex, key customer and vendor transactions and creating agreements for new products and services; supporting strategy and development of critical business initiatives; advising senior leadership on negotiation and product strategy; oversight of Contract Lifecycle Management, bankruptcy/collections, real estate matters, and training.



## **Hissan ANIS**

Lathrop Gage LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of Kansas School of Law,  
B.S., University of Kansas School of  
Engineering

Hissan Anis is an experienced intellectual property attorney and provides strategic patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret counseling to a wide range of public and private companies.

In patent prosecution, Hissan focuses on mechanical and software applications. Hissan has substantial experience with AIA post grant proceedings, and has drafted and assisted in the drafting and analysis of briefs in dozens of inter partes reviews.

Hissan also routinely counsels clients on intellectual property litigation matters, particularly in cases involving infringement, enforcement, and licensing issues.

Prior to joining Lathrop Gage, Hissan worked as an electrical engineer in the transmission and distribution group of a large engineering consulting firm. Hissan has also worked as a programmer for a microelectronic solutions company.



**Jack  
CHEN**

Microsoft Inc.  
Associate General Counsel  
Immigration and Employment Policy

J.D., U.C. Hastings College of the Law, 2003; B.A., Northwestern University, Sociology, 1997

Mr. Chen currently leads Microsoft's U.S. immigration team. He and the team are responsible for enabling the company to attract, hire, and retain top talent from around the world by delivering services and strategies that empower employees to navigate the increasingly complex and challenging legal landscape of immigration.

Mr. Chen also engages in public policy and strategy for initiatives that seek to maximize opportunities for people and improve the well-being of communities. His current policy focus areas include immigration reform, the future of work, diversity and inclusion in technology, workforce development, and technology apprenticeships.



**James  
PRINCE**

Schlumberger Limited  
General Counsel, Compliance –  
Government Affairs  
Compliance

J.D., American University Washington  
College of Law, B.A., Appalachian State  
University

James Prince is a General Counsel, Compliance - Government Affairs at Schlumberger. He joined the company 9 years ago. He is an ethics and compliance attorney with substantial law firm experience. Before this he held multiple Associate positions at companies like Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, and also Collier Shannon Scott, PLLC.



**Jennifer  
RAIBON**

Michaels Companies, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel  
Corporate

J.D., The University of Texas at Austin, 2011, B.S., The University of Texas at Austin, 2008 (high honors)

Jennifer's practice predominantly focuses on representing The Michaels Companies, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, with respect to reporting obligations under the Securities Act of 1934, NASDAQ listing standards and other corporate governance regulations. Jennifer regularly project manages and negotiates new business agreements with vendors and / or suppliers, and coordinates and advises cross-functional business clients across Michaels with respect to intercompany matters, including corporate governance, merchandising, entity formation, reorganizations and general internal processes.



**Jill B.  
LOUIS**

K&L Gates LLP  
Partner  
Corporate M&A

Howard University (1987) Harvard Law  
School (1990)

Jill Louis is a Partner in the corporate practice group of K&L Gates. Ms. Louis focuses her practice on various aspects of private equity and corporate representation, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and franchise transactions. She also advises on over-the-road transportation matters and the creation and implementation of contract management processes for public and private companies. Louis serves on the board of a number of organizations including Howard University, Thrivent Financial, Dallas-based AT&T Performing Arts Center, and Texas public broadcasting station KERA, and is a member of The Dallas Assembly. She and her husband Randy Bowman founded At Last! ([www.atlastboarding.com](http://www.atlastboarding.com)) a boarding experience for elementary school youth, seeking to increase the effectiveness of urban education for kids in under-resourced households.

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**Jim  
CARRINGTON**

Cherokee Nation Businesses, LLC  
Associate General Counsel  
Corporate Governance

J.D., University of Tulsa College of Law,  
M.B.A., Oklahoma State University,  
B.S., Oklahoma State University

Jim Carrington is the Associate General Counsel at Cherokee Nation Businesses, LLC. He has experience in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory compliance, venture capital investment, operations support, contracts, contracts administration, litigation and negotiations. He manages a team of 15 contracts and compliance professionals. His focus is on contract drafting and review, negotiations and workouts, corporate governance, acquisitions/divestitures.



**Juan  
SUAREZ**

Southwest Airlines  
Managing Director, Deputy General  
Counsel  
Employment

J.D., Cornell Law School, B.A.,  
University of Oklahoma

Juan Suarez has been Managing Director and Deputy General Counsel of Southwest Airlines Co. since September 2016. He joined the company 19 years ago.



**Kimberly King  
WEBB**

CHRISTUS Health  
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel  
Employment law/Commercial litigation

Southern Methodist University Dedman  
School of Law, 2007, Florida A&M  
University, 2004 (summa cum laude)

Kimberly manages a team of attorneys and other professional staff who provide advice and counsel on a broad range of legal matters, including health law, contracts, intellectual property, and communications. Kimberly oversees CHRISTUS's labor and employment matters and commercial litigation. She provides advice to advance CHRISTUS's federal and state advocacy efforts. She is licensed to practice law in Texas, Missouri, and Kansas.

Kimberly is a board of director for the CHRISTUS Health Foundation, the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, and Dallas Summer Musicals. Kimberly also serves on the CHRISTUS Diversity Council. Kimberly is also a Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation Fellow and an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



**Kimberly G  
STITH**

Waste Management  
Vice President & General Counsel -  
Employment And Benefits  
Employment

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., The University of Texas at  
Austin

Kim Stith has practiced employment law for over 26 years and is currently Vice President and General Counsel at Waste Management contributing to the Company's Employment Law, Benefits, Compliance, Security and Executive Compensation strategies by providing leadership and legal counsel for matters impacting the Company's over 40,000 employees.

Kim is a strategic business partner known for providing practical advice to senior leadership and key stakeholders, minimizing risks and delivering cost conscience results.

Prior to joining Waste Management, Kim was a partner in Littler Mendelson's Houston office where she advised clients on and litigated cases involving all aspects of employment law.

Kim began her legal career in Houston at Bracewell LLP in its Labor & Employment section after receiving her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1991.



**Kwame  
SATCHELL**

Chevron U.S.A. Inc.  
Supervising Counsel  
Organizational Capability

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, 1994, B.A., Cornell University ,  
1991

Kwame oversees programming related to the development of legal professionals in the Chevron Law Function and leads the Law Function's Diversity and Inclusion efforts. Kwame also serves on the leadership team for Chevron Technology Ventures, which drives the development and adoption of externally developed technologies into Chevron through scouting and investment.

Kwame started his career as an employment lawyer in Philadelphia and Houston and joined Chevron's Employment Law Group in 2000. Prior to his current role, Kwame led several Law Function teams, including the Financial and Commercial Services Law Group, Chevron Law Academy and the San Joaquin Valley Business Unit legal team. Kwame is also a 2013 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow and former Chair of Chevron's Law Function Diversity Council.



**Laura E.  
De SANTOS**

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP  
Partner  
Employment Law

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
B.A., University of Texas at Austin

Laura De Santos is a partner in the Houston and Austin offices of Gordon & Rees. Her experience encompasses all forms of alternative dispute resolution, including mediations and arbitrations. She has been involved in all aspects of tort litigation management and handling, including discovery, document management, settlement evaluation and negotiation, and expert witness development. She has participated in the briefing and presentation of dispositive motions and appeals, including a number that have had important impact on the issues of removal jurisdiction, federal preemption, and the reliability of expert opinion.

Ms. De Santos's experience also includes assisting clients with media relations. She is fluent in Spanish and is a member of the Employment Law Group and Drug and Medical Device group at Gordon & Rees.



**Leonard  
SEARCY**

Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Loyola University, M.S., Georgia  
Institute of Technology, B.S.E.E.,  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Leonard counsels clients in intellectual property with an emphasis on procurement of domestic and foreign patent, trademark and copyright protection. In this effort, Leonard represents national and international clients across a broad technology spectrum.

Leonard has worked on a variety of licenses that involve protecting clients' intellectual property. Leonard has negotiated technology agreements and worked on cross-licensing arrangements.

Prior to joining Shook, Leonard worked for Bell Laboratories and later Lucent Technologies. Leonard has over 19 years of engineering experience in the domestic and international markets in wireline and wireless telecommunications systems design, development, test and delivery; software design, integration, and systems testing; technical product marketing; and contract development, negotiation and execution. Leonard has worked extensively in the international market in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.



**Lisa  
MODICA**

Halliburton Company  
Vice President, Global Labor &  
Employment  
Labor & Employment

J.D., Southern Methodist University,  
B.A., Southern Methodist University

Ms. Modica is Vice President, Global Labor & Employment for a Fortune 200 oil and gas services company operating in 80 countries. In this role, she is responsible for the legal strategy, case management and risk management of global employment claims and disputes, regulatory enforcement actions, and litigation. She is an expert in investigations, Global M&A integrations, executive compensation, global data privacy, crisis management, regulatory compliance, HR policies and procedures, and HR compliance. She is a business partner and trusted advisor to C-Suite. She has served as a Board Director of two Houston-area non-profit organizations, Aid for Victims of Domestic Abuse and Avondale House for Autism. She is an Advisory Board member for Corporate Counsel Women of Color and an Executive Member of Women Energy Network.



**Matthew  
COWARD**

Jiffy Lube International  
Vice President—Legal  
Commercial Law

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis  
School of Law, B.S., Southern University  
and Agricultural and Mechanical College  
at Baton Rouge

Matthew Coward is an experienced Senior Legal Counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the oil & energy industry. A strong legal professional skilled in Commercial Law, Construction Law, Franchise Law, Joint Ventures, Litigation, and Corporate Law. Before this he spent 6 years at Shell, as a Senior Legal Counsel. Earlier in his career he acted as an Attorney at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP and also Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP.



**Mechelle Y.  
FAULK**

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.  
Member  
Family Law

J.D., University of Colorado School of  
Law, B.A., Colorado State University

Mechelle Faulk is an experienced and detail-oriented attorney who gets to know her clients and their families on a personal level in order to help ensure that they are taken care of throughout their most important and complex personal matters. For more than a decade, she has provided sophisticated representation to her clients for their divorce, custody, and other private family-related matters.

Due to many of her clients being high-profile individuals, Ms. Faulk is accustomed to addressing privacy concerns as well as working with a team of professionals to protect assets, family wealth, business interests, trust interests, and unique interests. She represents clients throughout the state of Colorado. Ms. Faulk also represents clients in a number of mountain counties including Pitkin, Eagle, Summit, Gunnison, and San Miguel.



**Meshach Y.  
RHOADES**

Armstrong Teasdale LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Colorado School  
of Law at Boulder, 2004, B.A., Regis  
University, (summa cum laude), 2001

Meshach Rhoades, a partner at Armstrong Teasdale, is an experienced litigator and trusted advisor to senior management in all facets of complex commercial and regulatory litigation. Meshach has litigated a variety of cases regarding contracts, intellectual property, business torts, real estate, class actions, finance and banking litigation, and labor and employment in state and federal courts nationwide. Her clients include Fortune 100 companies, government agencies, municipalities, and closely held businesses. Meshach serves as co-chair of the firm's Inclusion Committee. Her ongoing commitment to diversity is demonstrated through her involvement with local and national organizations including the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. In her role as co-chair, she works alongside firm leaders to drive inclusion programming and initiatives, and support various affinity organizations firmwide.



**Michael D.  
SPENCER**

CenturyLink, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel  
Labor & Employment

J.D., Tulane Law School, 2001, M.A.,  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette,  
1998, B.A., Southern University and  
A&M College, 1996

Throughout my career, I have represented employers in complex employment litigation matters, including claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act. I've also provided advice and counsel on traditional labor matters and represented management in arbitration. I spent several years of my practice focused on ERISA litigation representing ERISA plans, plan sponsors, directed trustees, and other service providers in all phases of single plaintiff and class action litigation and mediation involving ERISA's fiduciary duties, reporting and disclosure requirements, benefit claims, and other laws affecting employee benefits.



**Monica  
COFFEY**

Cintra  
Senior Legal Counsel  
Corporate Law

J.D., University of California, Berkeley -  
School of Law, University of California,  
Berkeley - Walter A. Haas School of  
Business, B.S., Georgetown University

Driven, enthusiastic professional with a strong work ethic and global perspective. The skills I developed while earning my JD and MBA degrees have been sharpened through almost 20 years of practicing law in both the law firm and corporate settings. My strong analytical and interpersonal skills allow me to understand important issues and communicate them to others in a way that is not only clear and precise but also meaningful and relevant to the core business.

I negotiate sophisticated and complex commercial and finance agreements with public and private counterparties, and work with partners from around the world. I regularly engage in substantive risk analysis as it relates to new projects as well as ongoing operations with impact to the global organization.



**Monica  
BROWN**

Lennox International Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel, Worldwide  
Refrigeration  
Corporate and Real Estate

Howard University, 1995 (summa cum  
laude)

Monica Brown is the Assistant General Counsel for Worldwide Refrigeration, a division of Lennox International Inc., a leader in the HVAC and refrigeration markets. In this role, Monica serves as lead counsel of the company's refrigeration business, including its businesses in North America, Europe, and the Middle East, is a member of the executive Global Leadership Team, and provides counsel to senior management and employees on numerous legal issues. Monica also oversees the corporate real estate division at LII. Before joining Lennox, Monica practiced in the area of complex commercial litigation at Jones Day for almost 13 years.

Monica is a graduate of the LII Leadership Development Program, is a member of the Lennox Women's Business Council (LWBC), and is a mentor for the Lennox M4D (Mentoring for Diversity) Program. In 2015, Monica spoke as a panelist at the Eighth Annual Inspiring Women's Luncheon hosted by the Dallas Bar Association, and in 2014, Monica was selected out of over 200 nominees as one of 25 women honored by the Dallas Business Journal. She is also member of the Executive Women's Roundtable, Corporate Counsel Women of Color, the State Bar of Texas, and the Dallas Bar Association; a former Barrister on the Honorable Patrick E. Higginbotham Inn of Court; a fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation; and served on the Board of Trustees at St. Philip's School and Community Center in South Dallas.

Monica currently lives in the Dallas area with her husband, a labor and employment attorney at Fidelity Investments, and her two children, Nelson (18) and Maia (15).



**Munsoor  
HUSSAIN**

BNSF Railway  
Assistant General Tax Counsel  
Taxation

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign

Munsoor Hussain is the Assistant General Tax Counsel at BNSF Railway. He joined the company in 2014 as a Tax Attorney. Before this he acted as a Tax Associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.



**Na'Im R.  
MOSES**

Alcon Inc.  
Director, Senior Legal Counsel  
Surgical Franchise

J.D., Howard University, 2010, B.S.,  
South Carolina State University, 2002  
(cum laude)

Na'Im Moses is a Director, Senior Legal Counsel at Alcon, an international eye care company, and is responsible for providing advice and counsel to the US and Global franchises on varying commercial and promotional matters. Prior to joining Alcon, Na'Im was a regulatory counsel at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He is also a former associate of a Washington, DC based law firm.



**Nada  
ISMAIL**

NuStar Energy L.P. Managing Counsel,  
Litigation  
Litigation

J.D., The University of Texas at Austin,  
M.A., University of Chicago, B.A., The  
University of Texas at Austin

Nada Ismail is a Managing Counsel, Litigation at NuStar Energy L.P. She is a litigation and compliance counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the oil & energy industry. She has a strong legal professional skilled in Corporate Law, Commercial Litigation, Arbitration, Civil Litigation, and Legal Research.

Nada Ismail joined the company 8 years ago. Before this she spent another 8 years at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP as a Counsel or Assistant General Counsel.



**Nathaniel St.  
CLAIR, II**

Jackson Walker LLP  
Partner  
IP Litigation

B.S.E.E. University of Michigan, 2001  
(Honors Engineering Scholar); J.D.,  
Marquette University Law School, 2004  
(St. Thomas More Law Scholar)

Nate St. Clair is a Partner at Jackson Walker LLP and has significant experience in counseling clients in a complex business and IP litigation matters. Most recently, Nate and the Jackson Walker team successfully represented 17 defendants in a series of patent litigations, in various federal courts across the U.S. Nate also has represented several of the nation's largest financial entities in trademark litigation and counseling matters. Nate is a registered patent attorney and has been counsel of record in over 60+ IP cases. Additionally, Nate has drafted/prosecuted over 150 patent applications and is counsel of record on thousands of trademark matters. Nate is a former employee of GE, Lucent, and AT&T. Nate holds an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Michigan and a JD degree from Marquette University.



**Navin  
RAO**

The Michaels Companies, Inc.  
Co-Interim General Counsel, Corporate  
Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer  
Compliance

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., The University of Texas at Dallas

Navin Rao is a business, legal and compliance leader, with nearly two decades' professional experience helping companies successfully identify and manage legal and compliance risk, while facilitating overall corporate vision and strategy. Mr. Rao has a proven experience providing effective counsel to boards and executive management in fast-paced settings. He is also skilled at recruiting and developing talent, managing budgets and outside counsel. He has a strong public company, private equity and international experience.



**Neha  
PAREKH**

Itron, Inc.  
Global Privacy Officer, Sr. Attorney Data  
Privacy and Security  
Data Privacy

J.D., South Texas College of Law  
Houston

Neha Parekh is a motivated, effective attorney and CIPM, CIPP/US certified privacy professional with international transactional, litigation and cross-functional business counseling experience working with technology, data protection, privacy, operations, procurement, real estate, and sales & marketing.

Her major strengths include attention to detail, analytical thinking, and ability to balance sound legal and business judgment to create solid relationships across functional business units.

Neha Parekh coordinates privacy and security efforts including incident response, privacy-by-design and legacy program integration across functions creating consistent, efficient, value-added data practices. Serves as internal and external point of contact for company's data privacy and security practices and procedures.



**Nick  
PATEL**

Conley Rose, P.C.  
Principal  
Counseling, Opinions & Diligence

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
(with honors), B.S., University of  
Houston

I focus my practice on patent prosecution, post-grant proceedings, and patent litigation in the electrical and software technology space. I have an unusually diverse background, having drafted and prosecuted several hundred patent applications before the USPTO and international patent offices, litigated a number of high-value patent infringement lawsuits, and taken the lead role in defending patents in various post-grant proceedings before the USPTO and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

Today, as co-chair of the electrical and software practice group in Conley Rose, I co-manage a large team of bright, highly-capable patent practitioners. Together, we proudly represent a number of Fortune 500 clients who have relied on us for years to produce high-quality, high-volume work for reasonable fees.



**Norma L  
GARCIA**

Rent-A-Center  
Associate General Counsel  
Risk Management, Litigation, Diversity  
& Inclusion

J.D., Oklahoma City University School  
of Law, 2000, B.A. University of Texas-  
Pan American, 1991

Norma provides leadership and oversight to Risk Management, the legal team in Mexico and over all HR and legal matters in Puerto Rico. She manages litigation, supports HR, real estate, marketing and diversity and inclusion initiatives. Norma is co-founder of Rent-A-Center's Women's Leadership mentoring circles and the company's annual Women's Leadership Program.

Prior to joining Rent-A-Center, Norma was Assistant General Counsel for Walmart Stores, Inc. During her time at Walmart, she served in various roles of increasing responsibility to include oversight of compliance initiatives, class action litigation, employment litigation, and real estate matters.

Norma started her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Texas. Before entering the legal profession, she served as an Elementary/Bilingual teacher and worked for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services investigating cases of child abuse and neglect.



**Paul  
HAMADA**

Phillips 66  
Deputy General Counsel, Legal  
Compliance, Environmental &  
Regulatory  
Legal Compliance

J.D., Loyola Law School, Loyola  
Marymount University, M.A., University  
of Chicago, B.A., University of  
California, Irvine

Paul Hamada is the Deputy General Counsel, Legal Compliance, Environmental & Regulatory at Phillips 66. He joined the company in 2001, starting from the position of a Senior Counsel. Before this, he spent 9 years as an Associate at Keesal, Young & Logan.



**Peter C.  
LEWIS**

Scheef & Stone, LLP  
Partner  
Bankruptcy

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, 1981, B.A., Princeton University,  
1978

Peter C. Lewis, a partner in the firm's Dallas office, has over 36 years of experience devoted to business reorganizations, creditors' rights, business litigation and business transactions with particular emphasis on business bankruptcies, workouts and debt restructurings, complex business litigation and disputes, commercial collections/fair debt collection defense, receiverships as well as public finance. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Lewis was a partner at one of the largest (Dallas-based) law firms in the country as well as another national law firm. He has also served as outside general or national counsel for small to major manufacturing/ service companies, is AV rated by his peers (highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards) and has been previously cited as one of only 176 attorneys nationwide for providing superior client service to Fortune 100 companies and was named one of D Magazine's Best Lawyers in Dallas for 2018.



**Quentin  
JENNINGS**

Polsinelli PC  
Shareholder  
Corporate Transactions

University of Massachusetts and  
University of Columbia

Quentin L. Jennings is a partner of the Business Department at Polsinelli Kansas City office. Quentin acts as a strategic partner on all aspects of commercial transactions, ranging from \$100,000 to \$500 million, including coordinating complex merger, divestiture and acquisition transactions, acting as general counsel on a variety of contractual negotiations and representing small to mid-size businesses, Fortune 500 companies, food companies, retail supermarkets, high-technology firms, healthcare systems, MBE/WBEs and start-up companies.

Quentin was recognized as a Rising Star by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, named as a 40 under Forty business leader by Ingram's Magazine (Kansas City's Business Magazine) and an alumnus of Leadership Missouri, a Missouri Chamber of Commerce program that aims to identify current and emerging leaders throughout the State of Missouri.



**Ricardo  
GARCIA-MORENO**

Haynes and Boone, LLP  
Partner  
Corporate Law

J.D., University of Texas at Austin  
School of Law, B.B.A., University of  
Texas at Austin

Ricardo Garcia-Moreno is the administrative partner of the Houston office of Haynes and Boone and practices corporate law with an emphasis on cross-border mergers and acquisitions, energy, securities law compliance and corporate governance. He has more than 24 years of experience representing U.S., European and Latin American clients in domestic and international transactions involving mergers, acquisitions and divestitures; investments; joint ventures; capital markets transactions.

Ricardo is a committed civic servant to the Houston community through his pro bono legal work and service to Texas charter schools. Also, he has been ranked as a leading lawyer by Best Lawyers in America, Woodward/White, Inc., for Corporate Governance and Compliance Law and Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law from 2008-2011 and Sports Law from 2012-2019, Texas Super Lawyers, Thomson Reuters, from 2010-2013.



**Rishi  
VARMA**

Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
SVP, General Counsel and Assistant  
Corporate Secretary  
Legal

J.D., Georgetown University Law  
Center, 1997, B.A., Georgetown  
University, 1994

As General Counsel, Rishi Varma oversees HPE's legal department with worldwide responsibility for representing and advising HPE and its businesses and functions on all legal matters. Rishi and his team handle, among other things, HPE's corporate governance, strategic acquisitions, divestitures and investments, securities law compliance and disclosure, intellectual property, litigation, commercial partnerships and transactions, treasury and financing transactions, and other corporate transactions and restructurings, bankruptcy, credit and collections matters and employee compensation and retiree benefits.



**Robert L.  
JONES, Jr.**

American Airlines  
Associate General Counsel & Managing  
Director-Labor  
Labor and Employment

J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of  
Law, Yeshiva University, B.S., Rutgers  
University

Robert Jones is an accomplished corporate litigator and labor and employment attorney with 20+ years of experience including 14+ years of progressive and diverse experience practicing within large Fortune 100 corporate legal departments. A pragmatic, energetic business leader with a passion and skill for building and cultivating authentic relationships that facilitate alignment, teamwork and efficiencies. Skilled at quickly identifying, analyzing and implementing practical solutions to complex legal issues. He is recognized for ability to integrate legal expertise and innovative strategies to further core business objectives.



**Samuel S.  
CHANG**

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP  
Partner  
Business Transactions

J.D. University of Arizona, James E.  
Rogers College of Law, B.S. University  
of Arizona

Mr. Chang is the Chair of the firm's Hiring Committee and is a partner in the Business Transactions practice group. He focuses his practice on real estate debt and equity financing, real estate sales and acquisitions, and loan transactions.

In his real estate practice, Sam regularly represents developers, real estate investment firms and institutional equity investors in all types of commercial real estate transactions, including the acquisition, development, leasing, operation and financing of multi-family residential complexes, office buildings, senior housing projects, retail centers, industrial facilities and mixed-use projects. Sam has considerable experience representing companies in real estate acquisitions and sales all over the United States.

Sam also represents a variety of banking institutions in complex lending transactions assisting lending clients with real estate acquisition financings, construction loans, asset-based and other collateralized financings, loan modifications and refinancing, trustee's sales, loan workouts and deeds in lieu of foreclosures.



**Sheana  
CHEN**

Texas Instruments  
Vice President & Assistant General  
Counsel

LL.M., University of London, LL.B.,  
The University of Manchester

Sheana Chen is the Vice President & Assistant General Counsel at Texas Instruments. She joined the company 11 years ago. Before this she spent 5 years as an Associate Partner at Baker & McKenzie.



**Shonn  
EVANS BROWN**

Kimberly-Clark Corporation  
Vice President & Deputy General  
Counsel for Global Litigation,  
Regulatory & Preventative Law  
Litigation

J.D., Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law, B.S., Southern  
Methodist University

Shonn Brown is a respected business and community having represented clients in a wide range of litigation matters, including breach of contract, employment, fraud, board governance. Prior to focusing on the consumer packaged goods industry at Kimberly-Clark, Shonn obtained an array of industry experience including telecommunications, software, private equity, banking and financial services. Ms. Brown has tried civil jury trials in both state and federal court and on both sides of the docket. She has obtained verdicts for her clients in the millions of dollars and two of those verdicts resulted in Top Verdicts in Texas recognized by the Texas Lawyer. In addition to her civil trial experience, Ms. Brown has experience in the criminal courts through her service as a Lawyer on Loan to the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.



**Sneha  
DESAI**

BASF Corporation  
Deputy General Counsel  
Litigation

University of Pennsylvania Law School  
(JD), Villanova University (BS)

Sneha Desai is Deputy General Counsel, Litigation at BASF Corporation in Florham Park, NJ. She has responsibility for managing the company's litigation portfolio in North America with a team of attorneys and legal assistants, and overseeing litigation-related policies and procedures (including legal hold protocols, e-billing and e-discovery). She also chairs the Legal Department's Diversity Team and is responsible for its Outside Counsel Diversity Program. She joined BASF in January 2008, after specializing in complex commercial litigation at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP in New York. Prior to joining the firm, Sneha was a law clerk to the Honorable Justice James H. Coleman, Jr., on the New Jersey Supreme Court. She got her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and her undergrad degree from Villanova University.



**Sonal  
DAMANI**

ConocoPhillips  
Managing Tax Counsel--Operations  
Taxation

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
M.P.A., The University of Texas at  
Austin, B.B.A., The University of Texas  
at Austin

Sonal Damani is the Managing Tax Counsel--Operations at ConocoPhillips. She has been with the company for the last 6 years. Before this, she spent 7 years at ExxonMobil as a Senior Tax Attorney. She began her career in 1995 as a Tax Accountant at Shell Oil Company.



**Tamera M  
WOODARD**

AT&T Inc.  
Vice President/Associate General  
Counsel  
D&I, HR and Corporate Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan; B.A.,  
University of Michigan

Tamera is a Vice President/Associate General Counsel for AT&T; her team provides legal support for the Chief Diversity Officer, Human Resources, Asset Protection, and Corporate Litigation. She was a 2017 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow. After having been in Dallas only a year, the Texas Minority Counsel Program recognized Tamera as a finalist for the 2018 Corporate Counsel of the Year Award. Tamera is a mentor for the Diverse Attorney Pipeline Program, and a member of the NEW Roundtable, an organization that seeks to empower, impact, and influence the standing of women of color attorneys in Dallas. She is on the Board of Directors for Head Start of Greater Dallas and Step Up Women's Network.



**Theresa  
CONDUAH**

Toyota Motor North America, Inc.  
Managing Counsel

Theresa Conduah is Managing Counsel at Toyota Motor North America, Inc. Her responsibilities include: managing Toyota's trademark and copyright portfolio; overseeing enforcement and anti-counterfeiting activities; negotiating and drafting license and sponsorship agreements; and providing advice and training to business units across Toyota. Prior to joining Toyota, Ms. Conduah was IP Counsel at United Airlines where she was responsible for managing United's global patent and trademark portfolio. Ms. Conduah was previously in private practice and counseled clients on intellectual property litigation and portfolio management matters.

Ms. Conduah earned her law degree from Fordham University School of Law, a graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, and an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University.



**Therese  
LEBLANC**

Honeywell International Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel ISC  
Procurement

J.D., University of Missouri-Kansas  
City School of Law, B.S., University of  
Missouri-Columbia

Therese LeBlanc is the Assistant General Counsel ISC at Honeywell Aerospace. She joined the company 13 years ago, starting as a Senior Counsel. She is also licensed as a Certified Public Accountant.



**Thomas  
YANG**

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
Partner  
Mergers and Acquisitions

J.D., Columbia Law School, 1994, B.A.,  
Columbia College, 1991

Thomas Yang has represented clients in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and corporate governance matters for more than twenty-five years. Tom has extensive experience acting as a trusted advisor for private equity funds and public and private strategics in their M&A activities. Tom has led recent transactions for 7-Eleven in its \$3.3 billion acquisition of over 1,100 gasoline and convenience store locations from Sunoco and a private equity fund in its acquisition of 38 Hyatt branded hotels and subsequent \$500 million IPO on the Singapore Exchange.

Tom has been recognized for M&A by The Legal 500 and IFLR1000 US and as a Top M&A Dealmaker by the Dallas Business Journal, Top 50 Multicultural Lawyer by the Texas Diversity Counsel, and top corporate lawyer in Dallas by D Magazine.



**Tiffany  
BRUNSON**

FedEx Office and Print Services, Inc.  
Managing Director, Senior Litigation  
and Employment Counsel  
Litigation, Employment

J.D., University of North Carolina  
School of Law, B.A., Dillard University

Tiffany Brunson is a results driven corporate attorney with significant experience managing outside counsel in a cost effective manner. Adept problem solver who excels at resolving conflicts, developing and motivating others and productively interacting with individuals on all levels. Also, highly analytical and tenacious litigator.

Under this role she resolves domestic and international labor, employment and complex litigation, including commercial, and employment-related class actions and arbitrations. She also counsels Human Resources and Senior Management on labor, employment and business related issues, including reductions in force, evolving business strategies and severance matters.



**Timothy  
AMMONS**

Valero Energy Corporation  
Senior Advisory Counsel-Litigation  
Litigation

J.D., Texas Southern University—  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, B.A.,  
Stephen F. Austin State University

Timothy Ammons is a Senior Advisory Counsel-Litigation at Valero Energy Corporation. He has been in this position since 2016 and joined the company in 2007 as a Litigation Counsel.

In this position he develops and executes litigation strategy to ensure appropriate, cost effective and timely resolution of all matters. Selects and manages outside counsel, and, where appropriate, appear directly as counsel in legal proceedings. Provides legal advice and counsel to senior management team regarding disputes or potential disputes, which have not risen to litigation.



**Tim  
OVERTON**

Dickinson Wright PLLC  
Member  
Complex Commercial Disputes and  
Diversity Consulting

J.D., Brigham Young University  
(Honors), B.A., Humboldt State  
University (Honors)

Tim Overton has successfully litigated commercial claims of all types, including complex insurance coverage and bad faith actions, class actions, construction, product liability, and American Indian affairs. He defends major insurance companies in disputes involving various types of coverage. He also defends schools, universities and product manufacturers from significant tort claims and class actions, represents employers facing employment, discrimination and compensation-related claims, and helps creditors obtain and collect on judgments. Tim has won both jury and bench trials, litigating in state and federal courts. Tim is committed to understanding his client's business to effectively satisfy both their legal and business goals. Tim also regularly consults with and provides training to companies, law firms and employers dealing with bias and discrimination issues, and recruiting, hiring and retaining diverse employees.



**Tom  
CHEN**

Haynes and Boone, LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Pepperdine University School  
of Law, 1996 (cum laude); Electrical  
Engineer, Engineer Degree, University  
of Southern California, 1993; M.S.,  
Electrical Engineering, California State  
University, Northridge, 1989; B.S.,  
Physics, University of California, Los  
Angeles, 1985

Tom is an experienced patent attorney who prides himself in being trusted and valued by his clients for his technical understanding and strategy regarding their specific patent issues.

His practice focuses on patent prosecution and counseling in a variety of technologies, including e-commerce, mobile payments, electrical circuits, semiconductor memories/processing, semiconductor equipment, fiber optic and wireless communications, televisions, mechanical devices, Internet-related applications, microprocessors and other computer architecture. Tom also has experience in all phases of patent litigation, including matters before the International Trade Commission and district courts.

Tom is a member of Haynes and Boone's board of directors and co-chair of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which focuses on the hiring, retention and promotion of diverse lawyers within the firm. Tom advocates the necessity of a diverse law firm and strives to make Haynes and Boone a leader in law firm diversity. Tom is also a member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Asian Law Alliance.

Tom was selected by the Daily Journal, Daily Journal Corporation, as one of the 2016 Top 100 Lawyers in California. Tom was also listed in Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Practitioners, Globe White Page Ltd, 2018-2019. Tom was recognized in Managing Intellectual Property Magazine, Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, as an IP Star in 2019.



**Tracey R.  
WALLACE**

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Jackson Lewis P.C.  
Principal  
Employment Litigation

J.D., Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law, B.A., The  
University of Texas at Austin

Tracey R. Wallace is a Principal in the Dallas, Texas, office of Jackson Lewis P.C. Her practice focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including preventive advice and counseling. Ms. Wallace joins the firm from Schiff Hardin as a seasoned trial attorney whose practice spans the full spectrum of labor and employment law matters.

Ms. Wallace's general litigation experience includes defending clients in products liability matters, breach of contract matters, qui tam matters, personal injury and other commercial litigation matters.



**Tramaine  
SINGLETON**

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Halliburton Company  
Legal Counsel  
Health Care

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
B.S., Prairie View A&M University

Tramaine Singleton is the Legal Counsel at Halliburton. As an Environmental, Health and Safety Attorney she joined the company in 2012. Before this she spent 15 years at Marathon Oil Company, as an attorney.



**Tunde  
AWODIRAN**

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Caterpillar Inc.  
Senior Corporate Counsel

LL.M., University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign, B.L., The Nigeria Law  
School

Tunde Awodiran is a Senior Corporate counsel at Caterpillar. He is a securities, corporate, commercial and transactional attorney with strong negotiation, analytical, communication and problem solving skills demonstrated both in law firm and in-house settings for global firms.

Previously, he also served as a volunteer for Prairie State Legal Services Inc. and National immigrant Justice Center.



**Veronica  
CHANG-PESHOFF**

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Arch Insurance Group  
Vice President & Deputy General  
Counsel

J.D., University of Missouri-Kansas City  
School of Law

Veronica Chang-Peshoff is a VP & Deputy General Counsel at Arch Insurance Group. In this position she offers legal advice and counsel on business, legal and regulatory issues in supporting Lender Products and Travel & Accident and Health Divisions. She joined the company in 2013. Before this she spent 14 years as a Vice President & Senior Assistant General Counsel at Zurich North America.



**Victor  
WRIGHT**

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KBR Inc.  
Senior Counsel  
Labor and Employment

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
1998 (magna cum laude), M.B.A. St.  
Mary's University, 1994, B.S., United  
States Air Force Academy, 1991

Victor Wright is an experienced labor and employment law attorney, litigator and strategic business advisor with more than 25 years of professional work experience within the federal government, private practice law firm, and public corporation sectors. A retired military officer and proven leader, Victor possesses a unique client service skill set that quickly allows him to build the requisite trust and confidence of his clients. Victor is currently President of the University of Houston Law Alumni Association and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Houston Law Review and Association of Corporate Counsel Houston Chapter. In his local community, Victor serves as a mentor in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America organization and in the Boys Rites of Passage program at his church.



**Victoria  
JALO**

Whole Foods Market  
Senior Regulatory Counsel

J.D., Duke University School of Law,  
B.A., Rutgers, The State University of  
New Jersey-New Brunswick

Victoria Jalo is a Senior Regulatory Counsel at Whole Foods Market. She is a generalist experienced in providing legal counsel and business support on a broad range of issues impacting operations in fast-paced, dynamic corporate environments. Before this she served as a Senior Counsel The Coca-Cola Company for 7 years. She was active as a volunteer at Hope for Youth Foundation.



**Vineet  
BHATIA**

Susman Godfrey LLP  
Partner  
Commercial Law

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., Rice University

Vineet Bhatia is a seasoned, first-chair commercial trial lawyer with nearly 30 years of experience handling a wide variety of complicated, high-stakes disputes for plaintiffs and defendants. He has tried more than 15 cases to verdict or arbitration decision and has led dozens more that have resolved successfully for his clients before trial commenced.

Mr. Bhatia graduated from the Columbia Law School in 1990, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and a Notes and Comments Editor on the Columbia Law Review. He started his career at Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz in New York City in 1991 and joined Susman Godfrey in 1996. He became a partner at Susman Godfrey a year later in 1997 and has served frequently on the firm's Executive Committee.



**Wajiha  
RIZVI**

Entergy Corporation  
Senior Counsel  
Regulatory

J.D., University of Texas School of  
Law, 2011, B.A., University of Texas at  
Arlington, 2007 (Summa Cum Laude)

Wajiha Rizvi began her work at Entergy in 2011 after receiving her J.D. at the University of Texas School of Law. In her role as Senior Counsel in the Company's Austin office, she manages state regulatory proceedings for Entergy Texas before the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Wajiha is Chair of the Entergy Legal Diversity & Inclusion Counsel and Chair of Entergy's Multicultural Employee Resource Group. She is also an active member of the Entergy Pro Bono and Community Service Committee. She encourages empowerment of diverse communities by mentoring girls through organizations such as GirlForward and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Texas. Wajiha also works on voting rights issues through the Texas Civil Rights Project's Voter Protection Task Force to ensure that immigrant communities have access to the polls.



**Walter M.  
BROWN**

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak &  
Stewart, P.C.  
Shareholder  
Litigation

J.D., Texas Southern University—  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, (with  
honors), B.A., Emporia State University

Walter is a shareholder in the Kansas City office of Ogletree Deakins. He represents a broad range of litigation clients, from individuals and small companies to large corporations. He concentrates his practice on employment law matters, including state and federal discrimination actions based on race, age, sex, disability, FMLA retaliation, and class action wage and hour claims under the FLSA.

Walter also counsels clients on employment policy and compliance issues. He performs management training and drafts policy handbooks for clients in various industries.

Walter is licensed to practice before the State and Federal Courts in both Kansas and Missouri.



**William  
MIN**

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Western Union  
Deputy General Counsel & Chief  
Privacy and Data Governance Officer  
Privacy Law

J.D., Fordham University School of Law,  
M.A., Stony Brook University, B.A.,  
University of Pennsylvania

Bill Min is Deputy General Counsel & Chief Privacy and Data Governance Officer for Western Union where he leads the company's global privacy and information governance organization.

Prior to Western Union, Bill was Senior Vice President, Legal and Chief Privacy Officer at Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. He also worked for 16+ years at Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. where he led several global functions, including privacy, enterprise risk management, and operational compliance. Among his accomplishments, Bill is acknowledged as an expert in the area of data privacy, and established the global privacy function at both Live Nation and Starwood. Earlier in his career, Bill held in-house legal positions at Sara Lee Corporation and at Sunkyong America, Inc.



**Yasmin  
ATASI**

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Winstead PC  
Shareholder  
Financial Services

J.D., University of Houston Law Center,  
B.A., Houston Baptist University

Yasmin Atasi has been a member of Winstead's litigation practice since 1990. Her practice includes lender liability defense, debt collection for financial institutions, real estate litigation, landlord/tenant litigation, securities fraud litigation, insurance defense, Employee Retirement Income Security Act litigation, and general complex commercial and business disputes.



**Yuki  
WHITMIRE**

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Arcosa Inc.  
Associate General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary  
Corporate Law

J.D., UCLA School of Law, B.B.A., St.  
Edward's University

Yuki (Prefume) Whitmire is the Associate General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Arcosa Inc. A corporate and securities attorney with experience in public and private debt and equity offerings, SEC disclosure and filing obligations, NYSE and Nasdaq stock exchange compliance, investor relations, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and other corporate matters and transactions.

Before this she served as a Senior Counsel at Dean foods and also a Corporate Counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Earlier in his career he was appointed as a Corporate Associate at Haynes and Boone, LLP.



**Zandra E.  
FOLEY**

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Thompson Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP  
Partner  
Liability

J.D., University of Texas School of Law,  
B.A., Texas A&M University

Zandra Foley is a trial attorney who represents clients in complex litigation matters related to products liability, mass torts, malpractice, and errors and omissions. She also defends clients who have been sued for various intentional torts including assault, battery, libel, slander and defamation. Zandra has served as national and regional trial counsel on medical device, product liability, and mass tort related matters and has extensive experience advising clients on a variety of complex disputes with an eye toward early and efficient resolution.

Zandra has been recognized by Law & Politics magazine's Texas Super Lawyers as a Rising Star for 2007, 2008, 2011-2017.





NATION'S  
BEST  
WESTERN  
REGION





ation's Best Honorees had a magnificent time at the Western Region Reception held in San Francisco and hosted by Foley & Lardner LLP where Maria Bernstein welcomed guests. Remarks were offered by Lawyers of Color's Western representative, Jacqueline Taylor, as well as Charanjit Brahma of Troutman Sanders and Charles H. Jung of Nassiri & Jung LLP. (Photo credit: Louis Bryant III).















**Aja P.  
SAE-KUNG**

Washington Gas  
Associate General Counsel  
Litigation & Land Use

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
2009, B.A., George Mason University,  
2005 (magna cum laude)

Aja Porntip Sae-Kung is an experienced litigator and her practice includes antitrust and complex commercial litigation, contract disputes, personal injury, and property damage. She also specializes in easements and land use. Aja's pro bono work has allowed her to win asylum for multiple clients and serve as a Street Law teacher. Aja served as an editor for the inaugural edition of the Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Race Perspectives. She was selected as a J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association Scholar and Dickstein Shapiro Diversity Fellow, receiving scholarships from both. Aja is a 2012 Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity Fellow, Washington Gas Leadership Excellence and Acceleration Program Fellow, and a 2020 ACC National Capital Region Leadership Academy Fellow. She is admitted to practice in Virginia, D.C., the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and before the United States Supreme Court. Aja is a native Washingtonian and a passionate and dedicated parent and community member.



**Ali  
KHORASANEE**

Applied Materials, Inc.  
Vice President and General Counsel,  
Semiconductor Products Group and  
Global Service Segment

J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of  
Law, Yeshiva University, B.A., California  
State University

Ali Khorasane is the General Counsel for Semiconductor Products Group and Global Service Segment (approximately \$12B) for Fortune 201 company. He leads an international team of attorneys and non-attorneys responsible for negotiating and structuring multi-million to billion-dollar commercial transactions around the world, including sale, service, and software license agreements.

A legal executive with a successful track record of advising, engaging, and motivating C-level executives across multiple countries, products lines, and complexities. He has a reputation for collaborative leadership while at the same time delivering solutions with an eye for continuous improvement, repeatability and cost effectiveness. He has a record of managing attorneys and non-attorneys across multiple time zones with a laser focus on enabling business objectives while managing risk.



**Andre  
CAMPBELL**

Hanson Bridgett LLP  
Partner  
Construction law and government  
contract law

J.D., Loyola Law School, 1996, M.S.,  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1991,  
B.S., United States Air Force Academy,  
1981

Andre Campbell represents private and public clients, including owners, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, regarding all aspects of construction law. Andre's practice includes bidding and protest issues, as well as government contract law, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation and its supplements. His work encompasses drafting and negotiating contracts, counseling clients as issues arise during projects, and the litigation, arbitration and mediation of disputes. Andre also serves as the Chair of Hanson Bridgett's Diversity & Inclusion Network.

He is a member and prior Chair of the Associated General Contractors of California Legal Advisory Committee.

Andre has been recognized by Sacramento Magazine as a "Top Lawyer" and by the Sacramento Business Journal as "Best of Bar." He was also honored by the California Diversity Council with its "Multicultural Leadership Award."



**Andrew  
LUH**

Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve  
Franklin & Hachigian, LLP  
Partner  
Mergers and Acquisitions

J.D., Stanford Law School, B.A.,  
University of Virginia

Andrew Luh works with clients across a broad range of industries, including software, internet, life sciences, telecommunications, networking, hardware, consumer and energy and clean technology.

Andrew has negotiated and completed more than 300 M&A transactions involving technology companies with an aggregate value of more than \$100 billion. He has represented numerous venture-backed companies in their sales to publicly-traded buyers such as Adobe, Alibaba, Allergan, Amazon, Apple, AT&T, Autodesk, Bio-Techne, Bioverativ, Cadence, eBay.

Prior to joining Gunderson, he represented publicly-traded companies such as Cisco Systems, Flextronics, Intuit, Sony in numerous purchases of both publicly-traded and privately-held companies as well as business combinations and divestitures.

Andrew has experience counseling boards of directors in regards to mergers and acquisitions and anti-takeover matters. He also advises venture-capital firms and other investors in M&A transactions involving their portfolio companies.



**Andrew M.  
MAR**

Facebook, Inc.  
Director & Associate General Counsel,  
Product (Media)  
Media

J.D., New York University School of  
Law, B.A., University of Washington

Andrew M. Mar, Director & Associate General Counsel, Product (Media) at Facebook, Inc. Andy currently supports Facebook's media products including video, gaming and news services like Facebook Watch. Previously, Andy was at Microsoft, leading legal teams supporting Microsoft's consumer online services (Bing, MSN, msnbc.com, etc.), next-generation artificial intelligence & research projects, and enterprise collaboration products (e.g., Microsoft Teams). Before joining Microsoft, Andy was associated with Davis Wright Tremaine's communications, media, and information technology group. Andy was on the board of directors of the Media Law Resource Center, a committee co-chair of the American Bar Association Forum on Communications Law, a 2014 fellow of the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity and a graduate of the University of Washington and New York University School of Law.



**Angela  
CHADWICK**

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Tesla, Inc.  
Managing Counsel  
Commercial Transactions

J.D., Harvard Law School, M.B.A.,  
University of Pennsylvania–The Wharton  
School, B.S., University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill

Angela Chadwick is a trusted Harvard and Wharton-trained business lawyer with expertise in commercial transactions, contracts, regulatory compliance, ethics, IP licensing, litigation, mediation, corporate governance, legal advice, legal research, legal writing, sales and marketing support, privacy, data security and corporate responsibility.

In 2014, the National Diversity Council honored Angela by naming her one of the “Most Powerful and Influential Women of Georgia.” More recently, she was appointed to the Magistrate Court of Fulton County.

Angela recently added another new role to her diverse resume: CEO of her own company. She launched Fair Housing Assessment and Training LLC, a consulting firm that helps housing providers and apartment communities navigate fair housing requirements.



**Anjan  
CHOUDHURY**

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Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., George  
Washington University

Anjan Choudhury is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Munger, Tolles & Olson. He practices in a wide variety of litigation and counseling matters, focusing primarily on matters for clients in the entertainment industry. He has represented clients in state and federal court as well as complex administrative proceedings.

Mr. Choudhury often speaks at industry conferences about music licensing, entertainment law and he has written for the Copyright Alliance. Mr. Choudhury is a member of the Entertainment Law Committees of both the Media Law Resource Center and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Mr. Choudhury was named an “Up Next” rising star in entertainment litigation in Variety’s 2015 Legal Impact Report. In 2016, he was named one of the “Best Under 40” lawyers in the country by the NAPABA.



**Ashley  
JAMES**

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Facebook, Inc.  
Associate General Counsel, Labor &  
Employment  
Employment

J.D., Howard University School of Law,  
B.A., DePaul University

Ashley James serves as an Associate General Counsel, Labor & Employment at Facebook. She joined the company in 2015, on the position of Lead Employment Counsel. Before joining Facebook, she was a labor and employment associate in the Washington, DC office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Earlier in her career she acted as a Legal Secretary at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Fel LLP.



**Baldwin J.  
LEE**

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Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory &  
Natsis LLP  
Partner  
Labor & Employment

J.D., University of Chicago Law School,  
B.A., Stanford University

Baldwin Lee heads the Employment Practice Group in Northern California. He litigates wage/hour class actions, discrimination claims, and theft of trade secret matters. He also regularly advises clients regarding anti-harassment training, national audits, response to government investigations, and compliance with employment laws.

Baldwin is requested, both by plaintiffs and defendants, to serve as a mediator. Baldwin serves on the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of San Francisco Fee Dispute Program, including providing training for mediators and arbitrators.

Baldwin regularly speaks and writes on employment law issues. He is a past co-author of International Labor & Employment Laws (Bureau of National Affairs), contributing a chapter on Taiwan. Baldwin is consulted as an employment expert by the media, including being

quoted by the New York Times and the San Francisco Business Journal.



**Beatriz  
MEJIA**

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Cooley LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
School of Law, B.A., University of  
California, Los Angeles

Beatriz Mejia’s practice focuses on complex business disputes and general business litigation. In recent years, Beatriz’s practice has focused on international cartel investigations and related litigation. Her experience includes representing both corporations and individuals in government investigations brought by antitrust authorities around the world, including the US, Europe, Korea and Japan, and in litigation brought in multi-district and related class actions. Beatriz also has represented clients in antitrust litigation involving a range of federal and state antitrust claims, including monopolization claims. She currently serves as Northern California head of Cooley’s business litigation practice.



**Brian  
SAKAMOTO**

PGIM  
Vice President & Corporate Counsel  
Real Estate, Finance

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
B.A., Claremont McKenna College

Brian Sakamoto is in-house counsel to the commercial real estate finance unit of Prudential's asset management business where he has primary responsibility for advising on balance sheet lending transactions in the US, Japan, Australia and Mexico and on the company's third-party institutional funds management investment platforms. He has been in this position for the last seven years.

Before joining the company, she spent seven years as an Associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and earlier in her career an Associate at Morgan Lewis LLP.



**Brian T.  
DUNN**

Cochran Law Firm  
Managing Partner  
Civil Rights

J.D., University of Michigan, B.A.,  
University of California, Berkeley

Brian Dunn is the Managing Partner and lead Civil Rights Attorney for The Cochran Firm California, the office founded by the late Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.

As one of the most experienced working advocate for victims of police misconduct in the state of California, Mr. Dunn has a proven track record of victory against the largest municipalities in the state, often in the most complex and misunderstood circumstances surrounding officer involved shootings.

Over his 23 year career, Brian has resolved over 200 cases in state and federal court, and the majority of these cases involved police shootings that all too often lead to the death of the victim.



**Catherine C. A.  
ROMERO**

Microsoft Corporation  
Senior Attorney  
Compliance

J.D., Seattle University School of Law,  
1996 (magna cum laude); B.A., Stanford  
University, 1986.

Catherine's Compliance & Ethics team assesses compliance with privacy and product safety regulations across Microsoft. She works with executives accountable for compliance and contributes to an annual compliance update for the Board. She previously supported Office 365, Exchange Online, and Outlook engineering. Catherine started her legal career as a business, corporate and securities attorney at Perkins Coie in Seattle; then held other in-house positions and ran her own law firm. Prior to law school, she was a Boeing engineer working on commercial airplane and DOD programs. Catherine is the General Counsel of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and a founding Director of the HNBA Intellectual Property Law Institute. Catherine has been a spokesperson for the American Heart/Stroke Association and worked with their Advocacy Committee to promote health-related legislation.



**Charanjit  
BRAHMA**

Troutman Sanders LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

B.S., University of California, Berkeley,  
1994, M.S., University of Michigan,  
1995, J.D., University of California,  
Hastings College of the Law, 1999

Charan Brahma is a Partner in the San Francisco office of Troutman Sanders LLP. His practice covers a broad range of intellectual property issues, with particular focus on patent litigation and counseling for technology, pharmaceutical and life sciences clients. In his litigation role, Charan has served as lead trial counsel in federal district court and before the Patent Trials & Appeals Board and has argued appeals before the Federal Circuit. He also serves as co-leader of the firm's Life Sciences Industry Group and on the firm's Diversity & Inclusion and West Coast Recruiting Committees.

Charan currently serves as President-elect for the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California and as President of the Board of Governors for the Alumni Association of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.



**Charles H.  
JUNG**

Nassiri & Jung LLP  
Principal  
Employment, Executive & Founder  
Disputes

J.D., Stanford, 2001 (Distinction),  
M.P.P., Harvard Kennedy School  
(Kennedy Fellow), B.A. Duke, 1994,  
(magna cum laude)

Charles H. Jung is a trial lawyer at Nassiri & Jung LLP. His litigation practice focuses on both defending wage & employment cases, and representing professionals, executives, and founders in high-level separations. Charles is a frequent commentator in the legal press on the topics of employment law, class actions, and arbitrations. His honors and awards include: being named a Top 100 Attorney in every year since 2013 and inclusion on the list of Super Lawyers® or Rising Stars by Super Lawyers Magazine in every year since 2009. Charles is Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent® (5.0 out of 5.0) by Martindale-Hubbell® in Litigation, Labor and Employment, and Class Actions. In 2018, the Bar Association of San Francisco presented Charles with an Award of Merit.



**Christopher  
RICHARDSON**

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United Healthcare Group  
Senior Associate General Counsel  
Corporate Transactional Law

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Christopher Richardson is the Senior Associate General Counsel at UnitedHealthcare. In this position he provides strategic counseling to executive leadership and senior management managing benefit operations for multiple lines of business across the enterprise, including management of regulatory compliance, risk, litigation and complex business transactions. Before this, he served as an Associate General Counsel at OptumHealth for five years. He has also held multiple Associate positions at companies like McGuire Woods LLP, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP.



**Claudia Sanchez  
WILSON**

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Zynga Inc.  
Deputy General Counsel  
Litigation, Compliance

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
A.B., Harvard University (cum laude)

Ms. Sanchez Wilson manages all aspects of litigation and is a compliance officer for Zynga Inc., a San Francisco software games developer. Prior to joining Zynga, Ms. Sanchez Wilson was in-house litigation counsel for Tesla, Inc. and before then, SolarCity Corporation. She has also worked as a career judicial clerk for the Hon. Phyllis J. Hamilton, and as a litigation associate at the law firms of Seyfarth Shaw LLP and Bingham McCutchen LLP.



**D. James  
CHUNG**

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Silicon Edge Law Group LLP  
Partner  
Patent Transactions

J.D., University of Southern California  
Law Center, B.S., University of Michigan

D. James Chung is a patent attorney and a partner with Silicon Edge Law Group LLP. Mr. Chung has worked as a patent attorney for over twenty years, specializing in all aspects of patent law including prosecution, licensing, and litigation.

In addition, Mr. Chung has extensive experience in due diligence investigations related to patent sales or purchases, valuation, negotiations, licensing, and monetization of patents.

At Silicon Edge Law Group LLP, Mr. Chung continues to practice in the areas of patent prosecution, licensing, and litigation as well as patent transactions.

Having both education and actual work experiences in engineering, computer programming, and law, Mr. Chung is uniquely qualified to provide legal services in many areas of technology such as, for example, blockchain system, decentralized autonomous organizations, and smart contracts.



**Dan  
VAUGHN**

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Intel Corporation  
Associate General Counsel - M&A  
Legal Lead  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., University of Virginia

Dan Vaughn is an experienced corporate, M&A and securities attorney with over 20 years' experience in top international law firms and as in-house counsel at multinational public technology companies. He has a broad corporate practice including M&A, SEC reporting and compliance, internal controls, corporate governance, joint ventures, commercial transactions, IP licensing, executive and share-based compensation, restructurings and corporate finance.

Before Intel, Mr. Vaughn spent six years at McAfee as a M&A Counsel. Previously, he had also Associate positions at various law firm companies like Perkins Coie LLP and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.



**Danielle  
McCOY**

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Fannie Mae  
Vice President and Fair Lending Officer  
Lending

J.D., New York University School of  
Law, B.A., University of Virginia

Danielle McCoy serves as Vice President and Fair Lending Officer of Fannie Mae, and leads Fannie Mae's fair lending program. Before assuming her current position in October 2015, McCoy was Fannie Mae's Managing Director, Deputy General Counsel, and Assistant Corporate Secretary, where she provided legal advice to senior management and the Fannie Mae Board of Directors on corporate governance and managed a team supporting corporate secretary and governance operations. Prior to joining Fannie Mae in 2006, McCoy was an associate at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, LLP, where she advised on securities law, corporate governance mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate matters. She has a BA in Economics from the University of Virginia and a JD from New York University School of Law.



**David  
 TSAI**

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property Litigation

J.D., Santa Clara University, 2006, M.S.,  
Stanford University, 1998, A.B., Harvard  
College, 1997

David Tsai is co-head of Pillsbury’s Taiwan practice and also resident in the San Francisco office. David focuses his practice on intellectual property, patent, trade secret, trademark, copyright, and complex breach of contract in courts and international arbitration tribunals. David represents world-class corporations innovating biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, software, and hardware. In addition to litigation, his experience includes preparing and prosecuting U.S. electrical engineering patent applications, drafting patentability, freedom-to-operate and non-infringement opinions, as well as inter partes review (IPR) petitions. He represents his clients in patent negotiations, licensing and overall intellectual property strategy. David has been quoted in various business and technology publications including The New York Times. He serves as one of the 18 Lawyer Representatives to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.



**David D.  
 SOHN**

Sohn Legal Group, P.C.  
Principal Attorney  
Employment

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A.,  
Stanford University

Principal Attorney David Sohn has substantial experience successfully litigating and trying matters involving a diverse range of subjects including: employment; consumer protection; business disputes; corporate governance; class actions; trade secrets; unfair competition; and personal injury. David has successfully resolved a number of lawsuits through pretrial motions, mediations, arbitrations, and trials.

Among David’s notable achievements at Sheppard Mullin, David defended one of the world’s largest producers of memory chips against criminal price fixing charges. He also managed and resolved over 50 civil cases brought in state courts nationwide against the same client. Additionally, David represented an unsecured creditors’ committee in a bankruptcy trial against four objecting insurers’ challenges to a reorganization plan. The reorganization plan was confirmed after trial and the primary objecting insurer agreed to pay an additional \$1.15 billion to the committee.



**Deepak  
 GUPTA**

Farella Braun + Martel LLP  
Partner  
Technology Litigation

Stanford University; Harvard Law  
School

Deepak is a forceful technology litigator with a diverse range of clients spanning from the smallest startup to the largest multinationals. He’s a trusted advisor to his client for the most sensitive issues. He has notched numerous precedent-setting wins in the area of Internet Law. His expertise includes the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the Communications Decency Act, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and he is an expert in patent, copyright and trade secret litigation.



**Diana  
 CHIU**

Agilent Technologies  
Vice President, Assistant General  
Counsel and Assistant Secretary  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, M.H.A., University of Southern  
California, B.A., University of California,  
Berkeley

P. Diana Chiu is vice president, assistant general counsel and assistant secretary of Agilent Technologies. She is responsible for mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and securities matters.

She joined Agilent in 2013 as senior counsel.

Before that she worked at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP, a law firm in Palo Alto, California. There she represented public and private technology companies on a broad range of corporate and securities matters. She was also seconded to Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.’s legal department in Tokyo, where she managed an array of in-house legal issues. Prior to that she was corporate counsel at Marvell Technology, Inc. She is an active member of the State Bar of California.

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**Dianna Renea  
 JONES**

Uber Technologies, Inc  
Senior Counsel, Global Compliance  
Global Compliance

J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School,  
B.B.A., University of Oklahoma–Price  
College of Business

Dianna Renea Jones is a dynamic, highly effective certified compliance professional and licensed attorney. She has experience developing and deploying ethics and compliance programs globally as well as advising companies on domestic and international acquisitions and divestitures, including stock and asset purchases, reorganizations and restructurings, joint venture and other complex transactions.

Before joining Uber, she held two Associate positions at Greenberg Traurig and Winstead PC.



**Farah  
BHATTI**

Buchalter PC  
Shareholder  
Intellectual Property Law

J.D., St. John's University School of Law, LL.M., University of Houston Law Center, B.A., State University of New York

Farah Bhatti is a Shareholder and the Chair of the Internet, E-Commerce, and Social Media Practice Group. She focuses her practice on all aspects of trademark prosecution, including advising, counseling, and securing trademark protection for clients, with an emphasis on the worldwide selection and enforcement of trademarks. She also works closely with clients in formulating their domestic and international trademark protection and registration strategies. Ms. Bhatti expertly navigates the complexities of issues within the areas of registration and enforcement, drawing on experience in private practice as well as her previous position as a trademark examining attorney at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Ms. Bhatti frequently speaks on the topic of trademark protection at seminars, including those geared toward the fashion industry. She previously served as a member for the INTA Internet Committee.



**Felix S.  
LEE**

Fenwick & West LLP  
Partner  
Securities Litigation

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Stanford University

Felix Lee is a securities enforcement and litigation partner focusing on the defense of securities class actions, derivative suits, merger litigation and government investigations. Felix has handled some of the largest and most complex securities class actions in the country, with the combined claimed damages of his matter representations totaling in excess of \$50 billion. He also regularly conducts internal investigations for corporate boards as well as their audit or special litigation committees.

Felix has chaired Fenwick's Diversity and Inclusion Committee for over ten years, during which time the American Lawyer has consistently ranked Fenwick among the Top 10 law firms nationally for diversity. Since 2009, Felix has also served on the board of the Asian Law Alliance.



**Gloria  
HONG**

Starbucks Coffee Company  
Director, Corporate Counsel, Litigation,  
Law & Corporate Affairs  
Litigation

J.D., University of Washington School of Law, B.A., University of Washington

Gloria Hong is the Director, Corporate Counsel, Litigation, Law & Corporate Affairs at Starbucks Coffee Company. She has been in this position for the last five years. In this position she oversees and manages commercial and general liability litigation for retail locations in North America, and provides legal advice to Starbucks management and partners (employees) relating to litigation and legal exposure. Before this, she spent eight years as a Litigation and Trial Attorney at Stoen Rives LLP. Here, her responsibilities included handling all aspects of litigation, including trials, motions practice, settlement negotiations, mediations, depositions, expert work, written discovery, post-trial work, and appeals.



**Gordon I.  
ENDOW**

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP  
Partner  
Business Transactions

J.D., Georgetown University, B.A., Stanford University

Gordon Endow is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gordon & Rees. He is a past chair of the firm's Business Transactions Practice Group, and an active member of the firm's Intellectual Property and Commercial Litigation Practice Groups, as well as our Diversity Committee. Mr. Endow specializes in corporate transactions and litigation that involve intellectual property, including venture capital financing, mergers and acquisitions, technology development and licensing, privacy, e-commerce.

Prior to joining Gordon & Rees, Mr. Endow practiced law in-house for a large telecommunications company. He works with internal clients to provide practical and proactive problem-solving advice in order to make his in-house colleagues' jobs easier. He serves as outside general counsel for many company clients, with his broad and deep knowledge of contract, intellectual property, competition, employment, governance, and shareholder issues.



**Gregory P.  
BROOME**

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
Partner  
Taxation

J.D., University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, B.A., University of California

Gregory Broome is a partner in the San Francisco office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where his practice focuses on partnership and corporate taxation matters, including significant experience in mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, and renewable energy and project development and finance.

Prior to joining the firm, Greg was a partner at Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner in San Francisco. He has spoken at several conferences on the topics of mergers and acquisitions, utility financing, and the use of partnerships and limited liability companies.



**Harvey  
JANG**

Cisco  
Chief Privacy Officer and Counsel  
Global Privacy

J.D., University of California, Hastings  
College of the Law, B.A., University of  
California, Los Angeles

Harvey Jang is Director of Global Privacy and Data Protection for Cisco. He serves as the team lead for privacy and data security related legal matters and is responsible for developing and orchestrating Cisco's global privacy and data protection policies, compliance capabilities, and accountability frameworks.

Prior to joining Cisco, Harvey was Senior Director, Legal Affairs for McAfee. Part of Intel Security where he was lead counsel for privacy, security, marketing, and antitrust compliance. Harvey also served as Global Privacy & Security Counsel and team lead for privacy and security legal compliance for Intel. Before Intel, Harvey was the Director of Privacy & Information Management and Chief Privacy & Security Counsel for HP; Senior Compliance Counsel for Symantec; Litigation Counsel with two prominent international law firms — Gibson Dunn & Crutcher and O'Melveny & Myers LLP.



**Hasani  
CARAWAY**

Zendesk, Inc.  
General Counsel

J.D., New York University School of Law,  
B.A., Prairie View A&M University

Hasani Caraway is the General Counsel for Zendesk Inc. He joined the company in 2013. His specialties are Venture Capital, Corporate Finance, Corporate Law & Governance, Mergers & Acquisitions. Before joining Zendesk, he served as an Associate for Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati. In that role he counseled senior management and boards of directors on fiduciary duties, corporate governance, risk management and employment matters.



**Heba  
HAMOUDA**

Apple Inc.  
Principal Counsel, Senior Manager,  
Worldwide Commercial Law  
Commercial Law

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School  
of Law, B.S., Indiana University – Kelley  
School of Business

Heba Hamouda is the principal worldwide in-house counsel, senior manager, business partner and global lead advisor with extensive experience in the Information Technology sector, specializing in complex business and legal transactions, as well as channel distribution. Her key focus areas include complex global transactions and expansion, commercial health deals, consumer, education and enterprise sales, professional services, strategic alliances, as well as acquisitions. She is also a Worldwide legal counsel for distribution of Apple Watch Hermes and Apple Watch Nike.

Ms. Hamouda's specialties are General and complex worldwide corporate matters; Technology, systems integration and outsourcing; Channel partner programs; Management programs and agreements; Strategic alliances.



**Helen  
YU**

Goodwill Industries of the Columbia  
Willamette  
Associate General Counsel

M.B.A., University of Oregon – Charles  
H. Lundquist College of Business, J.D.,  
Indiana University Maurer School of  
Law, B.A., University of Michigan

Helen Yu is the Associate General Counsel at Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette. She has been in this position since 2013. Previously, she served as an attorney for Yu & Yu LLP. Before that, she was a Corporate Counsel at Hynix Semiconductor. Ms. Yu has also volunteered at various organizations like Oregon Korea Foundation, Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women.



**Heungsoo  
CHOI**

Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP  
Partner  
IP Strategy

J.D., University of San Diego, M.E.,  
Yonsei University – Graduate School  
of Engineering, B.S., Seoul National  
University

Heungsoo is a partner in our San Diego Office. He has about 18 years of experience in U.S. IP laws and over 4 years of experience in Korean patent law in various technologies including medical device, electrical, telecommunication and semiconductor areas.

His practice is focused on strategic patent procurement with a strong emphasis on USPTO examiner interviews, building and managing a complex patent portfolio, appeals to the PTAB, Ex Parte reexamination, broadening reissue, landscape analysis, due diligence, opinions, non-infringement and invalidity analysis. Heungsoo has extensive international practice, including Asia and Europe. He regularly visits Korea and gives presentations regarding U.S. intellectual property matters.

Heungsoo currently represents clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to start-up companies. He has experience and knowledge in a wide range of technologies including: electrical, telecommunication, computer, semiconductor and medical devices.



**Ja  
MOON**

Gilead Sciences, Inc.  
Senior Associate General Counsel  
Pharmaceutical Industry

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Ja Moon is Senior Counsel at Gilead Sciences, Inc., focusing on commercial and clinical matters in the pharmaceutical industry, primarily in the U.S., but increasingly ex-U.S. She concentrates on FDA regulatory matters, compliance with the Anti-Kickback Statute, False Claims Act, Sunshine Act and the FCPA. Previously, she has worked at Genentech, Inc. and Nektar Therapeutics, and Cooley LLP. She graduated from UC Berkeley and Boston University.



**Jack  
CHEN**

Microsoft Inc.  
Associate General Counsel, U.S.  
Immigration and Employment Policy  
Public Policy

J.D., University of California, Hastings  
College of the Law, B.A., Northwestern  
University

Jack Chen is Assistant General Counsel for Employment Policy and Society at Microsoft Corporation. Mr. Chen is responsible for public policy matters relating to talent acquisition, workforce development, and maximizing opportunity for people and communities. His primary areas of focus include diversity and inclusion in technology, immigration reform, and national U.S. workforce development strategy. He also advises on public policy issues concerning the future of work and the impact of automation and AI on skills and employability. Mr. Chen currently serves on the Washington State Future of Work Task Force and is an Advisory Board Member of The Board's Labor Markets Center. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and is a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellows alumnus.



**Jade  
TRAN**

Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman, LLP  
Partner  
General Liability; asbestos/toxic tort; and  
environmental

J.D., UC Davis King Hall School of Law,  
2001; B.A., UC Santa Barbara, 1996

Jade Tran has spent her entire career with Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman, LLP where she is currently a Partner. She represents a broad range of clients from individuals to municipalities, large trucking companies, multi-unit residential and commercial real estate owners, manufacturers, and companies in the food and hospitality industry. Her practice focuses mainly on general liability, but also includes asbestos and toxic tort exposure, as well as, environmental claims, where she advises her clients in risk management, claims investigation, and manages litigation through trial.



**James F.  
WILLIAMS**

Perkins Coie LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Virginia School of  
Law, B.A., The Citadel, The Military  
College of South Carolina

Prominent trial and complex business litigation attorney, James Williams serves as the Seattle Office Managing Partner and Chair of the Business Litigation practice. In more than 30 years of courtroom victories, arbitrations, mediations and litigation management, James has continually prevailed for his clients and eliminated or reduced the risks triggered by lawsuits. He handles sophisticated allegations for plaintiffs or defendants related to breach of contract, fraud, product liability, corporate plaintiff asset recovery, consultant liability, consumer protection and unfair business practices, trade secrets, bankruptcy court adversary actions, Washington Public Records Act, and federal and state agency litigation.



**Jason S.  
TAKENOUCHI**

Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP  
Partner  
Commercial litigation; Software  
Litigation; White Collar Defense and  
Investigations

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
School of Law, 2004 (Order of the Coif),  
M.P.P., University of California, Berkeley,  
Goldman School of Public Policy, 2004,  
B.A., University of California, Santa  
Cruz, 1996 (Phi Beta Kappa)

Jason Takenouchi is a leading litigator in California handling high-stakes disputes. His practice includes complex civil and criminal litigation, including technology, white collar defense, internal investigations and antitrust.

In 2018, Jason was a key member of the Kasowitz trial team that secured a \$25 million jury verdict for client Copart against Sparta Consulting and its parent, KPIT Infosystems, for fraud and professional negligence stemming from a failed software implementation. The verdict was the first in California to recognize professional negligence liability for a software provider. Jason also helped secure an \$11 million recovery for the State of Hawaii for a failed software implementation in 2018.

Jason co-authored "ERP Implementations in the Public Sector: Special Challenges," which offered advice for public sector entities considering technology projects, in Government Technology in 2018.



**John S.  
GIBSON**

Crowell & Moring LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan Law School,  
B.A., Harvard University

John Gibson is a partner in Crowell & Moring’s Litigation & Trial Department and serves on the firm’s Management Board, as co-chair of the Diversity Council. A save-the-company trial lawyer, litigator, and thought leader with 30 years of experience, he succeeds in crisis situations for clients ranging from top technology and healthcare companies to professional sports teams and underrepresented pro bono clients. In naming John one of The Best Lawyers in America, the editors described him as “very talented” and “effective and dedicated.” John also won the Burton Award for being one of the “finest law firm writers of 2019.” John is rated AV Preeminent 5.0 out of 5.0 by Martindale-Hubbell. John is also a fellow in The Litigation Counsel of America honorary society for trial lawyers.



**John  
IINO**

Reed Smith LLP  
Partner and Chief Diversity Officer  
Diversity & Inclusion

J.D., USC Gould School of Law, 1987  
(Order of the Coif), B.A. Pomona  
College, 1984

John is Reed Smith’s Global Chair, Diversity & Inclusion. In this role, he acts as a change agent for Reed Smith’s efforts to sponsor and achieve diversity and inclusion in the legal community. He is a member of the firm’s Global Leadership Team and an ex-officio member of the Talent Committee of the firm’s Executive Committee.

John previously served as Global Chair of the firm’s Business & Finance Department, Chair of the U.S. Corporate & Securities Group and Managing Partner of the Los Angeles office. In 2010, John became the first Asian American to serve on Reed Smith’s Executive Committee and Senior Management Team.

John currently is the President-Elect of the Board of Governors of the USC Alumni Association and Chair of the Board of Councilors of the USC Gould School of Law. He was named among the top 500 “Most Influential People in LA” by the Los Angeles Business Journal (2018) and has been named “One of the Nation’s Most Influential Minority Attorneys” by Lawyers of Color for two consecutive years (2014-2015). John received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” at the Los Angeles Business Journal’s Asian Business Awards (2016), the Leadership Award from the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association (2017), the President’s Award from the USC Alumni Association (2017) and the “Volunteer of the Year” Award from Ednovate, Inc. (2019).



**Jordan  
CHENG**

Alliance Data Card Services  
Vice President and Deputy General  
Counsel  
Transactions, Litigation

J.D., University of Cincinnati College  
of Law, B.S., University of Utah David  
Eccles School of Business

Jordan Cheng is the Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Alliance Data Card Services. The executive is responsible for leading the legal department supporting a \$19B+ (in assets) diversified credit card portfolio issued out of two state-chartered FDIC-insured banks. He provides strategic direction for the department and sits at the table with the most senior leaders in the organization. He also leads and manages a group of seasoned transactional, litigation, and regulatory attorneys and support professionals.

Before joining the company he was Vice President and Senior Counsel at Bank of the West, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at JP Morgan Chase & Co. and Associate Attorney at Frost Brown Todd LLC.



**Jose  
AVINA**

Paramount Pictures Corporation  
Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs  
Legal Affairs

J.D., Southwestern Law School, B.A.,  
California State University-Fullerton

Jose Avina is the Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs at Paramount Pictures Corporation. He joined the company twelve years ago, assuming various positions like International Counsel, Executive Director, then Vice President, Business Affairs & Legal. Before joining Paramount he worked for Disneyland Resort for six years, being in charge of operations.



**Joseph H.  
LEE**

Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
Vice President, Associate General  
Counsel; IP Licensing  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
– School of Law, B.S.E.E., University of  
Southern California

Joseph Lee is an Intellectual Property (IP) Attorney, registered to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office, specializing in patent licensing and monetization (sales and acquisitions), patent assertions and defense, and strategic patent portfolio management. Drawing upon 25+ years of experience, Mr. Lee is uniquely qualified to offer perspectives and insights from every side of the negotiating table, including positions as outside counsel advising companies, in-house counsel addressing both legal and internal business objectives, and as a licensing executive for well-known patent licensing entities.



**Joshua  
HILL, Jr.**

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
Partner  
Health Care Fraud

J.D., Yale Law School, M.A., Johns  
Hopkins University, B.A., Morehouse  
College

Joshua Hill, a former federal prosecutor focusing on investigations and white-collar criminal defense and complex commercial litigation, is praised by clients for his results, presence, and judgment. Mr. Hill has tried and arbitrated cases in federal court, JAMS, and the American Arbitration Association. He has tried seven cases to jury verdict in federal court and has experience in every aspect of trial practice. Chambers USA described Mr. Hill as a “very talented” litigator with “significant strengths acting for clients in the technology, healthcare and energy sectors.”

Mr. Hill has particular experience representing clients within the pharmaceutical, medical device, consumer technology, sports, and energy industries. Mr. Hill’s experience also includes cases requiring close coordination with litigation public relations professionals.



**Jun  
LI**

VMware Inc.  
Senior Director & Associate General  
Counsel  
Mergers & Acquisitions

Ph.D., University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville, J.D., Mercer University –  
Walter F. George School of Law, B.A.,  
Zhengzhou University

Jun Li is a seasoned legal executive with broad, general corporate experiences advising board of directors and senior management on a wide range of corporate issues including securities laws, corporate governance, mergers & acquisitions, ethics and compliance programs at enterprise level and in global settings. Mr. Li has a proven track record in building cross functional, global teams and as a trusted advisor to management at all levels. He also has a demonstrated high level of integrity and discernment.



**Kamal  
PATEL**

Netflix, Inc.  
Director, Legal & Business Affairs  
Business Affairs

J.D., University of California, Los  
Angeles – School of Law, M.B.A.,  
University of California, Los Angeles –  
The Anderson School of Management,  
B.A., University of California, Los  
Angeles

Kamal Patel is an attorney at Netflix focusing on the company’s domestic operations and global expansion in the Latin American, Asia Pacific and EMEA regions by supporting the business development, network architecture, product and marketing teams.

He has worked at a multinational company, 4 global law firms and 2 federal government agencies focusing on licensing, formation, financings, real estate, M&A and capital markets. He is a startup advisor and real estate and angel investor in Silicon Valley. He holds a unique blend of experience in the tech, finance, consulting, venture capital and private equity industries.

Kamal is quick, sharp, and versatile and possesses the rare convergence of diligent attention to detail, big-picture vision, and drive to execute. He has the natural ability to synthesize complex information and communicate clearly with anyone.



**Katherine  
McLAIN**

Intuit Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel

J.D., Santa Clara University School  
of Law, B.A., University of California,  
Berkeley

Katherine McLain serves as Assistant General Counsel at Intuit. She joined the company in 2017.

Ms. McLain develops and negotiates strategic alliances, new business models, in-bound and out-bound technology terms, international transactions, highly regulated partnering agreements with financial institutions, and sales agreements worldwide. She manages internal and external attorneys supporting day to day marketing review and transactional support to various global markets.

Katherine McLain has expertise in SAAS, electronic payment services, forward and reverse mortgage, lending, consumer and small business lending, private and general banking, tax software and small business tools, and retirement plans.



**Katina C.  
THORNOCK**

Starbucks Coffee Company  
Director, Corporate Counsel, Global  
Litigation  
Litigation

J.D., Seattle University School of Law,  
B.A., University of Washington

Katina C. Thornock serves as Director, Corporate Counsel, Litigation at Starbucks Coffee Company. She is responsible for overseeing complex commercial, real estate, intellectual property and Americans with Disabilities Act litigation on behalf of Starbucks. She also leads the company’s general liability team. She is a past Co-Chair of the Starbucks Law and Corporate Affairs Diversity Committee and a 2014 Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity Fellow. Ms. Thornock began her career in the Prosecuting Attorneys Offices of King and Pierce Counties, Washington where she guided misdemeanor and felony prosecutions through trial Prior to joining Starbucks, Ms. Thornock gained extensive litigation experience in private practice working at the Reed McClure and Cozen O’Connor law firms.



**Kimberly (Jee)  
PHAM**

Adobe Inc.  
Manager, Legal Counsel – Digital Media  
Media

J.D., University of the Pacific –  
McGeorge School of Law, B.A.,  
University of California, Berkeley

Kimberly Jee Pham is the Manager, Legal Counsel - Digital Media for Adobe. She is an experienced In-House Product Counsel supporting Adobe Spark, Behance, Portfolio and all Digital Video and Audio products. Previously she served as a Corporate Counsel at Brocade and also at GTT. Earlier in her career she was an Attorney at Armstrong, Callan & Shiu, LLP and also at McManis Faulkner & Morgan.



**Kirsten J.  
JENSEN**

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP  
Partner  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., Harvard University, B.A., Yale  
University

As a founding member of Simpson Thacher’s Palo Alto Office, Kirsten Jensen has been in the forefront of many game-changing deals in Silicon Valley. She provides her clients with practical advice and solutions to help them achieve their goals as they engage in complex transactions.

Kirsten works with corporations, private equity firms and financial institutions on transactions spanning the full range of M&A, including public and private acquisitions, joint ventures, minority investments and activist defenses. Named for multiple years as one of ALM’s Women Leaders in Tech Law for her M&A experience advising clients in tech and biotech, Kirsten also covers a broad range of other industries, including pharmaceutical, healthcare, renewable energy, finance, consumer products, media, real estate, aerospace and light industrial.



**Margaret Chu  
IKEYA**

GE Digital  
Deputy General Counsel, Chief  
Commercial Counsel

J.D., Santa Clara University School of  
Law, B.S., University of California, Los  
Angeles

Margaret Chu Ikeya is the General Counsel, Chief Commercial Counsel at GE Digital. In this role, she leads legal support for the global GED Ecosystem and Channels business in GE’s transformation to be a digital industrial leader in the Industrial Internet-of-Things. She handles partnerships with senior business clients to execute on the following go-to-market programs for IIoT: Channels, ISVs, Solution Extension Partners, BPOs, OEMs, SIs and Technology Partners. She also negotiates and executes on strategic partnerships to proliferate the operating system for IIoT and improving IIoT user experience.



**Mark  
PITTS**

Oracle Corporation  
Senior Managing Counsel

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A.,  
University of Michigan

Mark Pitts is an experienced business lawyer. More than twenty years handling legal and corporate affairs for high-growth companies. He has a deep domain expertise managing intellectual property assets, including development and execution of IP strategy, licensing, partnerships and strategic transactions.

Mr. Pitts serves as Senior Managing Counsel - Development & Engineering for Oracle’s Global Business Units, the company’s vertical applications business. He leads teams that manage an array of corporate affairs: software licensing; alliances and partnerships; open source analysis and other strategic matters. He works with cross-functional teams ranging from product development to finance to marketing. He has a deep domain expertise in IP due diligence, software acquisition and strategic transactions.



**Maurice M.  
SUH**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
Partner and Co-Chair of Sports Law  
Practice Group  
Litigation

J.D., Columbia Law School of Columbia  
University, 1989, B.S., Columbia  
University, 1986 (summa cum laude, Phi  
Beta Kappa)

Maurice Suh focuses on business litigation and the representation of clients in conjunction with white collar, compliance and related government enforcement actions. Mr. Suh has appeared before numerous state and federal courts in conjunction with pretrial, trial and appellate proceedings, as well as domestic and international arbitration matters. He’s handled litigation matters involving class actions, mortgage-backed securities, securities litigation, false claims act matters and business torts. Mr. Suh previously served as Deputy Mayor of Homeland Security and Public Safety for the City of Los Angeles and also served as a Deputy Chief of the Public Corruption and Government Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Central District of California. Mr. Suh was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.



**McCray  
PETTWAY**

Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.  
Vice President and Associate General Counsel  
Litigation

B.S., Boston College Law School, B.A., Emory University

McCray Pettway is a senior legal counsel and people manager with expertise advising C-suite executives and managers on a broad number of legal issues, including litigation, employment, executive compensation, labor, wage and hour, cyber security, data privacy, compliance, and business restructuring.

She is responsible for global employment, litigation, and other assignments in the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa, India, and Russia for first in class international logistics company operating in 63 countries. She serves as a member of the senior leadership team of the legal department, reporting directly to the General Counsel. She supervises and develops staff of attorneys and legal professionals. Serves on the data privacy team developing compliance solutions domestically and globally.



**Michele  
LAU**

McKesson Corporation  
SVP, Corporate Secretary & Associate General Counsel

J.D., Cornell Law School, B.A., Wesleyan University

Michele Lau is a SVP, Corporate Secretary & Associate General Counsel at McKesson Corporation. She joined the company in 2008. Previously, she served as a Corporate Attorney at Morrison & Foerster LLP.



**Michelle A.  
COOKE**

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, B.A., University of Virginia

Michelle Cooke helps intellectual property owners build, protect and monetize their assets domestically, internationally and online. She focuses on branding, online content and brand presence, international protection/enforcement, trade secrets. Michelle has particular experience with the entertainment and media, multimedia platforms, consumer products, apparel and software industries.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of market borders, Michelle takes an international perspective on preplanning, management and vigilance. This approach promotes value in intellectual property, minimizes clients' risks in other countries, and lays the foundation for international expansion. She identifies and executes strategies for trademark and copyright cross-border disputes, and negotiates a range of IP transactions for international markets.

Michelle also creates structures to protect global brands. When infringement occurs, she leads the dispute proceedings and assists in domestic and international customs enforcement and criminal proceedings against counterfeiters.



**Michelle Lee  
PICKETT**

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
Shareholder  
Private Equity

J.D., The George Washington University Law School, B.A., George Washington University (cum laude)

Michelle Pickett is an experienced transactional attorney and a trusted advisor to corporations, partnerships and nonprofits. Michelle counsels her clients on matters related to mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and corporate, business and tax law.

Ranging from individual investors to start-up and established companies, Michelle's clients operate in various industries, including water, beverage, agriculture, technology, gaming and entertainment. She combines her business, accounting and legal acumen to structure and implement strategies that maximize her clients' business objectives.

Actively engaged in providing legal services to the philanthropic sector, Michelle counsels a wide spectrum of nonprofits as well as high net worth individuals and celebrities in structuring, forming and operating public charities and private foundations. She leverages her business experience to provide these organizations with best practices for continued governance and operational efficiency.



**Miriam  
KIM**

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., U.C. Berkeley School of Law, 2002 (Order of Coif), B.A., Harvard College, 1998 (magna cum laude)

Miriam Kim is a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP whose practice focuses on complex business litigation and internal investigations, with an emphasis on trade secret matters and technology disputes. Miriam has substantial experience protecting companies' trade secrets and defending against trade secret misappropriation claims. She recently represented Amgen in obtaining a favorable settlement, including a multi-year royalty, on the eve of trial resolving a trade secrets dispute. She has handled matters involving a wide variety of other claims for clients such as Intel, Applied Materials, and LG Electronics.

Miriam is a leader in the community. She is co-chair of the Northern District of California Lawyer Representative Committee, a past President of the Asian American Bar Association, and a board member of the Bar Association of San Francisco.



**Nelson G  
DONG**

Dorsey & Whitney LLP  
Partner; Head, National Security Practice  
Group  
International technology and trade law,  
economic sanctions, export controls,  
U.S.-China issues

J.D., Yale Law School, 1974; A.B.,  
Stanford University, 1971, Phi Beta  
Kappa

Nelson Dong, based in Seattle, leads Dorsey’s international trade practice, focusing on export controls, economic sanctions, CFIUS national security reviews and tariff matters. He writes and teaches regularly in these fields and has been an adjunct international law professor at Seattle University Law School. He was a White House Fellow and Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, Deputy Associate Attorney General and Assistant U.S. Attorney. He co-founded the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area. The National Asian Pacific Bar Association named him a 2009 “Trailblazer” for his professional leadership and mentoring. He was Stanford University’s first Asian American trustee and is a director of the National Committee on US-China Relations and an active member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Committee of 100.



**Neyha Garga  
RAJAN**

Tailored Brands, Inc.  
Vice President, Asst. General Counsel  
Privacy & Compliance Law

J.D., University of California, Davis,  
(2000), B.A. University of California,  
Berkeley, 1993

Neyha G. Rajan is a seasoned legal executive with demonstrated leadership and expertise in global privacy and data security laws and corporate governance, in the retail apparel and fashion industry. She regularly advises executives regarding ever-changing privacy issues in the increasingly data driven world at the crossroads of retail and e-commerce technology. She also is responsible for corporate governance and legal compliance for all the fashion brands under the Tailored Brands umbrella. Ms. Rajan also sponsors corporate diversity and inclusion initiatives, mentors attorneys and employees of color, and regularly advises business executives about inclusion and bias in consumer marketing and employee workplaces. Prior to joining Tailored Brands, Ms. Rajan was an associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP’s San Francisco office, where she practiced securities litigation and appellate law.



**Olivier F.  
THEARD**

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton  
LLP  
Partner  
Environmental Law

J.D., University of Southern California,  
B.A., Stanford University

Olivier Theard is a partner specializing in environmental law, including regulatory advice and compliance, due diligence and transactions, administrative hearings, and litigation. He assists clients with environmental regulatory and permitting matters, including advice and compliance with State and Federal air quality, hazardous waste, and consumer products laws.

Olivier is an active leader in the firm’s diversity and recruiting efforts. He is co-chair of the Los Angeles Recruiting Committee, in charge of hiring new lawyers. Olivier also is the firmwide leader of major diversity initiatives aimed at increasing minority and female retention in the practice of law.



**Pallavi Mehta  
WAHI**

K&L Gates LLP  
Managing Partner, Seattle Office; Co-  
Managing Partner, United States; Chair  
of Firmwide Diversity Committee  
Commercial litigation with an emphasis  
on corporate and IP litigation

B.A., University of Cambridge, Tripos  
Law, Magdalene College, Cambridge  
University, Automatic Conversion to  
M.A.; B.A., University of Delhi, St.  
Stephen’s College, New Delhi, India

Pallavi Mehta Wahi is the co-US Managing Partner and a commercial disputes partner at K&L Gates LLP. As an experienced litigator, Ms. Wahi has argued before various tribunals and courts in hearings and at trial with success. She also acts as global coordinating counsel for litigation for several clients across a wide range of jurisdictions, countries, and subject matter areas. In 2018, Ms. Wahi was named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in the U.S. by The Business Journals. She also has recent recognition from Washington Super Lawyers, Chambers USA, Acritas Stars, Managing Intellectual Property, the Puget Sound Business Journal, the National Diversity Council, and the Indian Corporate Counsel Association.



**Pamela  
WOODSIDE**

Dollar Tree Stores  
Assistant General Counsel  
Employment

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.S., Duke University

Pamela Woodside has 15 years experience performing complex commercial and employment litigation. She provides advice and counsels to employers regarding claims of harassment, discrimination and wage and hour claims. Regularly conducts employment training and counsels clients on employment and complex business litigation issues. Works with both private clients as well as those covered by EPLI, D&O, and E&O insurance policies. Ms. Woodside is admitted to practice in the states of California, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.



**Peir  
CHU**

ON Semiconductor Corporation  
Director, IP Administration/Senior IP  
Counsel  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School,  
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign, M.A., University of Florida,  
B.S., National Taiwan University

Peir Chu is Director, IP Administration/Senior IP Counsel at ON Semiconductor. In this position he deals with patent prosecution, outside counsel management, patent analysis, litigation support. Before joining the company he managed his own law firm, IP Centrix. There, he dealt with patent prosecution, patent assessment and evaluation, infringement analysis, litigation support, and contract evaluation.



**Pierre-Richard  
PROSPER**

Arent Fox LLP  
Partner  
Government Relations

J.D., Pepperdine University School of  
Law, B.A., Boston College

Ambassador Prosper's practice centers on international government relations and trade, mediation and internal assessments, and investigations on behalf of government entities and companies. He is regularly called upon to handle complex and sensitive matters. Using his high-level diplomatic experience and legal skills, Ambassador Prosper advises company executives and assists clients in navigating complex political and regulatory landscapes of foreign markets; advises and assists developing countries on building and strengthening domestic institutional capacity in legal, commercial, and energy sector. With his wide range of contacts throughout the world, he is able to open markets to clients, determine the feasibility of trade relationships and minimize legal and business risks. Ambassador Prosper has been appointed by the US District Court to mediate complex legal and business disputes between parties and has recommended solutions on matters of public interest.



**Portia R.  
MOORE**

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Partner  
Litigation

J.D., University of Michigan Law  
School, 1982, B.S., Nursing, University of  
Washington, 1977 (magna cum laude)

Portia Moore focuses on complex litigation, emphasizing defense against wrongful termination and race and sex discrimination claims. She regularly tries cases to a successful conclusion, and has served as lead counsel in numerous employment discrimination cases. With an undergraduate degree in nursing, Portia has a special and unique knowledge of the health care arena. She received her trial experience as an assistant US attorney for the Western District of Washington. Since 2007, Portia has sat on the board of the Loren Miller Bar Association and has spent 4 years serving on the LMBA judicial evaluation committee. In 2017, LMBA recognized Portia as one of a handful of women "trailblazers" in the Seattle legal community. She also currently sits on the American Bar Association's Committee on Diversity since 2009, and has served as board member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Puget Sound, as well as a Board member of the King County Bar Association. In 2018, Portia was awarded DWT's "The Edward J. Davis Diversity & Mentorship Award", an award given to a partner who has made exceptional efforts to advance diversity and mentorship of all attorneys throughout the firm. She has also been selected as a "Washington Super Lawyer" by Thomson Reuters from 2014-2018 and selected as one of the "Top 100 Black Lawyers in Washington" of National Black Lawyers in 2018.



**Quyen  
TA**

Boies Schiller Flexner LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
School of Law, B.A., University of  
California, Los Angeles (cum laude)

Quyen is a sought-after and experienced litigator and trial lawyer. Her practice focuses on consumer class action defense, intellectual property, trade secrets misappropriation, and other high-stakes, complex civil litigation. She has tried numerous cases and has handled a significant number of civil matters in state courts, federal courts, and before the International Trade Commission. Prior to joining Boies Schiller Flexner, Quyen was a partner at Kecker, Van Nest & Peters.

Quyen was selected by The Recorder as a Lawyer on the Fast Track based on her career achievements and leadership roles within her practice and the larger community. She has also been selected as a Women Leaders in Tech Law by The Recorder, and was named one of the nation's Best Lawyers Under 40 by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



**Rafik  
BAWA**

Airbnb  
Deputy General Counsel, Product

J.D., Dalhousie University, B.A., The  
University of British Columbia

Rafik Bawa is the Deputy General Counsel, Product at Airbnb. He has 20+ years professional experience as an attorney for high tech companies, including large, Silicon Valley law firm experience and as general counsel to a high-growth division of a Fortune 500 company in the Internet sector, with particular expertise advising on commercial and international legal matters in North America, Europe, India, China and Latin America.



**Raja  
SÉKARAN**

Nossaman LLP  
Partner  
Healthcare

University of California, Berkeley

Raja Sékaran has practiced in the healthcare industry for more than two decades. He represents healthcare delivery systems, health plans, hospitals, physicians, Federally Qualified Health Centers, dialysis centers, medical device companies, other providers and suppliers and trade associations. He counsels clients on regulatory compliance, government investigations, white collar defense, Medicare, Medicaid and revenue cycle. In addition, he advises health plans and risk-bearing providers on network contracting and matters pertaining to the laws of managed care, including the Knox-Keene Act in California

Previously, Mr. Sékaran served as Senior Counsel in the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, where he undertook False Claims Act investigations, negotiated Corporate Integrity Agreements, brought administrative litigation and authored OIG advisory opinions involving the federal Anti-Kickback Statute.



**Regina A.  
PETTY**

Fisher & Phillips LLP  
Partner/Chief Diversity Officer  
Labor & Employment

J.D., Stanford University, 1982; A.B.,  
Economics, Stanford University, 1979

Regina Petty advises employers and handles trial, class action and appellate litigation in state and federal courts. She successfully argued *Jones v. The Lodge* at Torrey Pines Partnership (2008) 42 Cal.4th 1158. Regina has been named one of the Los Angeles Daily Journal's Top 75 Women Litigators in California.

Regina is a past president of the San Diego County Bar Association and past faculty member for the American Bar Association TIPS Trial Academy and for the International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy. She is an author and a presenter for national and regional professional organizations. Regina's leadership roles include the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, ABA Litigation Section, Minority Corporate Counsel Association, ABA Conference of Minority Partners in Majority/Corporate Law Firms, ABA House of Delegates, California Women Lawyers, California Minority Counsel Program, CLE Committee Chair for IADC, Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Sharp Healthcare and the Holiday Bowl.



**Rey  
RODRIGUEZ**

The Walt Disney Company  
Assistant Chief Counsel

J.D., University of California, Berkeley  
– School of Law, M.P.A., Princeton  
University, B.A., Cornell University

Rey Rodriguez is a 20-year veteran of The Walt Disney Company. As Assistant Chief Counsel for Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, he serves the global theatrical distribution arm of the studio, covering the US, Canada, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. His areas of responsibilities cover areas including intellectual property, contracts, antitrust work and general business law. Additional responsibilities include coordinating closely on matters of theatrical distribution and marketing with his international legal colleagues across the globe on many global initiatives to ensure effective implementation. Through Disney Legal Pro Bono program, he provides pro bono services to an immigrant child from Guatemala, who recently received his permanent residency to work and live in the US. This work is in coordination with Kids in Need of Defense.



**Rhonda  
HJORT**

Lucasfilm Ltd.  
Deputy Chief Counsel

J.D., University of California, Davis –  
School of Law, B.A., Carleton College

Rhonda Hjort oversees business and legal affairs for the various Lucasfilm businesses, including production of original live-action and animated content for film and television, ILM visual effects and Skywalker Sound audio post-production, licensed products, and gaming. She has been with the company since 2007.

Prior to joining Lucasfilm, Hjort was general attorney at AT&T where she litigated a full range of employment claims, including wage and hour class actions, in federal and state court. She began her legal career at Carroll, Burdick, and McDonough as an employment law litigator.



**Robert E.  
SIMS**

Latham & Watkins LLP  
Partner  
Criminal Defense

J.D., Columbia University School of  
Law, B.A., Harvard University

Bob Sims, a trial lawyer in the White Collar Defense & Investigations and Export Controls, Economic Sanctions & Customs Practices, represents US and global companies, organizations, and individuals in criminal and civil proceedings in jurisdictions across the United States and throughout the world.

Mr. Sims draws on more than three decades of legal experience to provide clients with sophisticated advice and representation.

He frequently writes and speaks about US sanctions, anti-corruption, and fraud issues. He currently serves on the board of the GlobalGiving Foundation and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C. He is a past board member of the Ploughshares Fund in San Francisco and currently serves on its audit committee.

In 2018, Mr. Sims was named to Savoy Magazine's Most Influential Black Lawyers List.



**Rollin B.  
CHIPPEY, II**

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Partner  
Financial Services

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., Yale University

Recognized for his trial skills, Rollin B. Chippey II represents US and Japanese companies in complex commercial litigation, trade secrets cases, employment disputes, and real estate matters. A strategic commercial litigator as well as a trial lawyer, he represents plaintiffs and defendants in US federal and state courts.

His employment litigation work encompasses defending employers in complex wrongful termination, sexual harassment, and racial discrimination cases.

In 2014, American Lawyer named him "Litigator of the Week" for managing the trial team that obtained more than \$500 million for Asahi Kasei Pharma Corp. in its antitrust suit against Actelion.



**Román D.  
HERNÁNDEZ**

Troutman Sanders LLP  
Partner  
Employment Law/Commercial Lit.

J.D., 2000, Lewis and Clark Law School;  
B.S., 1992, Oregon State University

Román focuses on employment law and commercial litigation and has particular experience in the defense of employers against claims filed by former, current, and prospective employees for allegations of discrimination, harassment, constructive discharge, wrongful discharge, and for alleged wage and hour violations in both state and federal courts, including class action litigation. He provides general employment advice to employers of all sizes related to employment policies and practices. Additionally, Román has an extensive commercial litigation practice and regularly represents clients in litigation involving breach of contract matters, defense of consumer protection claims, and defense of fraud claims among others. Román represents clients in a variety of industries including retail, telecommunications, agribusiness, health and hygiene, software development, manufacturing, logistics, transportation and higher education. He has appeared in federal courts in Oregon, Washington, California, Texas, and Pennsylvania on behalf of firm clients and has presented oral argument to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Román also acts as lead counsel in class action disputes at the state and federal level.



**Sabiha  
CHUNAWALA**

Juniper Networks  
Vice President & Deputy General  
Counsel, Worldwide Go-to-Market

Technology Transactions  
J.D., University of Miami School of Law,  
1997, B.B.A., Stetson University, 1994  
(cum laude)

Sabiha Chunawala manages the global commercial technology transactions practice area for Juniper Networks serving as legal advisor to the Chief Customer Officer's Go-to-Market organization. She is a member of Juniper's Inclusion & Diversity Committee, and also participates as a member of Advancing Women Executives, California Women Lawyers, and ChIPs Silicon Valley. In addition, Sabiha serves as a Library Commissioner for the Town of Los Gatos Library.



**Sean S.  
PAK**

Quinn Emmanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
LLP  
Partner  
Intellectual Property

J.D., Harvard Law School (cum laude),  
M.Eng., Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology, B.S., Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology

Sean Pak is Co-Chair of the firm's National Intellectual Property Litigation Practice and Co-Managing Partner of the San Francisco office. Sean is a trial lawyer with extensive experience in litigating patents, trade secrets, copyrights and other intellectual property in "bet the company" cases on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants.

In 2013, Sean was named an Intellectual Property Rising Star under the age of 40 nationwide by Law360. In the 2008 Legal 500 USA guide, Sean was recognized for his patent litigation work. Also in 2008, The Times of London named Sean a "Future Star of America" and cited his "intellectual prowess, industry expertise, and people skills."



**Shalem  
MASSEY**

Bryan Cave LLP  
Partner  
Product Liability, Commercial Disputes,  
Aviation, Aerospace & Defense  
(Co-Leader), Litigation & Dispute  
Resolution, Insurance, Aviation Law,  
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Team  
(Leader), Connected and Autonomous  
Vehicle Team (Leader)

J.D., University of San Diego, 1989, B.A.,  
University of California-Los Angeles,  
1986

Shalem Massey has a broad range of experience in civil litigation. For more than 25 years, Mr. Massey's practice has involved representing clients in jury and non-jury trials in complex commercial litigation. His litigation experience involves matters throughout the United States, Canada, Asia, South America, Central America, and Europe. He has litigated numerous international and domestic matters with winning results involving product liability, corporate compliance, class actions, insurance coverage, and complex business litigation.

Mr. Massey has advised lessors of aircraft and airports on leasing, repossession, and environmental matters. Additionally, he has represented and guided many clients during the course of numerous OSHA, Federal Aviation Administration, and National Transportation Safety Board investigations. Mr. Massey has also been appointed by several corporations to guide them in litigation preparedness and product integrity functions.



**Simone M.  
DENNY**

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Blue Diamond Growers  
Senior Vice President and General  
Counsel  
In House

J.D., George Washington University,  
B.S., Cornell University

Simone Denny is Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Blue Diamond Growers. She is responsible for building Blue Diamond's internal legal function and providing strategic legal support for the Blue Diamond enterprise with a particular focus on matters associated with Operations, Governance and Risk Management.

With extensive experience in the consumer products and manufacturing industries, Simone is accomplished at partnering with senior management to deliver timely and successful solutions to business objectives.

Before joining Blue Diamond in 2018, Simone spent a 12-year career at The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia where she served as Managing Counsel. She also spent five years overseas in London, England in roles with NCR Corporation and PA Consulting Group.



**Smeeta  
RAMARATHNAM**

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Robinhood Markets, Inc.  
Deputy General Counsel, Vice President  
of Legal, Regulatory  
Financial Services

J.D., Stanford Law School, 2000, B.A.,  
Stanford University, 1996 (honors)

Smeeta Ramarathnam leads and manages regulatory relations, government and external affairs, and legal and compliance regulatory interpretation at Robinhood Markets, Inc. Immediately prior, she served in senior roles at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, including as the Deputy Director of the Office of Credit Ratings and Chief of Staff to a Commissioner. Smeeta also worked in a large international law firm and clerked for the Honorable Deborah Chasanow of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. She has been an adjunct faculty member and current Board member of Stanford in Washington. Smeeta also served as the President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater DC Area. She also received the National Asian and Pacific American Bar Association's Top 40 Under 40 Award.



**Sonya A.  
JOHNSTON**

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Facebook Technologies  
Director & Associate General Counsel,  
AR/VR Facebook Oculus  
Technology & commercial transactions

J.D., Seton Hall University School of  
Law, B.S., Rutgers University/Douglass  
College

Sonya is the Director & Associate General Counsel at Facebook Technologies, overseeing a legal team responsible for the distribution, sales, marketing and communications for the business teams responsible for Facebook's augmented and virtual reality products, which includes Oculus VR and Portal. She is an experienced global leader who has worked on a wide range of complex technology and commercial transactions in connection with traditional and emerging technologies. Prior to her current role, Sonya spent 17 ½ years at Microsoft in various legal positions supporting the development, sales and marketing of a wide range of consumer hardware and software products which included the Surface device, Windows Mixed Reality, Xbox, Xbox games and Windows Phone Services. Sonya is originally from Brooklyn, New York and has 2 young adult daughters.



**Stacie D.  
YEE**

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Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Partner  
Employment Law

J.D., University of Southern California  
Gould School of Law, B.A., Claremont  
McKenna College

Based in Los Angeles, Pillsbury partner Stacie Yee handles employment litigation, arbitration and counseling, and complex commercial litigation for a global clientele.

Stacie litigates wage and hour, California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, discrimination, and retaliation/whistleblower, including qui tam, actions. She also resolves trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition and false advertising claims. Stacie provides preventative counseling to help clients avoid litigation and advises on contracts, policies, disability accommodations, terminations and other issues. She regularly helps Asia-based clients enter the U.S. market including to navigate employment laws. Over the years, she has worked particularly close with foreign airlines on employment-related and litigation matters, as well as with clients in the restaurant, food and beverage industry.



**Sue Hahm  
WALKER**

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Salesforce  
Vice President and Associate General  
Counsel, Global Labor & Employment  
Employment Law

J.D., Santa Clara University School  
of Law, B.A., University of California,  
Berkeley

Sue Hahm Walker is a Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Global Labor & Employment at Salesforce. She joined the company ten years ago. Before this she served as an Attorney at Applied Materials and an Associate Attorney at Pahl & Gosselin. She has also volunteered, being a pro bono attorney at Kids In Need of Defense.



**Takehiko (Ted)  
SUZUKI**

DIRECTV, LLC  
Vice President & Deputy General  
Counsel  
Corporate Law

J.D., Boston University School of Law,  
B.A., Duke University

Takehiko Suzuki is a Vice President & Deputy General Counsel at DIRECTV, LLC. He has been in the company for the last 22 years. At the same time he is also Vice President & Associate General Counsel at AT&T. Earlier in his career he acted as a Corporate Counsel at Upper Deck and an Associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman.



**Tara L.  
SMITH**

Campbell Soup Company  
Deputy Corporate Secretary and  
Corporate Counsel  
Corporate Governance

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law  
School, B.A., Duke University

As corporate counsel for Campbell Soup Company, Tara Smith provides legal guidance to the company's senior executives and board of directors.

She routinely works on issues relating to corporate governance, securities law, executive compensation, compliance, and enterprise risk. Smith's colleagues say her talents stretch beyond the legal sector. They describe her as an advocate for empowering women to reach their highest potential and say she has a passion for youth education.

At the office, Smith serves as the global co-chair/business advisor for the Women of Campbell (WoC) Business Resource Affinity Network, with a mission of enabling women at the company reach their full potential. She says the most important quality a woman leader should have is patience. "Have patience not just with others, but also with yourself," she explains.



**Timothy  
TAYLOR**

Stoel Rives, LLP  
Attorney  
Environmental

J.D., University of California, Los  
Angeles, School of Law, M.A., University  
of California, Los Angeles, B.A.,  
Dartmouth College

Tim Taylor is a partner in the Sacramento, California office of Stoel Rives, LLP, where he practices environmental and land use law, and related litigation. Tim's clients include renewable energy, transportation, commercial, industrial, and residential interests. He handles all aspects of permitting, including an extensive focus on the California Environmental Quality Act. Tim also assists public agency clients with planning, environmental, and infrastructure matters.

Tim has chaired the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee since 2016 and speaks frequently on topics relating to diversity in the legal profession. He is a former Managing Partner of the firm's California offices, and a past member of the firm's Executive Committee.



**Tony  
LIM**

Nike, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel, Global  
Operations and Technology,  
Sustainability  
Global Operations

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A.,  
Columbia College, Columbia University

Tony Lim is Assistant General Counsel, Global Operations and Technology, Sustainability at Nike. He joined the company three years ago. Before this, he spent five years at Apple Inc as a Senior Counsel dealing with services and technology. Earlier in his career he was an Intellectual Property Associate at Skadden Arps and Cooley Godward LLP.



**Valyncia  
SAUNDERS**

Altria Group, Inc.  
Assistant General Counsel and Senior  
Director  
Brand Management

J.D., University of Southern California  
Gould School of Law, B.A., Howard  
University

Valyncia Saunders is an attorney at Altria, where she serves as a seasoned, trusted legal advisor to the business on brand management and marketing issues.

In 2013 and 2014, Valyncia was named as a Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer, Rising Star. In 2013, the National Bar Association and IMPACT named her as one of the Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40.

As a member of the legal profession, Valyncia regularly mentors younger lawyers. She is a staunch advocate for diversity in the legal profession and was selected in 2011 as a Fellow for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Valyncia received her Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Howard University, where she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California.



**Vidhya  
PRABHAKARAN**

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
PartnerEnergy

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2006, B.A., Political Science, Yale University, 2003

Vid Prabhakaran advocates on behalf of clients throughout the energy sector who envision an efficient and reliable energy marketplace and seek to successfully invest in the reduction of greenhouse gases. Vid has over a decade of experience directing client successes before California regulators. This experience also has allowed him to effectively represent clients in the regulated transportation, telecommunications, and water sectors. As chair of the DWT energy practice and a member of the firmwide executive committee, Vid focuses a great deal promoting diversity in the profession. As a result, Vid has been awarded the "Diversity Award" by the San Francisco Barristers' Club in 2018, the "Mentorship Award" by the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California in 2017, and the "Unity Award" by the Minority Bar Coalition in 2016.



**Vinay  
ADITYA**

Amazon Web Services  
Senior Corporate Counsel  
Product Development

LL.M., UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law, B.A., Bangalore University

Vinay Aditya serves as a Senior Corporate Counsel at Amazon. He joined the company in 2015. Aditya manages a team of attorneys and legal professionals responsible for providing legal support globally to the Engineering Product Development (Server, Networking, Data Center Design, Software), Supply Chain, Logistics and Procurement functions at AWS.

His specialties include: Software development and licensing, Custom hardware design, development and manufacturing, Supply Chain, Logistics & Manufacturing Operations, Business Development and Legal Operations.



**Vineet  
SHAHANI**

Google Inc.  
Director, Legal  
Technology Transactions/Counseling

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center (cum laude), B.B.A., University of Michigan (with honors)

At Google, Vineet leads a team that provides legal counsel for the Google hardware business on engineering/supply chain transactions, product issues, marketing strategy, international expansion, governance issues, public policy, and a wide range of strategic and operational matters. Vineet came to Google via the acquisition of Nest Labs, Inc. in 2014. Prior to Google/Nest, Vineet was Sr. Legal Counsel (WW Operations/Products) at Apple Inc., where he advised on visible product matters and transactions around the world related to Apple's global supply chain. Prior to Apple, Vineet was Assistant General Counsel at Enova International, a financial technology firm based in Chicago, and a corporate attorney with Latham & Watkins LLP.



**Wally  
MARTINEZ**

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP  
Managing Partner  
Business Litigation

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, B.S., Seton Hall University (cum laude)

Wally is the managing partner of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP. His practice focuses on complex business litigation and white collar criminal defense. Wally's white collar criminal defense experience includes representation of clients accused of tax fraud, procurement fraud, public corruption, violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, money laundering.

Wally was a founding partner of the firm's Miami office. In 2004, Wally left the firm to join Diageo, where he served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. He returned to the firm to become managing partner in 2006. Wally has since been recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the nation's "50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers."



**Warrington S.  
PARKER III**

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
Partner  
White Collar, Investigation, Securities  
Litigation & Compliance

J.D., Harvard University, 1989 (Editor,  
Harvard Law Review, 1987-1989); A.B.,  
Princeton University, 1986

Warrington S. Parker is a partner in Orrick's San Francisco office, and a member of the White Collar, Investigations, Securities Litigation & Compliance Group.

Warrington's practice involves the representation of clients in both civil and criminal matters. These matters typically include government involvement or claimed violations of state and federal regulations or statutes. Thus, Warrington has represented clients in False Claims Act matters, claims brought by the Federal Trade Commission, employment discrimination cases involving a federal research facility, allegations of fraud and breach of contract brought against a client by a state, and allegations that a school board inappropriately spent bond monies in violation of California law.

Warrington has conducted criminal and civil investigations, both nationally and internationally, including FCPA investigations in China and Japan. Warrington has handled and managed state and federal civil cases from the filing of complaints to discovery and trial. Since joining Orrick in 2008, Warrington has tried two criminal cases and three civil cases.

From 1992 to 1996, Warrington was Assistant United States Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office, Central District of California, Criminal Division in Los Angeles.

Before joining Orrick, Warrington was a shareholder at Heller Ehrman.



**William W.  
LIN**

Lane Powell PC  
Shareholder  
Mergers & Acquisitions

J.D., University of Iowa, B.A., University  
of Washington, (with honors)

William Lin counsels clients on strategic business transactions, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, investments, securities regulations compliance, and foreign and domestic transactional matters with a focus on China.

William regularly counsels investors and companies in significant business transactions, such as mergers, asset purchase and sale transactions, commercial finance transactions, commercial real estate investments, public and private securities offerings and strategic investments.

William counsels domestic and foreign aircraft owners and operators in the purchase, sale, lease and ownership of aircraft, including negotiating and documenting financing arrangements, purchase and sale agreements, leases, and aircraft management arrangements.



**Yesenia M.  
GALLEGOS**

McDermott Will & Emery LLP  
Partner  
Employment Litigation

J.D., University of San Francisco, B.S.,  
UCLA

Yesenia M. Gallegos focuses her employment practice on a wide range of matters, including restrictive covenants, wage and hour law, discrimination and harassment claims, executive employment agreements, leaves of absence, employee terminations and reductions in force. Yesenia represents employers in employment litigation—including class actions—pending in both state and federal court. She also represents employers in actions against former employees in trade-secret and embezzlement actions that require immediate restraining orders, injunctions and/or liens.



**Yoon H.  
CHANG**

Walmart Inc.  
Senior Associate Counsel II  
Technology

J.D., University of San Francisco (1994),  
B.A., University of California Riverside  
(1988)

Yoon H. Chang is currently a Senior Associate Counsel II (Senior Director) at Walmart Inc. in its Technology Division. Yoon has been at Walmart since 2006 and has been an attorney in the Litigation and the eCommerce Divisions. Prior to joining Walmart, Yoon was an associate with the law firm of Gordon and Rees where her practice included products liability and business litigation. Prior to joining Gordon and Rees, Yoon had her own law firm in Saipan and represented clients in various criminal and civil matters. Yoon also represented the special master in the resolution of the probate of Larry L. Hilblom, owner of DHL. She is licensed to practice law in California and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Yoon is a member of NAPABA, ACC, CCWC, SF Bar Association and the CA Women's Bar Association.



**Lawyers of Color**  
1629 K Street NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006