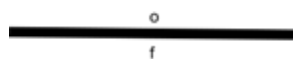




Wonderful WOMEN 2023



Lawyers



Color



Congratulations to all of the **Lawyers of Color 2023** Wonderful Women Honorees.

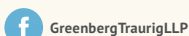
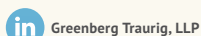
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of African American
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CERTIFIED PLUS
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100% SCORE
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HONORED
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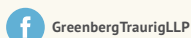
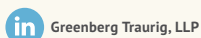


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CHOATE



Celebrating Diversity

We congratulate our Partner
Dallas Cruz
and all Wonderful Women honorees

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Editor's Page

We are proud to salute Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Wonderful Women 2023, which recognizes dynamic women attorneys working in law firms, companies, and government agencies who excel in their careers and demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing diversity in the legal profession.

Honorees were feted at receptions in the Atlanta and Washington, D.C. offices of Greenberg Traurig LLP and we thank them for their hospitality.

Yolanda Young
President and Executive Director
Lawyers of Color



We proudly congratulate Emily Kuwahara, Gage Javier, Preetha Chakrabarti, and Trina Fairley Barlow on being named among *Lawyers of Color's* “Wonderful Women 2023.”



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Wonderful
WOMEN
Inaugural Issue





Angelo
& Kilday
& Kilduff
Attorneys at Law

Being a trial lawyer is difficult; being a very good one while maintaining a reputation for honesty and effective representation is even more difficult.

Combine that with raising two happy and active little girls and being a reliable Partner, and you have Serena Warner.

Angelo Kilday & Kilduff is pleased that Serena is being recognized as a Wonderful Woman – something we’ve known for years.



Hollingsworth^{LLP} Congratulates
Firm Partner

Elyse Shimada

Named to the Lawyers of Color inaugural list “Wonderful Women,” Elyse Shimada is recognized for her excellent work for our clients, both meeting and exceeding their expectations. Hollingsworth^{LLP} is proud to be part of Lawyers of Color’s mission to promote and sustain diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. We embrace and value the diversity of our workforce and are committed to fostering a culture where differences are welcomed, celebrated, and appreciated, and which positively impact our clients, our business, and our firm.





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Wonderful
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Partner, Member of Dentons US Region
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Partnership Board
Dentons

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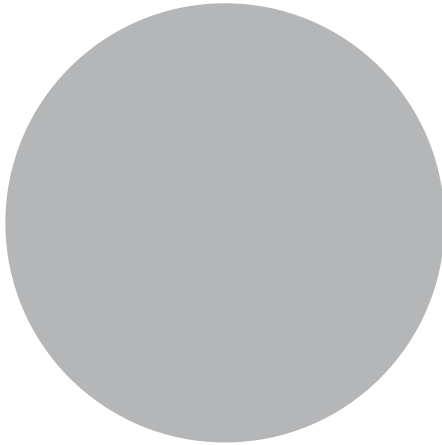
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California, and Nevada

Zainab Baydoun

Administrative Law Judge
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Zohra Tejani

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Fenwick & West



A. Shonn Brown

Vice President & Deputy General Counsel
Kimberly-Clark Corporation

J.D., Southern Methodist University “Dedman” School
of Law, B.S., Southern Methodist University

Shonn Brown is strategic business leader known for her action-based, results-oriented approach. Shonn joined Kimberly-Clark Corporation, a \$19 billion-dollar consumer packaged goods company, in 2019, as its chief global litigation counsel and additionally advised on critical matters of public policy. After managing the global litigation docket for three years, she now serves as the inaugural global legal advisor for ESG and Sustainability. Prior to Kimberly-Clark, Shonn was law firm partner in both an AMLAW 100 firm and top-tier trial boutiques. She is a natural leader and zealous advocate for equality, with an emphasis on gender and racial equity. Shonn has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumna of both her law school (2016) and larger university (2022). She enjoys running and spending time with her three children.



Aaron Herreras Szot

Partner
Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch, P.C.

J.D., The George Washington University Law School
B.A., University of Chicago

In 2023, Hispanic attorney Aaron Herreras Szot became the youngest person at her firm to make partner. She is an exceptionally skilled and experienced defender of employee rights, helping people navigate legal aspects of discrimination, employee discipline, and security clearance adjudication and handling cases in administrative fora and federal court. Her robust practice also includes disability discrimination cases and representing U.S. foreign service members. Aaron co-chairs the D.C. Women's Bar Association Diversity Committee.



Ada Okafor

General Counsel, Chief Diversity
Equity and Inclusion Officer
American Board of Surgery
J.D., American University Washington College of Law
.B.A., Southern Methodist University

Ada Okafor, Esq. (she/hers) serves as General Counsel (GC), for the American Board of Surgery (ABS), the national certifying body for general surgeons. She also serves as the inaugural Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer (CDEIO). Ada is the first person of color to hold these positions in the organization's 86-year history. As GC, she leads the organization's legal, compliance, ethics and enterprise risk management functions. As CDEIO, she leverages data analytics, coaching, facilitated discussions, workshops, and educational training to promote diversity within the surgical space, cultivate a culture of belonging, and foster employee well-being, innovation, productivity and retention. Prior to joining ABS, Ada practiced at national and international law firms in Philadelphia, PA and Washington, DC., where she specialized in complex ERISA, employee benefits, health, retirement and executive compensation law. Ada has been honored as a Top 100.



Adrienne E. Clair

Partner
Thompson Coburn LLP
J.D., The George Washington University Law School

Adrienne is a past Chair of the firm's Energy Practice and serves on Thompson Coburn's Management Committee. She has litigated numerous matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, including proceedings to enforce the FERC's rules for open access transmission service, market design and rules for regional transmission organizations, and natural gas pipeline rate proceedings. She is a long-time member and served as a Secretary at the D.C. Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy.



Alejandra R. Gil

Partner
Heidell, Pittoni, Murphy & Bach, LLP
J.D., Albany Law School, B.A., Barnard College

Alejandra R. Gil began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office where she remained for six years. She then transitioned to private practice and has been defending physicians, medical personnel, and medical institutions in malpractice matters for the past ten years. Alejandra is the immediate past President and former Vice-President of the Hudson Valley Hispanic Bar Association, where she currently serves on the Board of Governors. Alejandra also serves as co-chair of Heidell, Pittoni, Murphy & Bach, LLP's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.



Alexis L. Angell

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J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, BBA, The University of Texas at Austin

Alexis Angell understands your hospital's challenges and enjoys working with Medical Staff leaders, Chief Medical Officers, Chief Executive Officers and Medical Staff Directors to manage issues early and prevent unnecessary litigation. Alexis is dedicated to providing effective, efficient and innovative legal solutions.

Alexis serves as the Chair of the American Health Law Association's Medical Staff Credentialing Peer Review Practice Group and Editor of Polsinelli's quarterly Med Staff Newsletter.



Alice Kyureghian

Partner
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J.D., U.C. Davis, B.A., U.C. Los Angeles (summa cum laude)

Alice Kyureghian handles complex litigation matters in the areas of insurance recovery, as well as commercial contract and indemnification-related disputes. Her practice primarily focuses on representing individual and corporate policyholders in disputes with their insurance providers. Alice handles claims under a broad range of policies, including commercial general liability, directors and officers liability, errors and omissions liability, employment practices liability, and first party property insurance. Beyond her dedication to her clients, Alice is devoted to advancing diversity and inclusive initiatives at her firm and recently co-founded Barnes and Thornburg's Middle Eastern Northern African affinity group.



Alicia Batts

Partner
Faegre Drinker

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

Alicia Batts has extensive experience representing clients in antitrust matters in a multitude of business sectors. Alicia is a strategic advisor to corporations and represents their interests before the antitrust enforcement agencies. Fortune 500 and other leading companies turn to Alicia for creative solutions to competitive impact concerns raised by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ). Alicia's 30-plus years in competition law include a two-year tenure as an attorney-adviser to an FTC commissioner, where she gained firsthand insight into the processes and analyses that inform enforcement actions. Alicia's practice includes the full range of antitrust and unfair competition-related counsel and litigation, including consumer protection matters before the FTC and state authorities, and international merger enforcement. Alicia was listed as one of the Top 100 women in competition by Global Competition Review.



Alicia N. Washington

Partner
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

J.D., Columbia University, B.A., Yale University
(honors)

Alicia N. Washington, a former federal prosecutor and experienced trial lawyer, represents companies, boards and executives in government and internal investigations and high-profile disputes. She was previously an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, where she was a member of the Public Integrity, International Narcotics and Money Laundering, and General Crimes Sections. As a federal prosecutor, Alicia served as lead counsel on behalf of the U.S. in jury trials and argued before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. While at the EDNY, she served as the grand jury coordinator and acted as a liaison between the judges and the U.S. Attorney's Office. In 2016, she was honored with an award For Outstanding Performance Assisting Foreign Authorities.



Alisha Winterswyk

Partner
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J.D., Whittier Law School, (magna cum laude), B.S.,
Whittier College

Alisha Winterswyk advises public and private clients on the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. She handles matters involving the Planning and Zoning Law, the Subdivision Map Act, the California Coastal Act, the State Mining and Reclamation Act, the Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Alisha also advises public agencies on annexations, development agreements, general plan updates and amendments, specific plan adoption and amendments and coastal development permits. She is an advisor to the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section Executive Committee, and past director and president of the Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals. She was also named a Best Lawyer 2023 for land use and zoning law.



Aliya J. Nelson

Partner
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J.D., Columbia University, B.A., Rutgers University

Aliya is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and was integral to the release of their documentary, *Twenty Pearls: The Story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.* – a historically black Greek letter organization – airing on a major cable television network. Aliya is a member of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association and previously served on the board of the Classical Theatre of Harlem and the Executive Director of the Black Institute.



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Office Managing Shareholder
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J.D., University of Akron School of Law, B.A., McGill University

Amanda is the Office Managing Shareholder of Ogletree Deakins' Cleveland Office. She serves as co-chair of the firm's Asian American Attorney Resource Group. Last year, she spearheaded a firm-wide bystander training focused on stopping anti-Asian harassment for AANHPI heritage month. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Bar Association of Ohio. Through that partnership, every year, she organizes a family-friendly event at the Asian Lantern Festival at the Cleveland Zoo.



Amber Lee Williams

SVP & Deputy General Counsel
Bath & Body Works, Inc.

J.D., The University of Texas School of Law, B.A.,
Oakwood University (summa cum laude)

With more than 20 years of experience in corporate law, before her current position, Amber served as VP Legal, Global Ethics & Compliance with L Brands. Prior to joining L Brands, she held a variety of corporate counsel roles with Walmart, including Senior Associate General Counsel positions in two divisions – US Compliance and Real Estate Operations. Amber started her legal career as in-house counsel for NextiraOne, LLC. Amber is a corporate director for Northwest Bank and is on the board of the Center for WorkLife Law. Amber was a 2013 Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Amber is a member of the state bars of Ohio, Texas and Maryland.



Amy Rao Mohan

Attorney
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J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, B.S.J.,
Northwestern University

Amy Mohan is a partner at Sherrard Roe Voigt and Harbison. Her practice focuses on civil litigation and general corporate work. Amy is the founder and leader of the firm's crisis management/media relations practice group where she represents individuals and businesses in civil litigation and criminal cases and assists clients with media training and press strategies. Prior to law school, Amy worked as a television reporter and anchor for nearly eight years, most recently at WTVF NewsChannel 5 in Nashville. During that time, she received several awards, including two Emmy awards for her coverage of the 2004 Asian tsunami.



Amy Yeung

VP and Deputy General Counsel
Sallie Mae

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

Amy is a recognized thought leader advising executive management and business leads on industry-disruptive technology, digital innovation, and data analytics initiatives in all company lifecycles. At Sallie Mae, her responsibilities include technology transformation, corporate development, including mergers and acquisitions; environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG); data privacy, cybersecurity and other transactional matters. Amy was recently selected as a College of Law Practice Management Fellow (induction 2024) and an inaugural Corporate Counsel Business Journal's 50 Women to Watch. She currently serves as the Law Department Management Chair of the Association of Corporate Counsel, selected as an Emerging Leader and serving on leadership with the U.S.-Japan Council, and served as board member to Duke University Alumni Association. In addition to other leadership roles in house in private and public companies.



Andra Jean Terrell

SVP and General Counsel (Former)
Regis Corporation

Howard University Law School

Ms. Terrell I was formerly the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Regis Corporation, the owner of several hair salon brands, including Supercuts, Smartstyle, Cost Cutters and Roosters. was Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Cajun Operating Company for the Church's Chicken® and Texas Chicken® brands. As the Assistant General Counsel - Franchise for Luxottica Retail, she served Pearle Vision® and other franchised eyewear brands, including Oakley® and Sunglass Hut®. She was also the Assistant General Counsel for General Nutrition Centers, Inc., Franchise Counsel for Precision Tune Auto Care, Inc. and General Counsel of Decorating Den Systems, Inc

Ms. Terrell is a member of the Maryland Bar Association and the the American Bar Association and the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising programming.



Angela B. Freeman

Partner
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J.D., Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law (IP Concentration); B.A. and M.S., University of Louisville

Angela is an Intellectual Property/Patent Attorney in the Indianapolis office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Angela began her practice as a law clerk while attending law school at night. With over 15 years as a genetic and clinical laboratory biologist, Angela assists clients in procuring patent rights worldwide for highly technical subject matter in the food/beverage, agricultural, pharmaceutical, life sciences/biotech, and renewable energy industries. Angela's practice also includes agreements and opinions, performing IP due diligence, and procuring trademark and copyright registrations. Angela is a longtime, recognized diversity champion in the STEM and legal fields. She also hosts an award-winning monthly podcast called The Freedom Forum with Angela B. Freeman, which explores the intersection of business, race, and gender in Indiana.



Angela Gonzales

Partner
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J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, B.A., UCLA

Angela Gonzales represents clients in a full range of corporate transactional and commercial real estate matters, and has significant experience in transactions involving foreign investment, international secured lending, and cross-border corporate structuring and operations. In her real estate practice, Ms. Gonzales has been involved in all aspects of real estate acquisition, disposition, financing and leasing. Ms. Gonzales also has extensive experience representing American clients who are buying, selling and developing real estate in Latin America. Ms. Gonzales has further experience representing nonprofit organizations, assisting them in formation and governance issues, and she currently serves as President of San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund.



Anita Wallace Thomas

Partner
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The firm recognized Thomas for her tireless advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout her career. She has served as a mentor, sponsor, and sounding board to dozens of lawyers who rely on her sound advice and practical wisdom. She serves as chair of the State Bar of Georgia's Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias and exemplifies how each of us can and should make the time to make a difference in the lives of others.



Anna Jinhua Wang

Partner, NY Office Partner In Charge
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LL.M., Vanderbilt University Law School, LL.B., Durham University

In addition to active involvement in Robinson+Cole's DE+I and Women's Committees, Anna is committed to providing pro bono service to the NY State Courts Access to Justice Program, earning recognitions in 2019, 2020 and 2022 from the NY State Bar Association and NY State Unified Court System's Office for Justice Initiatives for her work. She is Partner in Charge of Robinson+Cole's NYC office and co-leads the group of diverse attorneys at the firm.



Anne Choe

Partner
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

J.D., University of North Carolina (with high honors);
B.S., University of Maryland (summa cum laude)

Anne C. Choe is a partner in Willkie's Asset Management Group and also serves as the hiring partner for the Washington, DC office of Willkie. She advises a wide range of pooled investment vehicles, including mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), private funds (hedge funds, private equity funds and venture capital funds) and their sponsors and investment managers. She has in-depth knowledge of the various securities and other laws applicable to pooled vehicles and regularly counsels investment advisers and family offices on a variety of SEC regulatory compliance matters. A key aspect of Anne's practice is representing investment advisers and funds in SEC examination and enforcement matters. Anne's diverse practice covers advising on the creation and operation of registered open-end investment companies and ETFs and provides counsel to fund independent boards.



Ashley M. Lee

Executive Counsel & Chief of Staff to the SVP & General Counsel

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

Ms. Lee has spent most of her legal career with The Coca-Cola System, where she has attained diverse legal experiences including serving as a strategic legal partner in the formation of a new National Product Supply Group, managing The Coca-Cola Company's global trade sanctions and export compliance programs, negotiating complex multimillion-dollar supply and IT contracts, as well as providing day-to-day legal advice to The Coca-Cola System's senior leadership team. She also serves as the Chair of the National Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. She is the recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award in 2018 and 2019 and the Nation's Best Advocates Award in 2021. Additionally, Ms. Lee is a dedicated philanthropist and avid Black art collector and art patron.



Ashley Smith

Deputy General Counsel
Amtrak

J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.A. DePaul University (with honors)

Ashley Smith is a people-first leader who helps team members reach goals while achieving business success. Before Amtrak, Ashley was a Director at Lime where she built and led a global team as well as the employment law function. Prior to Lime, Ashley counseled on global labor and employment matters at Facebook and was an associate at Kirkland & Ellis. She is the founder of AGSports, focused on Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) education. AGSports positions student athletes and their families to comply with NIL requirements and negotiate deals. Ashley serves as co-chair for the National Employment Law Council's in-house group and the DC Bar Foundation's Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council. She serves on the DC Bar's Nominations Committee.



Avia Dunn

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, MBA., Florida A&M University

Avia Dunn advises FDA-regulated companies on matters related to compliance program design, fraud and abuse compliance, and product promotion, and recently co-authored a chapter in the PLI Medical Devices Law and Regulation Answer Book. As a partner of color, Avia is deeply committed to diversity. She is a senior leader in Black Lawyers for Diversity and has served on Skadden's women, 1L Scholars and diversity committees, and was a protégé in the Career Sponsorship Program.



Brandi Howard

Partner
McGuireWoods LLP

J.D. The University of Texas School of Law, B.A.,
American University [cum laude]

Brandi represents corporate and individual clients in complex commercial trial and appellate litigation and government investigations. Brandi's investigations practice involves defending clients in government investigations conducted by federal and state regulatory and enforcement bodies and in congressional investigations. Brandi's litigation practice involves defending and representing clients in routine and high stakes litigation. Brandi represents clients in cases involving fiduciary issues; constitutional issues such as free speech, religious freedom, and sovereign immunity; and breach of contract and consumer protection cases. Brandi is a two-time appellate law clerk, having clerked for former Chief Judge Eric T. Washington of the D.C. Court of Appeals and civil rights icon Damon J. Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.



Calvina Bostick

Partner
K&L Gates LLP

J.D. Georgetown University Law School, B.A. University of Florida [cum laude]

Ms. Bostick focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments and other corporate matters, and represents companies across a broad range of industries, including healthcare, financial services, technology and media. In addition to her practice, Ms. Bostick serves on the firm's diversity committee and is a corporate practice group leader. Ms. Bostick actively serves as pro bono counsel to non-profit organizations and assists underserved populations by serving on the Board of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as well as the Greater New York Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Ms. Bostick has been recognized by Legal 500 as a Leading Individual (2023) Next Generation Lawyer (2018; 2019, 2020), has received a Professionalism Award from the National Bar Association, has received the Network Journal's Top 40 under Forty Achievement Award (2015), and has been.



Candis Jones Smith

Partner
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP

B.A., Spelman College (magna cum laude), J.D.,
Georgia State College of Law

Candis Jones is a partner in the Atlanta office of Lewis Brisbois and a member of the General Liability Practice. Since 2011, Candis' practice has focused on insurance defense, premises liability, personal injury, and medical malpractice. Her clients include several Fortune 500 companies, numerous insurance carriers, and a major metropolitan transit authority. In her practice, Candis has successfully tried and won federal and state jury and bench trials. She has a strong track record in automobile liability and tort/premises liability trials with demands of \$1 million or more. She has also successfully adjudicated cases on motion and secured reasonable settlements in high exposure cases with public relations concerns. In all of her representations, Candis strategically works with her clients to posture each matter towards the best defensive outcome, and puts a premium on proactive communication with her clients.



Carmalita Carletos-Drayton

Shareholder
Baker Donelson

J.D., Thurgood Marshall School of Law (cum laude
Thurgood Marshall Law Review), B.A., University of
Memphis

CC Drayton is a shareholder and a member of the Board of Directors at Baker Donelson, where she concentrates her practice in transactional and regulatory matters involving government entities. She has extensive experience in government contracting, economic development, commercial real estate, environmental, zoning and land use matters. Prior to joining Baker Donelson, Ms. Drayton served as the senior assistant city attorney for the City of Memphis. During her 14-year tenure in the City's Law Division, she was responsible for managing the transactional department for all municipal matters. She serves as co-chair of the Baker Donelson Women's Initiative Retention Committee and is a member of the Firm's Recruiting Committee.



Carolyn Benton Aiman

Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
Sempra Infrastructure

J.D., University of Missouri (honors), B.A. Mathematics, University of Texas at Austin

Benton Aiman has more than 20 years of in-house legal and private law firm experience. She has worked in energy for most of her career and has supported different lines of business across the energy value chain. Most recently, Benton Aiman was managing counsel – capital projects and global supply chain for Shell, where she provided legal support for Shell’s major capital projects and was also responsible for overseeing legal aspects relating to the global supply chain function for capital projects. Benton Aiman has significant experience in the delivery of major projects across the U.S and global oil and gas, LNG, chemicals and renewables projects and operations. Prior to that role, Benton Aiman served as senior legal counsel in various of Shell’s business areas, including upstream & wind, alternative fuels, downstream manufacturing & commercial, and regulatory & employment, including managing pre-litigation disputes. In addition, Benton Aiman served as executive.



Carolyn Nichols

Judge
PA Superior Court

previously submitted

Elected member, American Law Institute



Carrie Lin

Partner
MG+M The Law Firm

J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, B.A., New York University

Carrie Lin defends clients facing complex litigation, including related to asbestos and product liability. She has been a part of MG+M's DEIB committee and served as co-chair of development and recruitment. Recently, Carrie worked with our DEIB director to organize the firm's celebration of Asian American Heritage month. Additionally, she is a part of the firm's women's forum and pro bono committee, as well as a member of the Asian American Bar Association.



Cassandra Cuellar

Partner
Shearman & Sterling LLP

J.D., The University of Texas School of Law, B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Cassandra is a partner in the firm's Emerging Growth practice, representing entrepreneurs as well as venture capital firms and other strategic investors in public/private offerings, M&A transactions, and corporate governance matters. She counsels emerging growth companies throughout their lifecycle - from inception, exit or IPO, and beyond. Cassandra frequently mentors female entrepreneurs through the firm's FinTech Foundry program. She actively promotes the Latino community, mentors Latino law students and co-chairs the firm's Latino affinity group.



Catherine Romero

Senior Corporate Counsel
Microsoft Corporation

J.D., Seattle University (magna cum laude), B.A.,
Stanford University

Catherine supports Microsoft's Research and AI for Good teams, which work with nonprofits and research institutions developing AI to help society, such as advancing healthcare and sustainability. Catherine started her legal career as a corporate attorney at Perkins Coie after a previous career in Boeing engineering. Catherine co-founded the Hispanic National Bar Association's (HNBA) Intellectual Property Law Institute, a technology immersion program for Hispanic law students, many of whom she continues to actively mentor. Catherine's many roles with the HNBA include General Counsel and Executive Committee Member, and she spent time with HNBA leadership at the Mexico border helping asylum seekers. Her awards include the Washington State Bar Association's Excellence in Diversity Award and the HNBA's Primera Abogada Award.



CC Carletos-Drayton

Shareholder
Baker Donelson

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

As the Firm's first black woman executive board member, CC spends her time developing the next generation of diverse leadership. CC serves on Baker Donelson's Diversity Committee where she helped the Firm develop an aggressive five-year DEI Strategic Plan. She is highly involved in the Firm's diverse recruiting efforts, serving as the Recruiting Chair for the Memphis office and as the Retention and Recruiting Chair for the Firm's Women's Initiative.



Chalón Clark

Partner
Husch Blackwell, LLP

J.D., The University of Texas School of Law, B.B.A. in Finance, University of Houston (magna cum laude)

Chalón Clark practices commercial litigation, products liability, and employment law. Chalón's honors include the Women in Business Award, Texas 100, and Minority Business Leader Award (Dallas Business Journal); The Best Lawyers in America, Texas Super Lawyer, Top Women Attorneys in Texas, 100 Most Influential African American Leaders in Business, and Nation's Best and Hot List (Lawyers of Color). Chalón is also the founder and owner of Design Redefined— a contemporary interior design business and been featured in numerous magazines and on Daybreak (WFAA News). Chalón is a board member of KERA, National Public Radio. Chalón and her husband have three baby girls and co-own restaurant chains: The Island Spot, Jamaican Kitchen & Bar, and Bone Daddy's House of Smoke.



Charece Collins

Administrative Law Judge
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

J.D., Penn State Dickinson School of Law; M.P.A., Penn State University; B.A., Millersville University (cum laude)

Charece serves on Penn State Dickinson Law's Leadership Council Advisory Board. She is also on the Millersville University Alumni Board of Directors, where she currently serves as Secretary. She is a member of the James M. Bowman American Inn of Court. In addition to her current job title, Charece serves as an adjunct professor at Delaware County Community College. In 2015, Charece helped to found, and co-chaired, the inaugural diversity committee for the Philadelphia Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section, which still exists today. Charece also served as Co-Chair for the diversity committees at a prior law firm and at the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. She was selected as one of the Legal Intelligencer's "Lawyers on the Fast Track" in 2014.



Chelsea K. Barnes

Senior Associate
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

J.D., University of North Carolina School of Law, B.A.,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Barnes is an advocate for Native Americans and particularly her tribe, the Lumbee Tribe. She challenges the narrative every day through her unwavering commitment to equity and justice for all, including her successful defense of a BLM protester in early 2022, her other pro bono commitments, and her service on multiple nonprofit boards, such as LEAD Girls of NC, Inc. and The Addiction Recovery Care Association.



Christy White

Assistant Chief Litigation Counsel
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

J.D., American University Washington College of Law,
B.A., Loyola University Maryland

Christy White is a litigation attorney at the SEC, where she tracks down and seizes assets so they may be used to compensate the victims of securities law violations. She also helps promote diversity, inclusion, and cultural connections as co-chair of an EAG and member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Her work at the SEC has earned her several awards including the Chairman's Award for Excellence and the Director's Award.

Christy holds a B.A. from Loyola University Maryland, and a Juris Doctorate from American University, Washington College of Law. She and her husband, At-Large DC Councilmember, Robert White, live in Washington, D.C., with their two daughters, Madison and Monroe, and rescue dog, Roscoe.



Cristal Lambert

Senior Corporate Counsel
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.

J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law; B.A. Drew University (magna cum laude)

Cristal oversees litigation, compliance, and transactional matters at Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. While there, she has also led enterprise-wide initiatives such as the Policies and Procedures Committee, and advanced DE&I efforts by founding its Hispanic/Latinx employee resource group and collaborating with P&G on culture-forward programming. Cristal serves as Deputy Regional President of the Hispanic National Bar Association and a Vice President of the Hispanic Bar Association of NJ. She is a member of Seton Hall Law's Alumni Council and co-chairs its G.O.L.D. Committee. Cristal is a proud recipient of the 2023 Seton Hall Law Exemplary Service Award, 2022 ACC's Top-10-30-Somethings Award, 2021 NJSBA Service to the Bar Award, 2020 HNBA's Top Lawyers under 40 Award and 2018 Corazon del HBA-NJ Award.



Cyndie M. Chang

Managing Partner, Los Angeles
Duane Morris LLP

J.D., Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, B.A., Johns Hopkins University (honors)

Ms. Chang represents businesses and litigates complex business disputes. As a member of the firm's governing Partners Board and Commercial Litigation and Trial Group, Chang resolves and manages business challenges and risks. Chang has championed issues affecting women and minorities through service and leadership in multiple organizations and extensive speaking engagements on DEI issues across the country. She's past President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association. She's the co-chair of her firm's Asian American Employee Resource Group, a former Commissioner of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, and a board member of the prominent Committee of 100. She currently serves on the Loyola Law School, LA Board of Directors.



Dallas Cruz

Partner
Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP

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

Dallas has been a trailblazer in the industries of secured lending and private equity, spaces which typically do not have representation of women of color. She was elected to equity partner at her firm in December, where she is the first black woman elected partner who was also a summer associate. Dallas was the leader of the Attorneys of Color resource group at her prior firm and is a current member of the DE&I committee at Choate.



Deborah Yim

Founder & Managing Attorney
Primera Law Group

J.D., UCLA School of Law; B.A., University of California, Berkeley (summa cum laude)

At the Primera Law Group, Deborah represents employees and small businesses in all facets of labor & employment law. She was recently recognized by Law Week Colorado as the People's Choice for "Best Employment Lawyer for Plaintiffs" (2022). Previously, Deborah served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California litigating civil, civil fraud, and employment law matters, and she was also an attorney-adviser in the labor & employment unit of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Deborah is the current president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) of Colorado, former president of APABA Los Angeles, and a mayoral appointee to City of Denver's Immigrant and Refugee Commission. In addition to organizing know-your-employment rights workshops for legally underserved communities, she also provides pro bono assistance on employment law cases through the Colorado Federal Pro Se Panel.



Debra Belott

Partner
Jones Day

St. John's University (J.D. 2008); University of Maryland, College Park (B.A. in Spanish 2005; Honors Program)

Ms. Belott is a trial lawyer in Jones Day's Business & Tort Litigation Practice, representing clients in commercial contract disputes, antitrust merger challenge litigations, insurance recovery, and consumer class actions. Based in the Firm's Washington Office, she is the Administrative Partner for the Washington litigation practice, co-sponsors the Firm's Black Lawyers Group, and is a member of the Washington Committee on Diversity. Ms. Belott maintains an active pro bono practice through the Washington Lawyers' Committee and serves on the Executive Committee of Council for Court Excellence.



Dianna R. Jones

Director, Legal and Trade Compliance
Uber Technologies, Inc.

J.D., Vanderbilt University, B.B.A., University of Oklahoma

Dianna Jones is a 20 year executive with deep expertise in M&A, ethics and compliance, leadership development, ESG, and business risk mitigation. She is currently a Non-Executive Director of Next Fifteen Group plc (LSE: NFG), a technology and data-based growth consultancy firm, where she serves as Chair of the ESG Committee and as a member of both the Remuneration and NomGovernance Committees. Passionate about creating more equitable workforces and marketplaces, Dianna bridges the gap between employees and executives by translating employee sentiment into executive action. She serves on the Racial Equity Leadership Counsel at Uber and as Co-Chair of Uber's ERG, Black@Uber. Always focused on continuous learning, Dianna has also completed several executive-level programs at Cornell University, UC Berkeley, and Santa Clara University Leavey School of Business.



Diara M. Holmes

Partner, Co-Chair Nonprofits & Tax-Exempt Organizations Practice

Loeb & Loeb LLP

B.A., University of Pennsylvania; M.P.P. Harvard Kennedy School of Government; J.D. Harvard Law School (cum laude)

Diara M. Holmes brings 25 years of experience advising nonprofit organizations, family offices and philanthropists on tax and governance matters. She also advises nonprofit and for-profit organizations on structuring a variety of transactions—including joint ventures, corporate sponsorships, merchandising, cause-related marketing, and other revenue generating strategies.



Diem N. Kaelber

Partner
FisherBroyles, LLP

Washington and Lee University School of Law

Kaelber primarily represents clients with Business Litigation, Healthcare, and Education Law issues. She is recognized and was selected with the distinction as a Super Lawyer (2014-2019) and Rising Star (2012-2013). She also was recognized for professional excellence and selected as Ohio's Trailblazing Women Attorneys by the Ohio State Bar Association alongside prominent leaders. She has demonstrated long-term dedication, commitment, and leadership to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal profession and community through her service as the former Co-Chair of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Litigation Committee, former Board Member of the Asian American Commerce Group, and former President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Central Ohio.



Earsa R. Jackson

Member
Clark Hill PLC

J.D., University of Virginia, B.A., University of Arkansas at Little Rock (magna cum laude)

Earsa is a franchise attorney and leads the firm's Franchise & Licensing team. She serves on the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and co-leads the firm's multicultural affinity group - Clark Hill THRIVE. She serves on the governing committee of the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising. She also serves on the board of the International Franchise Association as well as its Education Foundation. She is chair of the IFA's Diversity Institute and a founding member of the Black Franchise Leadership Council. She has counseled, written and spoken extensively around the country on franchise law. She co-authored Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments (2016). She leads the Forum on Franchising's Diversity Caucus. In 2019, she was bestowed with the coveted Ronald E. Harrison Diversity Award for her contribution to advancing diversity and inclusion in franchising.



Elizabeth Han

Vice President & Associate General Counsel
Navient

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

Elizabeth serves as Navient's lead finance attorney and provides advice and support on a wide range of corporate matters, including capital market transactions, asset sales and purchases, SEC reporting and corporate governance. She was also a co-head of Navient's LIBOR transition team. Prior to joining Navient, Elizabeth worked in the Asset Securitization group at the law firm of Chapman & Cutler LLP.



Elizabeth Underwood

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law School; M.P.Aff.,
O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Elizabeth is involved in countless diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at the firm. Most notably, she sits on the firm's Racial Justice Committee and is the former co-chair of BTBlack, the firm's talent resource group for Black and African-American teammates. She was part of the first group of co-leads for BTBlack, helping to launch the group years ago.



Ellen Victoria Holloman

Partner
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

Swarthmore College, B.A.

Ellen is a partner in Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft's Global Litigation Group, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation and internal investigations. Her clients include the world's largest financial services institutions and Fortune 100 companies.



Elyse Shimada

Partner
Hollingsworth LLP



Emily H. Su

Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement
U.S. Department of Energy

J.D., Duke University; LL.M., Duke University; B.A.,
Pomona College [Distinguished Scholar]

Emily and her team promote and enforce compliance with federal water and energy conservation standards. Previously, Emily served as the Civil Rights Director of four agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There, she improved access to translated materials, quadrupled the number of audits and training programs conducted, and partnered with others to set up USDA's groundbreaking Equity Commission. Before USDA, Emily was Assistant Chief Counsel at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and, before that, Assistant Chief Counsel at the Transportation Security Administration. Emily serves on the Board of Directors for the life insurance company, WAEPA, has been recognized as the Federal Bar Association's National Transportation Security Attorney of the Year, and mentors aspiring leaders across federal agencies.



Emily T. Kuwahara

Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

J.D., University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, 2007 | M.A., Michigan State University, 2004 | B.S., Stanford University, 2002

Clients turn to Emily Kuwahara to honestly assess their risks and litigate their complex and important matters. She co-chairs the firm's appellate group and has represented plaintiffs and defendants in breach of contract actions, business torts, antitrust and consumer class actions, unfair competition law, products liability, and other complex business disputes in the trial and appellate courts. Active in the community, she has served as a long-time board member of the Japanese American Bar Association and is currently Vice President. She was recognized as among the Most Influential Minority Attorneys in Los Angeles by the Los Angeles Business Journal (2019, 2022); and one of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Best Lawyers Under 40 (2018).



Emily Wang Murphy

Partner
Thompson Coburn LLP

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A., Emory University (magna cum laude)

Emily is a corporate attorney with experience negotiating and closing mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, equity and debt financings, as well as corporate reorganizations and restructurings, joint ventures and other strategic arrangements. Emily is affiliated with the DC chapters of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Taiwanese American Lawyers Committee. She is also a member of the Firm's Diversity Committee and the Joint Subcommittee on Professional Development. She is co-chair of the Asian South Asian Middle Eastern Affinity Group and serves as the Partner Champion for the Firm's collaboration with Diversity Lab's OnRamp Fellowship program.



Erica Yen

Principal Legal Counsel
KARL STORZ

J.D., University of California School of Law San Francisco, B.A., Columbia University

Erica Yen is in the legal department for the Americas at KARL STORZ SE & Co. KG, a privately held global medical device company based in Germany. Prior to her current role, she worked at Reed Smith LLP, defending companies in litigation in US federal and state courts, with a focus on product liability matters involving life sciences companies and healthcare institutions. Erica is the current President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County and former committee co-chair of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. She is also a member of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, the International Association of Privacy Professionals, and an AdvaMed working group.



Farah Bhatti

Shareholder and the Chair of Buchalter's Trademark Law Practice and Co-Chair of the Internet, E-Commerce and Social Media Practice

Buchalter

J.D., St. John's University School of Law, LL.M University of Houston Law Center, B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Farah Bhatti focuses her legal 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 also counsels and works with clients with regard to Federal trademark litigation and oppositions and cancellations proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Recently, Ms. Bhatti has gained substantial experience in working with clients in the NFT (Non-fungible tokens) space by not only filing copyright and trademark applications to cover the underlying intellectual property of NFTs but also with regard to licensing and other agreements relating to NFTs.



Garylene Javier

Associate - Privacy & Cybersecurity
Crowell & Moring LLP

M.B.A., Cornell University; LL.M., American University
Washington College of Law; J.D., Appalachian School
of Law; B.S. University of California, Los Angeles

Garylene “Gage” Javier is a technology lawyer that provides clients with the full range of representation including privacy & cybersecurity compliance counseling, security incident and crisis management, and technology-related litigation. She writes and speaks on a variety of today’s emerging technologies including biometrics, artificial intelligence, and the metaverse. Ms. Javier is a recent recipient of the Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing for the co-authored article, “How to Minimize Risk When Launching Smart Medical Devices.” She is a mayoral appointee to the District of Columbia Innovation and Technology Inclusion Council and serves as the Cyberspace Law Survey Editor for The Business Lawyer, an American Bar Association publication. Ms. Javier is the current president of the National Filipino American Lawyers Association.



Gauri Manglik

General Counsel, Chief Privacy Officer
and Corporate Secretary

Clearbit

BA LL.B., National Law School of India University;
LL.M., UCLA School of Law

Gauri Manglik is an accomplished general counsel helping scale tech companies and manage their risks in a strategic manner.



Glianny Fagundo

Ms.
Thompson Hine LLP

J.D. The University of Georgia, B.A. The University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez (magna cum laude)

Glianny is a partner in Thompson Hine's Labor & Employment group. She focuses her practice on partnering with clients to design and implement workplace policies and practices that are not just compliant with the law, but that further business goals. In addition to practicing law, Glianny is a business and community leader in the State of Georgia, being one of the forces behind the incorporation of the City of Brookhaven, and serving as president and chairperson of the Georgia Hispanic Bar Association and director of CredAbility Inc. and the Latin American Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves on the State of Georgia's Personnel Board.



Grissel Seijo

Sr. Director, Employment Legal
Warner Bros. Discovery

J.D., Fordham School of Law; Ed.M., Columbia University; M.A. Columbia University; BA Psychology;

Griessel Seijo has over 20 years of psychological counseling and legal advocacy experience, spending the last decade as an employment and labor attorney in New York and Florida. As Senior Director, Employment Legal, Ms. Seijo dedicates her time to counseling the business on a wide variety of topics. With the current merger of Warner Bros. Discovery, Ms. Seijo is dedicating time to helping the business integrate the two companies to become one with shared goals, policies and procedures.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, Ms. Seijo is a founding board member of the Líderes Board of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, one of the oldest non-profit civil rights organizations focusing on education, voting rights and immigration issues for Latinos. She is a strong supporter of peer networking and education as a pathway to success and an active mentor helping to prepare law students for the Florida, New Jersey and New York bar exams.



Harumi Hata

Shareholder
Buchalter APC

Loyola Law School

Harumi Hata's practice involves the representation of multinational companies, including U.S., European, and Pacific Rim/Asian clients, in business structuring and advice, corporate and commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, financing arrangements, and real estate acquisitions and dispositions. Her clients include multinational companies, including Fortune Global 500 companies, and high net worth individuals and families. She has represented regulated entities such as insurance companies and insurance holding companies in acquisition and disposition transactions in the U.S. and Japan. She serves many of her clients as outside general counsel serving all aspects of their legal needs. Ms. Hata is fluent in Japanese and has a thorough understanding of Japanese business practices and protocol. She regularly represents clients utilizing her bilingual language skills.



Huiya Wu

Partner
Goodwin Procter LLP

J.D., The George Washington University Law School,
B.S., University of Massachusetts Amherst (cum
laude)

Huiya is an intellectual property litigator who has spent more than 20 years litigating and trying cases in both federal and state courts, and has appeared before the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), as well as the International Trade Commission (ITC). She has represented clients in a wide range of technologies, including pharmaceuticals, analytical devices, medical devices, automotive parts, and internet business methods, and has particular expertise in litigation under the Hatch-Waxman Act and the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act. Huiya has been recognized in Intellectual Asset Management's Patent 1000, an annual listing of the world's leading patent practitioners. She currently serves as co-chair of Goodwin's Women's Initiative.



Iliana L. Peters

Shareholder
Polsinelli PC

B.A., University of Texas at Austin (Special Honors),
J.D., Duke University School of Law, LL.M., University
of Houston Law Center

As co-chair of the Latin Alliance at Polsinelli and one of the few diverse CISSPs in the legal profession, Iliana Peters strives to create opportunities for attorneys and IT professionals of color and collaborates on inclusive and diverse initiatives in legal and IT services. Iliana is recognized as a preeminent thinker and speaker on data privacy and security, including HIPAA, and Chambers Global ranked her as an “Up and Coming” attorney globally and nationwide.



Irene Oria

Partner
FisherBroyles LLP

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

Irene Oria has over 20 years of experience in complex commercial business litigation with a focus on Financial Services, Insurance and Securities Litigation, including nationwide class and multi-district litigation. She has extensive experience defending companies in consumer class actions alleging violations of state and federal consumer protection laws such as the FCRA, FD-CPA, TCPA, ECOA, TILA, EFTA, and state consumer protection acts such as the FTSA. Ms. Oria routinely represents companies in a myriad of financial and fraud investigations as well as litigation and arbitration matters, particularly under FDOTPA and FSIPA. Before FisherBroyles, Ms. Oria served as an Assistant US Attorney and a federal judicial law clerk to the Honorable Cecilia M. Altonaga in the Southern District of Florida.



Jacqueline S. Peña

Product Liability Attorney
Bowman and Brooke LLP

J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law, B.A. Boston University

Jacqueline is a trial attorney and experienced litigator. She has successfully completed several jury trials and bench trials, all resulting in verdicts in favor of her clients. She focuses her practice on high exposure product liability matters, including the defense of medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers. She also has extensive experience handling toxic tort matters, multi-district litigation and defending complex commercial litigation matters and contract disputes. Jacqueline is the President-elect of the Hispanic Bar Association of NJ (“HBA-NJ”). She has received the Hispanic National Bar Association Top Lawyers Under 40 Award and is a recipient of the “Corazon Del HBA-NJ Award,” for her commitment to professional excellence, integrity, leadership, commitment to the Hispanic community, and dedication to improving the legal profession.



Jamie Jackson

Partner
K&L Gates LLP

J.D., University of Maryland School of Law, M.Ed.,
University of Virginia, B.A., University of Virginia

Jamie Jackson counsels clients on policy matters at the intersection of national security and emerging technologies. Recently, she served as Senior Counsel to former U.S. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer. In 2021, Jamie was appointed by the Biden White House to serve as Security Clearance Counsel. Previously, Jamie served as Deputy General Counsel for the House Armed Services Committee. In 2018, Jamie was selected by New America as a “next generation leader” in national security and foreign policy. In 2014, Jamie was appointed by President Obama to serve in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs). In recognition of her service, she received the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Achievement.



Jeanette Riggins

Partner
MG+M The Law Firm

J.D., Tulane University of Law, B.A., Louisiana State University

MG+M The Law Firm Partners Jeanette Riggins and Carrie Lin have been included on Lawyers of Color's inaugural Wonderful Women list, which recognizes dynamic women attorneys working in law firms, companies and government agencies across the United States who show promise in their careers and demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing diversity in the legal profession. The honorees will be recognized at two receptions in July in Washington DC and Atlanta, where remarks will be given by The Honorable Eleanor L. Ross, US district judge of the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Lawyers of Color is a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting diversity in the legal profession and advancing democracy and equality in marginalized communities. Jeanette is an experienced trial attorney focusing on liability matters, asbestos litigation and toxic torts, and construction litigation.



Jessica R. Herrera-Flanigan

Partner
Monument Advocacy

B.A., Yale University (with distinction), J.D., Harvard Law School

Jessica Herrera-Flanigan is an executive with 30 years of experience spanning senior level roles within global corporations, the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government, and in board management. She advises and leads public and private companies, associations, and non-profits on corporate and public affairs, crisis management, policy, marketing, legal, and social impact issues. She previously served as the Vice President of Policy & Philanthropy, Americas, Twitter and as Executive Vice President of Corporate & Government Affairs, Univision. She also served as the Staff Director & General Counsel of the House Committee on Homeland Security, where she was the first Latina to lead a Congressional Committee staff. She spent several years at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Computer Crime & IP Section, where she co-lead a team of prosecutors specializing in the investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes.



Jewell Lim Esposito

Partner
FisherBroyles LLP
BBA. William & Mary

Jewell Lim Esposito has 25 years of practical experience in the world of employee benefits and tax law.

Her leadership promoting diversity in the legal profession includes assisting the New York City Bar's Diversity Fellowship Program place diverse first-year law students at large international law firms - giving students a rare opportunity to jump start their careers.

Jewell also mentors minority attorneys and sits on hiring committees to identify minority attorneys with both merit and promise.



Johnine P. Barnes

Shareholder/Chair, Washington, DC Labor and Employment Practice Group
Greenberg Traurig LLP

J.D. Case Western Reserve University School of Law,
B.A. Case Western Reserve University (magna cum laude, honors in Political Science)

Recognized by Chambers and Partners for labor and employment (District of Columbia 2023) and the Legal 500 U.S. Guide for her counselling and compliance practice regarding both federal and state employment laws, Johnine counsels and represents companies ranging in size from Fortune 10 to small family businesses, government agencies, and associations. Additionally, Johnine, who has been recognized by Lawdragon 500 as Leading Lawyer in America, and as a Leading U.S. Corporate Employment Lawyer and the Washington Business Journal as a Diverse Business Leader, is experienced defending and litigating employment claims of harassment, retaliation, discrimination, wrongful discharge, and breach of contract, as well as business litigation matters. Johnine also is active in the American Employment Law Council, Employment Law Forum.



June S. Dipchand

Partner, Mergers and Acquisitions
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and
Affiliates

J.D./M.B.A., University of Toronto, 2006 (Dean's List, Rotman School of Management) M.A.Sc. (Mechanical Engineering), University of Toronto, 2001 B.Eng. (Mechanical), Technical University of Nova Scotia, 1998 B.Sc. (Mathematics), Dalhousie University, 1995 (cum laude)

June Dipchand advises public and private clients on cross-border and U.S. transactions, and heads Skadden's Canadian M&A practice from the firm's New York office. She actively participates in diversity and pro bono initiatives, serves on Skadden's Counsel and Summer Associate Committees, and has chaired its 1L Scholars Program, a paid summer internship promoting diverse talent in law. June sits on the board – and co-chairs the diversity subcommittee – of the Legal Aid Society of New York, one of the largest organizations of its kind providing legal services to vulnerable clients and communities. In 2023, June was named among the Top Women in Dealmaking by The Deal, honoring women partners who have demonstrated excellence in their respective practices.



Justina K. Rivera

General Counsel and Deputy Comptroller for Legal Affairs
NYC Office of the Comptroller

J.D., Fordham Law (honors), B.A., St. Francis College
(summa cum laude)

Justina K. Rivera, currently serves as General Counsel and Deputy Comptroller for Legal Affairs at the Office of the New York City Comptroller, overseeing the Office's legal affairs and representing its interests safeguarding the fiscal health of the City and the assets of the City's five public pension systems. Justina previously held the position of senior associate where she focused her practice in the areas of complex torts and toxic tort litigation, products liability, medical malpractice and general commercial litigation. Prior to her role at the firm, she was an Assistant Borough Chief, Senior Counsel, and trial attorney at the NYC Law Department where she defended the City of New York in civil litigation and trials.

Justina serves as the Vice President of External Affairs of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and is a member of the NYC Bar Association, Dominican Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association.



Karina Loya

Litigation Associate
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Oklahoma City University School of Law, B.A.,
The University of Texas at Arlington (cum laude)

Karina is a first-generation attorney and the youngest daughter of hard-working immigrant parents. In addition to her legal career, Karina is committed to the advancement of minority legal professionals. She is an active member of the Hispanic National Bar Association where she serves as Deputy of the Judiciary Branch Subcommittee, Deputy of Programming for Region XII, and Secretary of the International Law Section. Karina also serves as a mentor to several Hispanic law students and young attorneys across the country. Recently, Karina was recognized as a 2023 Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star for her defense work in products liability litigation. She attributes her continued success to her family, friends, mentors and sponsors, and Barnes & Thornburg LLP.



Karyn D. Jefferson

Employment Counsel
Corning Incorporated

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

Karyn provides legal support for Corning Incorporated's HR function, advising on domestic labor and employment matters, as well as providing oversight and guidance on global employment issues and compensation and benefits matters. Karyn is also an adjunct professor at Fordham University's School of Law.

Karyn is an accomplished leader with significant in-house counsel and law firm experience. Prior to joining Corning, Karyn served as in-house employment counsel at Urban One, Inc., Benjamin Moore & Co., and Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, and worked at several law firms in the NY/NJ area, including her own.

Karyn currently serves on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey.



Katrina M. Thompson

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Ohio Northern University (high distinction, valedictorian), B.A., Ohio Northern University (high distinction)

Katrina Thompson represents investors, syndicators and community development entities in transactions involving low-income housing, historic, energy and new markets tax credits. She also represents clients in commercial leasing, general real estate and loan transactions. Passionate about community development and the creation of affordable housing, Katrina personally believes in the work that she does. Katrina is appreciated for the ways she brings efficiency and a practical, reasonable approach to problem-solving when negotiating and closing deals. As a proud Brazilian-American, she is co-chair of BTLatinx, Barnes & Thornburg's Hispanic and Latino talent resource group and is a member of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Katrina is dedicated to supporting programs and initiatives that create opportunity for everyone.



Kenya Tyson

Senior Associate Provost
Dartmouth College

JD, Delaware Law School, MS, University of Cincinnati, BA, Winston Salem State University

Kenya Tyson is an internationally recognized criminal justice expert and higher education executive, with expertise in race, crime and inequity. She is also the Founder of The Black Massacre Project. A Fulbright Scholar, Kenya is President-Elect for the Garden State Bar Association. She serves as co-director on the NJ Reparations Council, is a member of the NJ Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness, and is on the Boards of the Descendants of Rosewood Foundation and the International Commission for Dalit Rights. Kenya was named one of the NJ Law Journal's Diverse Attorneys of the Year and a Governor's Jefferson Award honoree. She is also a recipient of the Descendants of Rosewood Foundation Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Gold Medallion.



Keshia Tiemann

Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

J.D., University of Georgia School of Law (cum laude),
B.A., Presbyterian College (summa cum laude)

Keshia Tiemann focuses her practice on representing management in a wide range of labor and employment law matters. She routinely counsels clients in mergers, acquisitions, joint venture formations, and other strategic corporate transactions on labor and employment considerations including comprehensive workforce analysis, review of labor and employment related proceedings (including government audits and investigations), multi-national employment considerations, review of employment-related agreements and executive compensation, and mitigating risk exposure. In addition, Keshia regularly drafts employee handbooks, personnel policies, employment agreements as well as non-competition, non-disclosure, and non-solicitation agreements. She has also represented employers on discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims, FLSA and state wage and hour law matters, and handled restrictive covenants litigation.



Kim Phan

Partner
Troutman Pepper

J.D., George Mason University, B.A., University of
Pennsylvania (cum laude)

Kim counsels companies on privacy and data security throughout product development, marketing, and implementation. She also assists companies with data breach prevention and response. Kim has expertise in e-commerce and mobile counseling, including app development, online behavioral advertising, privacy policies, and social media. Kim also guides clients through supervisory and enforcement interactions with the CFPB, FTC, other federal regulatory agencies, and state attorneys general. Kim has been recognized in Chambers FinTech Legal USA and The Legal 500 and is a member of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers. Kim is the President-Elect of the National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys and is an active member of other affinity bar associations.



Kimberlynn B. Davis, JD, PhD

Partner - Intellectual Property
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law (magna cum laude), PhD, Emory University, B.S., Xavier University of Louisiana (summa cum laude)

Kimberlynn Davis, JD, PhD, is a partner in the Intellectual Property (IP) Department at Kilpatrick Townsend. Throughout her career, Kim has been a trailblazer, forging a trail that few have traveled before – both in science and in IP law. Lifting others as she climbs, Kim is determined to make the patent bar a more inviting place for visible minorities and to serve as a role model for young Black women aspiring to a career path like hers. The overarching theme of Kim's career is excellence. Indeed, her exceptional work has been recognized by other scientists, her fellow attorneys, and her clients. Kim's practice focuses on prosecuting patent applications and counseling clients in pharmaceuticals, the chemical arts, metallurgy, and material science.



Kisha A Brown

CEO
Justis Connection

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

Kisha is transforming the legal industry by building an online marketplace dedicated to the Black experience in the law. She started by founding Justis Connection, the first Black attorney referral platform. She works tirelessly with other Black led legaltech startups to advance technological developments to increase access to justice. For her it's not her job or new business, it's a calling and she's committed to doing her part to strengthen the legal landscape.



Ladene Mendoza

Associate
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, B.A., Indiana University Bloomington

Ladene's been passionate about DEI since law school. During law school, she was president of the Hispanic Law Society, a member of the Black Law Students Association and co-chair of the 4th Annual IU-McKinney Diversity Dinner Committee. As a first generation American and college student, Ladene is passionate about mentoring and speaking to minority students about education. Ladene currently serves as a co-lead of BTLatinx, the firm's Talent Resource Group for Latinx teammates and allies.



Lalitha Alladi

Founding Attorney
Alladi Law

B.S., University of Florida and J.D. Stetson University College of Law

Lalitha Alladi is an immigration attorney who is bringing families together every day. Having worked with fortune 500 companies, she now practices family-based and employment based immigration. Lalitha has devoted time to non-profit work with the South Asian Bar Association of North America, Shakthi US (assisting South Asians who are survivors of domestic abuse) and Children's Development Academy (providing high level early education for families that could otherwise not afford it). A speaker on topics such as Empowerment of Indian Women in USA and at events such as Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys' Annual Conference, Lalitha believes in DEI initiatives that help bring equity to the legal field.



Larissa Calva Ruiz

Entertainment Counsel
Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC

Universidad Iberoamericana (J.D. equivalent, honors), UCLA School of Law (Masters in Law in Comparative and International Law)

Ms. Calva Ruiz was born and raised in Mexico City. Ms. Calva Ruiz focuses on debt and equity financing, representing lenders, production companies, and investors on all sides of the transaction, as well as on distribution and talent agreements. She has been named by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a Minority Leader of Influence and in Variety's Legal Impact Report.



Latisha Thompson

Vice-Chair, Business Litigation Department
Morrison Cohen LLP

J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.S., University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Latisha is an accomplished litigator whose broad practice encompasses complex commercial, real estate, securities and employment litigation. A member of Morrison Cohen's DEI Committee, she mentors women and underrepresented associates and has hosted and organized affinity group events to support diverse attorneys. She is a member of the New York City Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. Latisha was named "Notable Diverse Leader in Law" by Crain's New York Business, July 2022.



Latoya Asia

Vice President - Employee Engagement and Talent Strategy
Dominion Energy

J.D., William & Mary School of Law, B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University (magna cum laude)

Latoya Asia is an experienced labor & employment lawyer, HR and DE&I executive, and educator. She currently serves as President of the William & Mary Law School Alumni Association Board, Co-Chair of the Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium, a member of the Virginia State Bar Diversity Conference Board of Governors, a member of the National Employment Law Council, and a member of the Congressional School Board of Trustees. Latoya also serves as an adjunct faculty at George Mason University's School of Business and as an adjunct lecturer with Georgetown University's Master of Professional Studies in Human Resources Management program.



Laura DeSantos

Partner, Office Managing Partner
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani

J.D., University of Houston Law Center, B.A., University of Texas at Austin

Laura De Santos has extensive experience representing corporate clients in state and federal courts in Texas and throughout the United States. In addition to her trial experience, she defends her employers in arbitration and administrative proceedings, as well as all forms of alternative dispute resolution, including mediations. Ms. De Santos represents employers on matters involving discrimination, wrongful termination, harassment, and retaliation brought under state and federal statutes. She provides employee and management training on a variety of issues, including equal employment and anti-harassment policies, hiring policies and practices, and implementing and applying progressive discipline policies. Ms. De Santos has also represented pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers and has tried numerous cases of serious injury to verdict. She has handled numerous matters involving consumer products and has also been involved in automotive cases.



Lauren Azebu

Partner
Step toe & Johnson LLP

J.D., Harvard University (cum laude), B.A. and B.S., University of Maryland, College Park (summa cum laude)

Lauren Azebu focuses her practice on US federal income taxation issues for domestic and international clients, including high-net worth individuals. She regularly advises both US- and foreign-owned businesses and individuals on the US tax consequences of cross-border investments, cryptocurrency issues, business structurings, withholding obligations, and FATCA compliance. She also advises clients on planning and structuring corporate transactions, including tax-free spinoffs.

Lauren is a co-chair of Steptoe's Women's Forum, which is devoted to connecting, developing, and supporting Steptoe's women professionals. She also serves as the President of the DC Chapter of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law and is on the board of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area.



Lisa Modica

VP, Global Labor & Employment
Halliburton Company

J.D., Southern Methodist University, B.A., Southern Methodist University

Lisa Modica has served as Vice President, Global Labor & Employment, at Halliburton Company since January 2019. In this role, she is responsible for the overall legal strategy, direction, initiatives, and risk management of the global employment and labor law function for this multi-national company operating in over 70 countries with over 45,000 employees. Ms. Modica also advises the C-Suite and HR on the establishment and implementation of employment policies, procedures, and processes for the company's global workforce. She is on the Legal Management Team and serves as chair or lead for several key committees within the company. Prior to this role, Ms. Modica served in several roles with increasing responsibility in employment and employee benefits while at Halliburton. Before this role, Ms. Modica was a senior employee benefits attorney at Continental Airlines, and she started her career as an employee benefits associate at a major law firm, Vinson & Elkins.



Lisa N. Collins

Partner
BakerHostetler

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service
(B.S.F.S.), Georgetown University Law Center (J.D.)

Lisa Collins leads the Atlanta Intellectual Property team of BakerHostetler. Her practice focuses on the business and defense of IP, including licensing, tech transactions, indemnification, IP strategy, trade secrets, portfolio management and patent, trademark and technology litigation. Lisa chairs the Black Affinity Group and serves on the Diversity Council and Women's Steering Committee. Lisa also serves on the Executive Council of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Lisa is a 2020 alumna of Leadership Atlanta, an Executive Committee member of the Georgetown University Board of Governors, and Georgetown Law's Alumni Board. Lisa has received numerous accolades for her work and leadership in the community, her legal acumen, and for her work to increase diversity and foster greater inclusivity.



Lisa-Marie Monsanto

Partner
Rimon PC

J.D., Columbia Law School, MBA., Rutgers University
- Newark

Lisa-Marie Monsanto focuses her practice on representing project sponsors, private equity funds, issuers and 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. A true trailblazer, Lisa-Marie has led numerous international legal projects. Lisa-Marie was previously recognized as one of the "Nation's Best" by Lawyers of Color and was a Legal Counsel on Legal Diversity Fellow.



Margaret Williams Walker

EVP, Legal Affairs and Corporate Communications
HMTX Industries LLC,

J.D., University of Michigan

Margaret Williams Walker has practiced law for over thirty years. She began her career at the former Nixon, Hargrave, Devans and Doyle and spent twenty-six years at Xerox Corporation as Associate General IP Counsel, Chief Trademark Counsel. She is a founding member of the Rochester Black Bar Association of Rochester, NY.



Mary Akhimien

Associate General Counsel, Senior Vice President
Bank of America

J.D., University of Pittsburgh; International Law Certificate, University College London; B.A., University of Delaware

Mary Akhimien helps lead the Labor and Employment practice at Bank of America and is responsible for managing critical multi-disciplinary processes, high-risk components and complex projects that impact revenue, investment, profitability and expense management for the firm. She serves on several advisory boards including Corporate Counsel Women of Color, Inc. and Christiana Care Healthcare System.



Megan Rudd

Partner
Chapman and Cutler LLP

J.D., University of Illinois (cum laude) B.S., Finance.,
University of Illinois (with honors)

Megan Rudd is a member of Chapman and Cutler LLP's National Public Finance Department. She focuses her law practice on tax-exempt and taxable municipal financings for nonprofit health care institutions, including public offerings, private placements, and direct purchases. Her work involves serving as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, and borrower's counsel for tax-exempt and taxable financings for hospitals, multistate health systems, and continuing care retirement communities throughout the United States, as well as the representation of creditors and debtors in municipal bankruptcies. Megan also represents financial institutions in the municipal derivatives area, including interest rate swaps, repurchase agreements, guaranteed investment contracts and forward delivery agreements.



Melissa A. Barahona

Partner
Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP

J.D., University of Michigan Law School (cum laude),
B.S., Cornell University

Melissa A. Barahona's practice focuses on employment and commercial litigation. Her employment experience includes defense of claims of discrimination, harassment/hostile work environment, and retaliation; disputes involving the enforcement of employment contracts and restrictive covenants; and tort claims arising out of the employment relationship. Her commercial litigation experience includes high-stakes disputes involving business torts and breach of contract. Melissa also devotes time to pro bono matters. She has been recognized as a leading lawyer by Chambers USA and by Lawdragon on its 500 X - The Next Generation list. She was also named as a Latino Lawyer to Keep on the Watch by Latino Leaders Magazine.



Melissa Colon-Bosolet

Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

J.D., Cornell Law School, B.A., CUNY - Hunter College

MELISSA COLÓN-BOSOLET represents clients in high-risk business disputes in federal and state courts, arbitrations, and internal investigations. Her extensive litigation experience spans all aspects of pleadings, discovery, evidentiary hearings, and trial. Melissa's engagements span numerous industries and legal claims, including those involving breach of contract, business torts, and securities claims. Melissa also represents companies and board committees in some of their most complex and sensitive enforcement and investigation-related issues. Melissa's litigation skills and reputation as a trusted business counselor has earned her industry accolades. In 2021, Melissa was named to Bloomberg Law's inaugural edition of "They've Got Next: 40 Under 40." In 2020, she was recognized by Crain's New York Business as a "Notable Women in Law" and New York Law Journal as a "Rising Star."



Melissa Madrigal

Partner
Morrison Cohen LLP

J.D., Florida International University - College of Law,
B.A., Florida International University

Melissa is a trial lawyer whose practice focuses on federal white collar criminal defense, government and internal investigations, enforcement actions and regulatory compliance. She advises and defends clients throughout the country in complex, high-stakes investigations, indicted cases and other crisis situations. She is a member of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers, the Women's White Collar Defense Association and the Cuban American Bar Association. She supports causes that promote civil rights and social action.



Melissa S. Woods

Attorney
Cohen, Weiss and Siimon LLP

George Washington University School of Law, Wesleyan University, B.A., D.

Melissa S. Woods is a Partner who focuses on negotiating and litigating labor and employment law matters on behalf of unions and individual employees, and represents unions in employer bankruptcy proceedings. Melissa leads the firm's harassment/discrimination prevention and DEI practice, where she shares her extensive experience investigating allegations of discrimination and harassment, providing legal and strategic advice on policy matters and workplace culture, and creating and conducting discrimination and harassment prevention, implicit bias and racial sensitivity trainings. In 2019, she became a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. In 2020, 2021 and 2022 she was recognized by Lawdragon to be one of the 500 leading plaintiff employment lawyers in the country. She provided advice and counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Civil Rights Bureau of NYS Attorney General's Office.



Michele Lau

Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary
GoDaddy

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

Michele Lau reports directly to GoDaddy CEO Aman Bhutani, providing insight and guidance on all aspects of legal, compliance, internal audit, government & industry affairs, corporate sustainability, and ESG. Michele has more than two decades of legal experience. Prior to her role at GoDaddy, she held leadership roles at McKesson Corporation, a Fortune 10 healthcare company, and practiced at the multinational law firm Morrison & Foerster LLP. Michele co-chairs the National Asian Pacific Bar Association's In-House Counsel Mentoring Program and serves on the board of directors of the Asian Pacific Fund. She is based in Seattle, WA.



Monica Brown

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel
Lennox International Inc.

J.D., University of Texas School of Law, B.S. Howard
University (summa cum laude)

Monica Brown is the Vice President, Deputy General Counsel at Lennox International Inc. (NYSE LII), a global leader in the heating, air conditioning and refrigeration markets. In this role, she oversees and manages attorneys in various functions, including securities, corporate governance, litigation, intellectual property, real estate, and procurement. She also assists with working with and advising the company's board of directors. Over the last eleven years, Monica has served in various other leadership roles at Lennox, including as lead securities attorney and as lead attorney for several business segments. Monica is a graduate of the Lennox Leadership Development Program, a member of the Lennox Women's Business Council and L.E.A.D (LII's Employees of African Descent), and a mentor for the Lennox Mentoring for Diversity Program.



Mrunal Shah

Partner
Best Best & Krieger LLP

J.D., Tulane University Law School (cum laude), B.A.,
University of California, San Diego

Mrunal Mehta Shah is the practice group leader of Best Best & Krieger's Public Finance practice group and serves as bond, special and disclosure counsel for a variety of transactions representing public agencies throughout the State of California. She has approximately 20 years of experience with public finance transactions including Mello-Roos Community Facilities District bonds, assessment district bonds, Marks-Roos Joint Financing Authority revenue bonds, certificates of participation, revenue bonds, general obligation bonds and tax allocation bonds. Mrunal also has experience in the financing of energy and water efficiency improvement, including the issuance of Property Assessed Clean Energy bonds and equipment leases. She is a board member for the Women in Public Finance, Los Angeles Chapter and also serves as director of charitable giving.



Nakimuli Davis-Primer

Shareholder
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

J.D., University of Mississippi (magna cum laude),
B.S., Mississippi State University (magna cum laude)

Nakimuli partners with clients to create respectful workplaces that increase employee engagement and decrease legal risk. She regularly advises clients on workplace issues, drives creative solutions that align with their goals, and defends them in administrative actions and litigation. She also collaborates with clients on best practices to create effective DEI programs that comply with legal requirements and creates training programs that help drive inclusion. Nakimuli has received numerous honors including being recognized in 2022 in Bloomberg Law's They've Got Next: Top 40 under 40 and by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association as a Rising Star. She is married to her high-school sweetheart, has a five-year-old daughter, serves on two nonprofit boards, and mentors associates and aspiring attorneys.

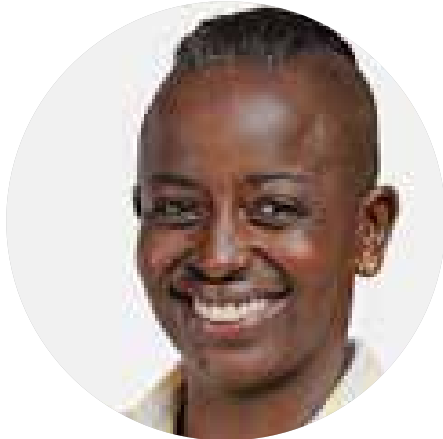


Natalie Alfaro Gonzales

Partner
Baker Botts L.L.P.

J.D., The University of Houston Law Center; B.S., The University of Texas at Austin

Natalie Alfaro Gonzales practices in all areas of intellectual property law, including patent and trade secret litigation, patent prosecution, and IP and technology transactions. As a registered patent attorney with a full-service IP practice, Natalie works closely with her clients to provide a holistic approach to IP management, including protecting, enforcing, and defending IP rights. Natalie is a member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and is also deeply involved in her community, including serving as President of the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston, on the Steering Committee for the Texas Minority Counsel Program, as a Trustee for the Foundation of Advancement of Diversity in IP Law, and as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston Law Center.



Natsayi Mawere

Partner
Reed Smith LLP

LL.M., New York University, J.D., Washington University, B.A. (Hons), New York University

Natsayi has extensive experience in litigating complex commercial matters, and regularly works with teams tasked with defending national putative class actions that span a wide range of areas, including consumer financial services and biometric cases under state privacy laws. Natsayi also has a proven track record in handling various complex litigation matters, including fee disputes, trademark disputes, lender liability, consumer fraud, contractual disputes, and violations of federal and state consumer protection statutes. Her experience in the garnishments and setoffs space also make her a go-to for clients seeking risk management counseling. Natsayi is the Market Chair of the New York Office Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, on the Office's Recruiting Committee, and involved in the Women's Initiative Network Committee (leadership role).



Nefertiti J. Alexander

Partner
Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP

J.D., Harvard Law School (Co-Executive Editor, Harvard Negotiation Law Review), B.A., New York University (cum laude)

Nefertiti J. Alexander's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and white collar defense and investigations. She regularly represents plaintiffs and defendants in bet-the-company disputes. Nefertiti is also committed to pro bono work and is committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession. She has been recognized on Benchmark Litigation's 2022 40 & Under Hot List, and named a 2022 Rising Star by New York Law Journal and a 2021 Woman Worth Watching by Diversity Journal. Nefertiti was also a 2021 Fellow with Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.



Nikelle Meade

Partner
Husch Blackwell LLP

J.D., The University of Texas School of Law, B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Nikelle is a commercial real estate and land development attorney and is at the very top of her field, having been named Lawyer of the Year by several organizations and publications, including locally by the Austin Black Business Journal and nationally by Best Lawyers. Her work includes some of Texas' most important real estate projects. Nikelle is a member of Husch Blackwell's national Executive Board, chairs the firm's DE&I Committee, and is involved in numerous community organizations and causes.



Nina Gupta

Partner
Parker Poe

J.D., University of Michigan, B.A., University of Chicago (with honors)

Nina Gupta is a trusted advisor to leaders in the education industry. Clients turn to her to bring the mission and vision of their institutions to life, through the development of policies and coordination of their comprehensive legal needs. Her clients include leaders at K-12 schools, as well as colleges and universities throughout the Southeast. Nina has particular experience advising clients in high-profile, complex situations, including as general counsel of Atlanta Public Schools. She understands the myriad considerations her clients must take into account as they work to advance strategic priorities and investigate, manage, and prevent crises. Nina serves the community as a pro bono attorney representing abused and neglected children.



Nishka Chandrasoma

Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary
Ford Foundation

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

Nishka Chandrasoma is responsible for managing the overall legal affairs of the Ford 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 and community foundations. Nishka is a board member of Philanthropy New York and the Foundation for Detroit's Future, and is a frequent speaker at programs for tax-exempt organizations on topics including social media and nonprofits, fiscal sponsorships, international grantmaking, and foundation governance.



Olivia Sealey Singelmann

Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

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

Clients call Olivia for representation before regulators such as the DOJ, SEC, and PCAOB; in internal investigations; in complex state and federal litigation matters; and for compliance counseling. Olivia also maintains a pro bono immigration practice, and is a co-founder of the Firm's Racial Justice and Equity practice group (RJEPG). Olivia was recognized as a Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers® – Rising Stars for 2018 –2022; a 2022 & 2023 Best Lawyers® – Ones to Watch for Commercial Litigation; a 2021 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity fellow; and a Tahirih Justice Center Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. Olivia stays engaged in her community through membership in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and the Junior League of Washington.



Onome Adejemilua

Partner, Corporate Group
McCarter & English, LLP

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

Onome Adejemilua represents public and private enterprises, financial institutions, and private equity and venture capital investors and their portfolio companies in a variety of corporate law transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances, debt and equity financing, and general corporate matters. She has worked on deals ranging from small, privately negotiated transactions to those involving multinational public companies for clients across many industries, including manufacturing, data analytics, technology and life sciences. Onome is the Co-Deputy Practice Group Leader of the firm's Corporate Group and is actively involved in the community, including serving on the boards of local nonprofits. Onome is also an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall Law School where she teaches a transactional skills course.



Pamella Raison

Senior Corporate Counsel
Farmers Insurance Group, Inc.

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

Pamella is committed to Board service and a passionate advocate for diversity and volunteerism. As a two term Association of Corporate Counsel, Greater Philadelphia Chapter (ACCGP) Board member, she established ACCGP's first DIEB Committee, coordinated the Summer Corporate Diversity Internship and Street Law programs and is a member of the Annual Women's Summit Steering Committee and Diversity Summit planning committee. Pamella served as Diversity Officer for AIG's Personal Lines Division. At Farmers, she Co-Chaired the Office of General Counsel's DIEB Committee and was appointed Executive Sponsor for the Women's Inclusion Network ERG. She is a pro bono volunteer. Pamella was named a 2019 Nation's Best Honoree by the Lawyers of Color organization and received the ACCGP President's Award in 2021.



Paula Howell Anderson

Partner
Shearman & Sterling LLP

J.D., Harvard University, B.A., CUNY, John Jay College
[summa cum laude]

Paula Anderson is a litigation partner at Shearman & Sterling. Her practice encompasses FCPA investigations, anticorruption, sanctions/AML compliance, complex litigation, cross-border disputes, M&A-related litigation, and international arbitration. Her clients have included global leaders in the finance, energy, healthcare, automotive, telecommunications, mining, media/entertainment, consumer goods and technology industries. Ms. Anderson has conducted investigations, risk assessments and compliance reviews in 30+ countries, with a focus on Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. She regularly defends the management and boards of Fortune 500 companies against shareholder class actions, particularly relating to M&A. She has trained prosecutors at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (prosecuting perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide), and ICC, where she serves as pro bono counsel.



Paulina Vera

Professorial Lecturer in Law
GW Law Immigration Clinic

JD, The George Washington University Law School;
BA, The George Washington University

Paulina Vera supervises GW Law Immigration Clinic students and provides legal representation to asylum-seekers and non-citizens facing deportation. She has also taught Immigration Law I.

Professor Vera is the President-Elect of the Hispanic Bar Association of DC (HBA-DC), a scholar for the ABA YLD Leadership Academy, and a member of the inaugural Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) National Task Force on Hispanic Law Professors and Deans. She also serves as the Public Relations Director for the GW Latino Law Alumni Association (LLAA).

Her passion project is an online community called Hermanas In The Law, where she features Latina pre-law students, law students, and lawyers. She is originally from Tucson, AZ and is the proud daughter of two immigrants.



Preetha Chakrabarti

Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

J.D., Fordham University (magna cum laude), BA,
Brown University (with honors)

As a member of Crowell's Intellectual Property Department, a co-leader of the firm's ESG Advisory Group, and a co-leader of the firm's Metaverse working group, Preetha seeks to offer holistic and integrated counsel to her clients. Her practice cuts across all areas of intellectual property, consisting of litigation, counseling, licensing, and transactional due diligence as well as trademark prosecution. In particular, she advises clients in the technology, retail, and fashion industries on how best to manage risks when using and developing intellectual property. Preetha is the recipient of the NYSBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award (2019) and the South Asian Bar Association's Rising Star Award (2019). From 2019-2020, Preetha served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.



Prema Roddam

Senior Associate
Fragomen, Del Ray, Bernsen and Loewy, LLP

Widener University Delaware School of Law, Wilmington DE

Prema focuses her practice in the areas of corporate immigration, related global corporate compliance and advisory services. Prema is an experienced advocate who understands the unique needs of companies that have a global workforce and footprint. She was elected to be the 2023 President-Elect and 2024 President for the South Asian Bar Association of NJ. She is appointed to the Diversity Committee of the NJ State Bar Association. She is a dedicated advocate for women empowerment and women's rights and serves as the Vice-President, Board of Directors for Manavi Inc, with a mission to end all forms of gender-based violence in the South Asian community and as co-chair for TiE-NJ Women, with a mission to foster women entrepreneurs.



Priya Bathija

Founder + CEO
Nyoo Health

J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law;
BSBA, The Ohio State University

Priya is Nyoo Health's founder and CEO and is dedicated to improving access to health and healthcare for women. She is an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. And, is on the boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties and the Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health. Previously, she led policy efforts and strategic initiatives on value and health equity at American Hospital Association. She started her career as an attorney and served as in-house counsel at ProMedica and MedStar Health. She has been honored for her contributions to healthcare and law by Crain's Chicago Business and the South Asian Bar Association of North America.



Reena Jain

Partner
Blank Rome LLP

J.D., Columbia University, B.S., Michigan State University (Honors), B.A., Michigan State University (Honors)

Reena focuses her practice on business, entertainment and media, and intellectual property litigation, representing a broad range of clients, including award-winning musicians, social media influencers, fashion retailers, and cannabis and spirits companies. She regularly guides clients through every stage of litigation and arbitration, from performing pre-suit evaluations, initiating suits, and aggressively pursuing discovery, to summary judgment, mediation, and trial on the merits. She is a member of both the Media Law Committee and the Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, and has been named to Super Lawyers Rising Stars, Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, and Lawyers of Color's Annual Hot List.



Sandra D. Brown

Associate General Counsel & Acting Director, Technology Commercialization

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

J.D., Fordham University School of Law, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, B.A./M.A., Hunter College of CUNY

Dr. Sandra Brown advises on legal, regulatory, and compliance matters, oversees technology commercialization, and guest lectures on entrepreneurship at RPI. Prior to joining RPI, she headed the Legal function of a digital therapeutics startup and the U.S. division of an enterprise software/SaaS company. She previously practiced at Cooley, Foley & Lardner, and Jones Day law firms, advising clients in software, life sciences, pharma, healthcare, medical devices, and high-tech industries. In her commitment to education and diversity, Dr. Brown served for six years on the Board of Trustees of a K-12 public charter school in a low-income community in Boston that has a mission of preparing each student for college. She is a member of Corporate Counsel Women of Color.



Sarah Jane Hawk

Partner, Chair, Immigration & Global Mobility
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law, M.A.T. & B.A. Agnes Scott College (magna cum laude)

Sarah Hawk provides immigration counsel to numerous corporate clients and is a frequent speaker nationally and regionally on business immigration issues. Sarah brings over 20 years of experience helping companies in healthcare, financial services, higher education, and technology, to secure visas and permanent residence status for executives, managers and critical employees, as well as those at universities and research institutions, artists, athletes, entrepreneurs, and investors. Sarah is a former President of the Georgia Asian Pacific Bar Association (GAPABA), a 2013 Leadership Atlanta alumna, an Advisory Board member for the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN), Co-Chair of the Board of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV) and a Board member of the Georgia Lawyers for the Arts.



Serena Warner

Partner
Angelo, Kilday & Kilduff LLP

J.D., University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings), 2006-2009

Serena Warner is a trial attorney and Partner at Angelo, Kilday & Kilduff -- a law firm dedicated to defending public entities throughout Northern California. Ms. Warner's practice is focused primarily on employment litigation. Her dedication to increasing diversity in the legal profession is demonstrated in her commitment to the Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association as President in 2022 and Vice President in 2020-2021. She is currently the Regional Governor for the National Filipino American Lawyers Association, an affiliate representative for Sacramento's Unity Bar Association, and Vice Chair of the Labor and Employment Division for Sacramento County Bar Association. Ms. Warner is a 2019 graduate of the TIPS/ABOTA National Trial Academy and has been recognized as a Rising Star among Northern California attorneys by Super Lawyers.com each year since 2016.



Shanelle Henry

Senior Corporate Counsel
Microsoft

B.A., Brandeis University (magna cum laude); J.D., Georgetown University Law Center (Dean's List)

Shanelle Henry is a Senior Corporate Counsel at Microsoft, where she helps lead a team supporting our vast customer and partner ecosystem to drive digital transformation in the areas of cloud, AI, IOT and other innovative technologies. At Microsoft, Shanelle has also served as a product attorney supporting engineers who developed leading business cloud solutions for small, medium and large companies. Prior to joining Microsoft, she was an Associate at the AmLaw100, international law firm of Nixon Peabody where she specialized in Intellectual Property and Enforcement matters. Outside her legal work, Shanelle is passionate about serving her community and is an Executive Committee member of a coding program designed for children in underserved communities in partnership with DMV NSBE, Jr.



Shanti Mulpuru Katona

Shareholder, Vice Chair of Bankruptcy and Restructuring
Polsinelli PC

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis; B.A., University of Pennsylvania (magna cum laude)

Shanti Mulpuru Katona serves as Vice Chair of Polsinelli's national Bankruptcy & Restructuring Practice and co-chairs the firm's Asian Pacific Islander Resource Group. Shanti is also an instrumental member of Polsinelli's diversity and women's empowerment committees. Beyond Polsinelli, Shanti's commitment to diversifying the restructuring community led to her elevation to co-chair of the American Bankruptcy Institute's Diversity Working Group as well as her appointment to its Board of Directors.



Sherry D. Williams, Esq.

Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer & SVP, Human Resources

Strategic Materials, Inc.

J.D. University of Miami School of Law, B.A., University of Oklahoma

Sherry D. Williams has over 25 years of leadership and legal experience with a broad background in corporate governance, global compliance and investigations, litigation, risk mitigation and management, people and team development, leadership development, change management, and diversity and inclusion. She is highly regarded for her ability to manage complicated issues, work effectively under pressure, exercise excellent judgment, and navigate multifaceted quickly changing circumstances. When stepping away from legal duties, Williams serves on the Board of Directors for Brown Girls Do Ballet, which promotes diversity in ballet. She is current member of the Executive Board and Parliamentarian for the Greater Tampa Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. and a member of the Board of Trustees for Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg Florida, and private college preparatory institution serving students pre-K through 12th grade.



Sonia Nijjar

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and
Affiliates
J.D., Columbia Law School, B.A., Stanford University

Sonia Nijjar leads on the world's most notable MGA transactions, including Activision Blizzard's pending \$75 billion acquisition by Microsoft and Elon Musk's \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter. Sonia co-chairs Palo Alto's hiring committee, and is a member of Skadden's DEI and Global Women's Initiatives Committees. She also has taken the lead on several diversity initiatives with clients, including helping to organize Skadden's partnership with Intel on its tech summit for diverse law students.



Sonya Jindal Tork

Partner
Taft
J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School, LL.M.,
Northwestern University School of Law, B.S., Xavier
University

Sonya has an interdisciplinary practice that includes tax, real estate, corporate, and estate and asset protection planning law. She has extensive experience representing individuals, estates, trusts, business and tax-exempt organizations in connection with state and federal civil and criminal disputes, audits, investigations, examinations, collection and settlement matters before the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Sonya serves as co-chair of Taft's Gender Advancement Committee. She has a strong commitment to pro bono work and in 2022 received Taft's Pro Bono Award. Also in 2022, Sonya was selected as a Fellow in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's prestigious Fellows Program.



Sonya Johnston

Director & Associate General Counsel,
Meta Reality Labs Legal
Meta Platforms, LLC

B.S. Rutgers University, Douglass College, J.D. Seton
Hall University School of Law

Sonya leads the global Sales, Marketing, Data Analytics & Meta Works legal teams in the Reality Labs division of Meta Platforms, LLC. Sonya's team provides global legal support to the entire portfolio of Augmented and Virtual Reality devices for Meta. Sonya is an active leader in Meta's Diversity community, and a leader of Meta's Diversity Legal Steering Committee. Prior to Meta Platforms, LLC, Sonya was a recognized legal leader and champion for diversity at Microsoft for over 17 ½ years. Sonya has held several diversity leadership positions in the legal bar community and continues to serve as a mentor to numerous attorneys.



Taiyyeba Skomra

Immigration Judge
U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for
Immigration Review

J.D., University of Washington School of Law; B.A.,
Mount Holyoke College (magna cum laude)

Taiyyeba is a Chicago native, daughter of Pakistani immigrants, and the mother of two bright girls. Taiyyeba's husband is a public school teacher and her sister is a professor, so she is fortunate to always be with people who are curious to learn more and who generously share their knowledge. She is a Certified Specialist in Immigration & Nationality Law through the State Bar of California. She is admitted to practice by California, Illinois, and Washington. She is a former co-president of the South Asian Bar Association for Southern California, and is eager to support the diversification of the bench.



Tannisha Bell

Administrative Law Judge
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

J.D., The Ohio State University; B.A., M.S., Virginia Tech

Prior to joining HHS, Judge Bell was appointed for two terms as an ALJ with the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings. Judge Bell previously served as an Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General in the Child Support Services Division. She also served as the Section Chief of the Crime Victim Services Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office where she administered the Crime Victims Compensation Fund for the State of Ohio. Judge Bell began her legal career as an Assistant City Prosecutor with the City Attorney's Office in Columbus, Ohio. Judge Bell is also an adjunct professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center.



Tara D. Elliott

Partner
Latham & Watkins

J.D., University of Pennsylvania; B. Comp Eng, Georgia Tech

Tara Elliott is a first-chair trial lawyer whose practice focuses on high-profile intellectual property proceedings and commercial litigation. She has represented many of the world's leading technology, retail, and manufacturing companies in infringement matters, corporate disputes, and appeals concerning patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and commercial contracts, among other issues. Tara has been recognized as a 2021 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America, a Top 250 Women in Litigation 2020-22 by Benchmark Litigation and was also profiled in The American Lawyer as one of Latham's successful female first-chair litigators, adding to earlier recognitions by leading legal publications as a top lawyer including The National Law Journal, IAM Patent 1000, Managing Intellectual Property, and Chambers. She has twice been honored by Savoy Magazine as among the country's Most Influential Black Lawyers and separately recognized as Among the Most Influential.



Tessa K. Jacob

Partner
Husch Blackwell LLP

B.A., University of Kansas; J.D. (Honors) Washburn University School of Law

Tessa has practiced law for 29 years. She founded/co-chairs her firm's eDiscovery Solutions group. She is a recognized expert in the eDiscovery field. She was appointed to the Sedona Conference Working Group 1 Steering Committee in 2022 and is rated by Chambers and Partners under E-Discovery & Information Governance, USA Guide 2022 and 2023. An Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law for six years, she teaches an upper-level course in eDiscovery. Tessa also serves on Husch Blackwell's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She founded and runs its unique Diversity Liaison Program, a one-on-one mentoring, coaching, and sponsorship program for over 100 plus racially diverse and LGBTQ+ attorneys.



Thaila Sundaresan

Partner
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

J.D., University of Maryland School of Law (magna cum laude), B.A., Stanford University (honors)

Thaila leverages her years of practice in government and the private sector to solve problems for broadband, communications, and tech clients who find themselves involved in matters before state and federal regulators and the courts. Thaila's work includes representing communications clients before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and other state public utility commissions. Thaila is also a seasoned appellate litigator, and has personally briefed and argued numerous cases in the federal courts of appeals. Coupled with her litigation experience in the private sector, Thaila is uniquely situated to understand both the mindset of regulators and the needs of her clients who are at the dynamic intersection of telecommunications and technology. Thaila is co-chair of the Northern California chapter of the Federal Communications Bar Association Northern California, Board Member of the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California.



Theresa Conduah

Partner
Haynes and Boone, LLP

J.D., Fordham Law School, B.A., Georgetown University

A seasoned IP attorney, Theresa has broad-based experience helping companies protect their intellectual property on a global scale, including providing strategic counsel on trademark and copyright portfolios; design patents; brand protection; and licensing and sponsorship agreements. Her prior in-house counsel experience allows her to understand and partner with her clients. Theresa has been recognized as a leading trademark professional by WTR 1000 and described as “an incredibly smart lawyer who possesses unique insight thanks to vast in-house experience.” She was also named by World Intellectual Property Review as one of 50 Influential Women in IP. Theresa has also been recognized for her dedication to pro bono work for undocumented minors and asylum seekers.



Tiana S. Mykkeltvedt

Partner
Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP

J.D., University of Georgia School of Law, cum laude,
B.A., University of Georgia, magna cum laude

An experienced litigator, Tiana Mykkeltvedt handles cases from pre-settlement negotiations and early motions practice through discovery, mediation, and if necessary, trial and appeal. Tiana’s practice focuses on breach of contract, business torts, including complex fraud and civil RICO, and professional liability. She also litigates cases involving technology and software contract issues, healthcare information technology, and patent disputes. While Tiana’s litigation experience is primarily national, she has extensive practice in trial and appellate proceedings in both state and federal courts of Georgia. Furthermore, she has experience handling international aspects of commercial litigation. Tiana has coordinated counsel for multiple pending proceedings and dealt with matters related to the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and international abstention.



Tiane D. Doman

Associate General Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for
Immigration Review

B.A. American University, M.A., American University,
J.D., CUNY School of Law

Tiane Doman is a tireless advocate for civil rights. Following a judicial clerkship, Tiane joined the U.S. Equal Employment Commission, and spent over a decade working to eradicate discrimination in the workplace through adjudication, litigation, and policy development. At the EEOC, Tiane received awards for her work to include: the Oscar Holloway Civility Award (2019); the Chair's Bronze Medal Award for her work on the African American & Women in the Workforce workgroup (2014); and the Chair's Award for Commitment to Excellence for developing the J.O. Wilson-EEOC Partnership (2012). Tiane is a member of the New York State, District of Columbia, and U.S. Supreme Court bars. She belongs to the Women's Bar Association of DC and the Washington Bar Association.



Tina Dorr

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg

B.S., University of Georgia (summa cum laude), Ph.D.,
Georgia Institute of Technology (summa cum laude),
J.D., Georgia State University College of Law (cum
laude)

Tina Dorr has a tenacious and well-rounded approach to developing and executing sophisticated intellectual property strategies around patents and trade secrets. She understands not only the complex technology behind high-tech patents and trade secrets but also utilizes her clear and concise communication skills and judgment to strategically partner with her clients to tackle their business goals. She represents clients in a large range of technology areas, including chemical, material, life science, mechanical, aerospace, and semiconductor technologies, including those within batteries, as well as water treatment, fibers and textiles, pharmaceuticals, apparel, consumer products, nutritional supplements, food and beverage, and construction. Tina currently serves as President of the Georgia Asian Pacific America Bar Association (GAPABA), Co-Vice Chair of Intellectual Property Owners Association' (IPO's) Leadership.



Tinika Brown

Special Counsel
Schulte Roth & Zabel

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

Tinika Brown is a Special Counsel in the Investment Management and Regulatory & Compliance Group at Schulte. Tinika advises private fund managers on compliance with the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 with focus on SEC registration, review of marketing materials, regulatory ESG guidance and operating effective compliance programs. In her prior roles, she gained extensive experience in drafting and negotiating terms of investor-related documents, including partnership agreements, investor side letters, subscription documents and investment management agreements. She is a thought leader in the industry, frequently speaking and writing on regulatory and compliance developments. Outside of Schulte, Tinika is on the Board of Directors for Literacy Partners, an adult education nonprofit organization focused on strengthening families through literacy.



Tonya Combs

Sr. Vice President - Deputy General Patent Counsel
Eli Lilly and Company

Ms. Combs joined Lilly Research Labs in 2001 after receiving a B.S. in chemical engineering from Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech. She received a J.D. summa cum laude from Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2006.

In her current role, Ms. Combs advises senior leaders at Lilly on IP strategy. She has the good fortune to lead a group of talented and experienced IP attorneys and professionals responsible for global IP drafting and prosecuting, maintenance, aspects of enforcement and due diligence for Lilly. Ms. Combs joined Lilly as a chemical engineer in research and development. She's held positions of increasing responsibility in Lilly Legal, including patent preparation and prosecution, multi-jurisdictional patent litigation, brand support, trade secret protection and enforcement, general counsel for oncology business unit, and others. She serves on the Executive Committee of IPO's Board of Directors and was named an AIPLA Woman to Watch in 2019. Ms. Combs also serves on the boards of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, The Children's Museum.



Tonya Vachirasomboon

Member of Dentons US Region Board and Dentons Bingham Greenebaum Partnership Board

Dentons Bingham Greenebaum

J.D., Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law (cum laude), BS, Indiana University Kelley School of Business (with distinction)

Tonya Vachirasomboon co-leads Dentons' national Mergers & Acquisitions practice, and has become one of the Midwest's premier dealmakers representing publicly traded and closely held businesses. Tonya represents the firm locally and nationally on many of its diversity and inclusion initiatives and is passionate about representing and amplifying Asian American Pacific Islander voices and perspectives. Tonya is a founding member of the Thai American Bar Association and serves on the Board of Advisors of the Eiteljorg Museum. She is included in Chambers USA 2023 and The Best Lawyers in America in 2023 in the area of Corporate/M&A, and she was named to the 2023 class of the Indianapolis Business Journal's Forty Under 40.



Traci Bransford

Partner
Stinson, LLP

J.D., New York University School of Law, B.A., Spelman College (magna cum laude)

Traci Bransford serves as general counsel to entertainment and sports law clients and she is the co-chair of Stinson's Entertainment and Media Law practice group. She also serves as outside general counsel to clients in health care, retail apparel and education industries. In addition to being recognized with Stinson LLP's 2023 Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award, she has been honored by Minnesota Lawyer with the 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Award, Chambers with the 2020 Diversity & Inclusion Award Short List - "Diversity & Inclusion Lawyer of the Year" - and Twin Cities Business Magazine as a 2020 "Notable Women in Law" recipient. Traci was also recognized with the 2022 VocalEssence Reatha Clark King Award for Excellence and Youth Motivation through the Cultural Arts.



Tracy Richelle High

Partner
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

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

Tracy Richelle High is a partner in SGC's Litigation Group, a co-Head of the Firm's Labor and Employment Law Group and a member of the Criminal Defense and Investigations practice. Ms. High's practice focuses on representing financial institutions and other corporations in complex civil litigation, arbitration and mediation proceedings, corporate internal investigations, and labor and employment matters. Ms. High is a member of Law360's Employment Discrimination Editorial Board.

She has also represented clients before a wide variety of regulatory and prosecutorial agencies, both at the state and federal levels, as well as Congressional committees and independent examiners appointed by court order. Ms. High is the Chairwoman of the board of directors of the YWCA-NYC, a Vice Chairwoman of the Legal Aid Society, and member of the board of directors of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.



Trina Fairley Barlow

Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

J.D., George Washington University; B.A., University of Virginia

Trina Fairley Barlow is Co-Chair of Crowell & Moring's Labor and Employment Group and a member of the firm's Management Board. Trina is a trusted advisor who represents clients on a range of labor and employment matters. She frequently leads significant workplace investigations encompassing a combination of labor and employment, regulatory, and ethics issues. Her experience includes handling harassment, discrimination, whistleblower, and other sensitive workplace investigations in order to help clients reduce legal and reputational risks and implement corrective actions. She is a seasoned litigator who successfully litigates single plaintiff and class action cases involving EEO laws, wage-hour laws, breach of contract, and business torts. Trina has been recognized by Chambers USA as a leading labor and employment attorney.



Trina L. Glass

Special Counsel
Duane Morris LLP

JD, Rutgers Law School (2003); B.B.A., North Carolina Central University (cum laude) (1994)

Trina L. Glass practices in the area of corporate law. She practices in the area of federal securities law, principally in the areas of investment company, investment adviser and broker-dealer representation. She advises clients on regulatory and compliance requirements, including securities filings, regulatory analysis, due diligence reviews, conflicts of interest analysis/disclosures and investigations. She also counsels clients on risk mitigation strategies, privacy and cybersecurity policies and best practices, and written supervisory and compliance policies and procedures. She provides guidance in connection with regulatory inquiries and exams, SEC mock audits, and annual compliance and risk reviews. Her clients include established and emerging fund managers, registered and new investment advisers, broker-dealers and other financial services firms. Prior to joining Duane Morris, Ms. Glass served as the Co-Chair of the DEI Committee at her former firm.



Tywanda Lord

Partner
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

J.D. Wake Forest University, B.S. Georgia Institute of Technology

Ty Lord specializes in trademark and advertising counseling and litigation. She represents brand owners across a broad spectrum of industries including sports and intimate apparel, consumer products, and technology. Early in her career, Ms. Lord devoted part of her practice to prosecuting and litigating patents and, for a brief period, served as an assistant district attorney. She also served as interim in-house counsel for a Fortune 500 consumer products company. Ms. Lord leverages her diverse background to advance her clients' business objectives. She regularly partners with clients to develop practical and creative solutions to legal issues. Her approach to litigation has led to excellent results for clients in federal courts across the United States and in cancellation and opposition proceedings in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Ms. Lord also proactively advises clients on a variety of issues to minimize the risk of disputes while maximizing the visibility of clients.



Uchenna Ekuma-Nkama

Partner, US Region Co-Chair for Global Compliance and Investigations

Dentons US LLP

J.D., Georgetown, LL.B., Trinity College Dublin (Entrance Exhibition Scholar)

Uchenna Ekuma-Nkama, a former federal prosecutor, defends clients in high-stakes, sophisticated cases—often class actions—and sensitive government investigations across a range of industries, such as health care, financial services, technology and insurance, including arguing critical and dispositive motions, briefing and arguing before the U.S. Court of Appeals, and litigating before the U.S. Supreme Court. Best Lawyers in America ranks Uchenna as one of the “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch” for her work in Commercial Litigation and Criminal Defense: White Collar (2021-2023). Uchenna was also recognized by the National Bar Association’s “40 Under 40—Nation’s Best Advocates” and by The Legal 500 as a “Rising Star.”



Vanessa Patel

Vice President and Associate General Counsel - Global Employment, Litigation & Privacy

TaskUs, Inc.

J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, B.A., University of Tennessee

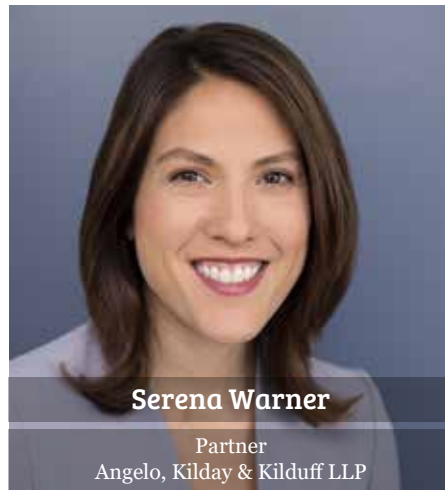
Vanessa leads the global legal team responsible for employment, litigation, and data privacy for a worldwide workforce of nearly 50,000 employees at TaskUs, Inc. TaskUs is a publicly-traded leading provider in digital customer experience to the world’s most innovative companies. Prior to joining TaskUs, Vanessa was a Shareholder at a leading global labor and employment firm and led the global Asian American affinity group. And before that, she defended companies in a broad array of commercial and business civil disputes. Vanessa serves on the Board for the South Asian Bar Association - Florida and is a member of the founding class of the SABA Leadership Institute.

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