

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

DIVERSITY

ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

2020 FACULTY DIRECTORY

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2020 ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CURRICULUM

FEBRUARY 19 | ORIENTATION & WELCOME RECEPTION

Alumni Fellows Panel:

[EKTA R. DHARIA](#) ('18), UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, EDNY

[DAI WAI CHIN FEMAN](#) ('17), PARABELLUM CAPITAL

[CASSANDRA LABBEES](#) ('18), EPSTEIN BECKER & GREEN, P.C.

[MATTHEW F. PUTORTI](#) ('17), PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

Moderated by [THAIS GARCIA](#) ('17), CLIFFORD CHANCE LLP

FEBRUARY 26 | THE BUSINESS OF LAW

Panel

[JENNIFER W. CHENG](#), REED SMITH LLP

[KAVI REDDY](#), BRUNSWICK GROUP

[GEORGE A. THOMPSON](#), JPMORGAN CHASE

[BENJAMIN WILSON](#), BEVERIDGE & DIAMOND PC

Moderated by [RUPA BRIGGS](#), WHITE & CASE LLP

MARCH 4 | DECONSTRUCTING EXECUTIVE PRESENCE: REPUTATION PLUS

Facilitated and Moderated by

[ELLIE NIEVES](#), LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN, LLC

Panel

[LYNN FELDMAN](#), CLEAR CHANNEL OUTDOOR

[PATRICK GADSON](#), VINSON & ELKINS LLP

[KIMBERLY SPOERRI](#), CLEARY GOTTlieb STEEN & HAMILTON LLP

[ROSSIE E. TURMAN, III](#), SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER, & FLOM LLP

APRIL 1 | WEBINAR: LEADERSHIP & CAREER MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Facilitated by [GEORGE FLOWERS](#), INVISIBLE HURDLE LLC

APRIL 15 | WEBINAR: MAINTAINING GRIT & RESILIENCE IN YOUR CAREER

Facilitated by DR. [MILANA L. HOGAN](#), SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP

APRIL 22 | WEBINAR: FROM FEARS TO ACTION: MOVING BEYOND FEARS OF FAILURE, DISAPPOINTMENT & THE UNKNOWN

Facilitated by [SHIRELL A. GROSS](#), MEASURE OF AMBITION LLC dba

MAY 6 | WEBINAR: WORKING THROUGH COVID-19

Panel

[RALPH CARTER](#), DUANE MORRIS LLP

[SHEVON ROCKETT](#), DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

[ALANNA RUTHERFORD](#), VISA

MAY 28 | WEBINAR: FELLOWS FIRESIDE CHAT

[BRANDON NELSON](#), GENERAL COUNSEL, JETBLUE

Moderated by [ALANNA RUTHERFORD](#), VISA

SEPTEMBER 2 | WEBINAR: THE GIFT OF FEEDBACK

Panel

[DAN P. GOLDBERGER](#), DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

[ALPHONZO A. GRANT](#), JR. MORGAN STANLEY

[LATISHA THOMPSON](#), MORRISON COHEN LLP

Moderated by [KAREN WATAI](#), WELCOME CHANGE LLC

SEPTEMBER 9 | WEBINAR: THE POWER OF DEVELOPING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Panel

[DAVID LEVINE](#), BLOOMBERG L.P.

[SHARIS POZEN](#), CLIFFORD CHANCE USA LLP

[KAREN WILSON THISSEN](#), AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

[JOSEPH K. WEST](#), DUANE MORRIS LLP

Moderated by [LUKE FERRANDINO](#), PAUL WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON LLP

NETWORKING RECEPTION WITH IN-HOUSE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS TO FOLLOW

OCTOBER 7 | WEBINAR: MANGEMENT TRAINING | HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER

Facilitated by

[MARC A. LEAF](#), FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

FIRESIDE CHAT

[SHEILA BOSTON](#), ARNOLD & PORTER

Moderated by [MELISSA COLÓN-BOSOLET](#), SIDLEY & AUSTIN LLP

OCTOBER 13 | WEBINAR: CLOSING CEREMONY

Panel

[DUPE ADEGOKE](#), MORRISON COHEN LLP

[ROBERT BARROW](#), GOLDMAN SACHS & CO.

[PAUL GOUCHER](#), AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

[ALANNA RUTHERFORD](#), VISA

Moderated by [TIFFANYE THREADCRAFT](#), AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

OCTOBER 26 | WEBINAR: WHAT'S NEXT? CREATING YOUR OWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Facilitated by

[SHEILA MURPHY](#), FOCUS FORWARD CONSULTING



DUPE ADEGOKE

Morrison Cohen LLP

Ms. Adegoke is an Associate in Morrison Cohen's Business Litigation Department. She is an experienced litigator who concentrates her practice on the representation of clients involved in a diverse array of commercial and business disputes.

Dupe regularly represents clients in federal and state courts as well as in mediations and arbitrations, for matters involving complex contractual disputes, fraud and other business torts, shareholder and business owner disputes, and employment discrimination. She has also represented clients in connection with government and internal investigations. Dupe has experience with all phases of litigation, including pre-action investigation, pleadings, discovery, motion practice, trial, and settlement negotiations.

Prior to joining Morrison Cohen, Dupe was a commercial litigation associate at Reed Smith, LLP.



ROBERT BARROW

Goldman Sachs & Co.

Robert "Bobby" Barrow is Vice President and Senior Counsel at Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC where he advises the prime brokerage, clearing and execution businesses within the firm's Global Markets Division. At Goldman Sachs he is a member of the firm's Legal, Compliance, Internal Audit and Executive Office Black Network Steering Committee. He joined Goldman Sachs in 2016.

Prior to joining Goldman Sachs, Bobby was an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, where he worked on corporate matters in the mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and private equity practice groups. Before attending law school, Bobby worked on Capitol Hill for Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congresswoman for the District of Columbia.

Bobby is a graduate of Columbia Law School and George Washington University. He is a member of the New York bar.



SHEILA BOSTON

Arnold & Porter

Sheila S. Boston is a trial lawyer and litigation strategist who defends clients from initiation of the case through trial and/or settlement.

Ms. Boston is valued by her clients for her advocacy skills, dependability, and collaborative spirit. Ms. Boston has successfully litigated before both state and federal courts, with significant MDL experience in mass tort actions, providing litigation avoidance counseling, and conducting audits to evaluate the potential product-related liabilities in proposed corporate acquisitions and reorganizations. She helps her clients by assessing litigation risks and defending lucrative products by weeding out frivolous individual personal injury lawsuits, defending against class actions and mass torts, and devising creative settlement solutions.

Adept in "battle of the experts" litigation, Ms. Boston has served as national coordinating counsel of experts, involving the retention, development and preparation of experts for depositions, *Daubert/Frye* hearings and trials; she has worked with numerous experts in various fields of medicine and science including, but not limited to, toxicology, infectious diseases, epidemiology, oncology, urology, hepatology, endocrinology, cardiology, psychology, and psychiatry.

A passionate advocate of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, Ms. Boston has won several awards for her efforts including the prestigious Chambers Diversity Awards USA 2016 inaugural award for her "Outstanding Contribution to Furthering the Advancement of Diversity in the Legal Profession, Private Practice." An active participant in bar associations and the legal community at large, Ms. Boston was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve a three-year term on New York's First Department Judicial Screening Committee as well as appointed by Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to serve on the Circuit's Attorney Grievance Committee.

Experience

- *Bayer Corporation*, as co-trial counsel, in a personal injury action in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas involving the drug Xarelto, a blood thinner; defense verdict.
- *Bayer Corporation*, as co-trial counsel, in a personal injury action in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas involving the drug Yasmin, a birth control pill; settled favorably.
- Takeda, as co-trial counsel, in a personal injury action in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas involving the drug Actos, a diabetes medication; plaintiff verdict with low damages settled during appeal process.

- *Darryl Scott Stinski*, as co-trial counsel, in a pro bono post-conviction death penalty proceeding tried before a judge inside of a maximum security Georgia state prison; still pending. *Stinski v. State of Georgia*
- Secondment Participant in Trial Rotation Program, New York City Law Department, Tort Division—served as trial counsel for Bronx Tort Division for 9/3/13-1/10/14.
- *Pfizer*, as co-trial counsel, in the Rezulin (diabetes drug) Litigation in mass tort litigation including MDL in SDNY, class actions in US and Canada, and state coordinated proceedings, as well as individual actions. Served as co-trial counsel in Mississippi and Alabama state cases and National Coordinator of Experts.
- *Sodexo, Inc.*, as co-trial counsel, in a promotion discrimination class action brought on behalf of more than 2,400 African-American mid-level manager plaintiffs; resolved favorably in \$80 million settlement with injunctive relief.

Recognition

- *Who's Who Legal*
Product Liability Defense (New York) (2012-2018)
Life Sciences: Product Liability (New York) (2014, 2016, 2018)
- *Crain's New York*
Leading Women Lawyers in New York City (2018)
- *The Network Journal*
Influential Black Women in Business Honoree (2016)
- *Council of Urban Professionals*
Catalyst Honoree-Change Agent in Law Award (2015)
- *New York Law Journal*
Lifetime Achievement Award (2014)

Professional and Community Activities

- Member, Second Circuit Attorney Grievance Committee
- NY Governor Appointee/Member, New York's First Department Judicial Screening Committee
- Chair, Federal Bar Council Board
- Chair, DRI's Drug and Medical Device Seminar
- Chair, Minority Partners in Majority Firms Division, National Bar Association
- Member, The City of New York Bar Association
- Member, New York State Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Federal Bar Council
- Member, National Bar Association
- Member, Metropolitan Black Bar Association
- Member, New York Bar Foundation Fellow
- Member, Defense Research Institute (DRI)
- Member, Board of Governors, National Bar Association



RUPA BRIGGS

White & Case LLP

Rupa Briggs is a partner in the Firm's Capital Markets Practice in New York. Rupa represents issuers and financial institutions in debt and equity capital markets transactions, with a particular focus on initial public offerings, registered equity offerings and public mergers and acquisitions.

Rupa also advises public companies on a broad range of disclosure, corporate governance and general corporate matters.

Rupa has experience with transactions in a wide range of industries, including technology, healthcare and consumer products.

Her recent experience includes:

- Represented Kornit Digital Ltd. on its follow-on offering of ordinary shares.
- Represented Hertz Global Holdings, Inc., as issuer, in its over-subscribed rights offering at the subscription price of US\$12.95. The Company issued an aggregate of 57,915,055 new shares of common stock for total gross proceeds of approximately US\$750 million.
- Represented Kornit Digital Ltd. on its secondary offering of ordinary shares by Fortissimo Capital Fund II (Israel) L.P.
- Represented Altice USA in its initial public offering and in its subsequent spin-off from its controlling stockholder, Altice Europe.
- Represented BofA Merrill Lynch and Cowen, as representatives of the underwriters, in the initial public offering of Y-mAbs Therapeutics.
- Represented BofA Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, as representatives of the underwriters, in the initial public offering of Inspire Medical Systems.



RALPH CARTER

Duane Morris LLP

Ralph Carter represents companies and individuals in complex commercial litigation matters in federal and state courts, as well as in regulatory matters before various governmental agencies. Mr. Carter is a member of the firm's Technology, Media and Telecommunications, Insurance/Reinsurance, and Banking and Finance Industry groups. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Carter served as the Electronic Discovery Manager in the legal department of a global financial services institution, in which role he developed expertise in managing electronic discovery in connection with complex legal and regulatory matters and internal investigations. Mr. Carter is a 2014 *cum laude* graduate of St. John's University School of Law, where he was a Ronald H. Brown Scholar and Executive Notes and Comments Editor for the Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development. Mr. Carter is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt in Litigation Project Management in Collective and Class Actions.

Representative Matters

- Successfully represented an insurer in a certified question to the New York Court of Appeals, in which the Court ruled that there is no implied private right of action under section 230 of the New York Public Health Law for bad-faith and malicious reporting to New York's Office of Professional Medical Conduct.
- Representing insurance company in defense of appeal from dismissal of health care provider's claim of bad-faith reporting to state regulators.
- Representing hotel developer on complex commercial construction disputes against general contractor and architect.
- Representing insurance company in defense of auto body shop claims under New York consumer protection statute.
- Obtained complete victory in *pro bono* Hague Convention Child Abduction proceeding resulting in return of child to mother in country of origin.
- Secured voluntary withdrawal of appeal for insurance company after dismissal of health care provider's claim of false reporting to federal prosecutors.
- Obtained successful resolution of complex commercial dispute concerning sale of nursing homes and adult health care centers.
- Obtained favorable resolution for sole shareholder and officer of closely held corporation in dispute with former shareholder.
- Obtained successful resolution of complex commercial dispute on behalf of Danish women's apparel manufacturer in connection with corporate dissolution proceedings involving U.S. distributor affiliate.
- Represented Mexican food processing company in New York federal court action seeking stay of international arbitration pending before the International Chamber of Commerce.
- Obtained complete dismissal for Kingdom of Denmark in case brought by U.S. citizen concerning Danish child custody proceedings on grounds of sovereign immunity.

Areas of Practice

- Commercial Litigation
- White-Collar Defense
- Software and Technology Disputes and Internal Investigations
- Incident Response and Counseling
- Cybersecurity/Data Privacy

Professional Activities

- National Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Metropolitan Black Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- New York City Bar Association
- International Association of Privacy Professionals

Admissions

- New York
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York

Education

- St. John's University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2014
 - Executive Notes and Comments Editor, *Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development*
 - Ronald H. Brown Scholar
- St. Joseph's College, B.S., Organizational Management, *high honors*, 2010

Experience

- Duane Morris LLP
 - Associate, 2015-present
- Macquarie Holdings (U.S.A.) Inc.
 - Senior Manager, Discovery Support (Group Legal), 2012-2014

Civic and Charitable Activities

- Board Member, A Call to Men

Selected Publications

- Contributing Author, *Guide to Private Equity Regulatory Compliance*. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (Thompson Information Services; in partnership with the Association for Corporate Growth)
- Author, *Too Much Information! The Need for Stronger Privacy Protection for the Online Activities of Employees and Applicants*, 28 J. Civ. Rts. & Econ. Dev. (2016)

Selected Speaking Engagements

- Moderator, "Emerging Practice Areas: Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning; Cybersecurity/Data Privacy; and Cryptocurrency," New York City Bar Association, New York, November 4, 2019
- Panelist, "Addressing Implicit Bias in the Workplace CLE Program" - Deloitte, Duane Morris & A Call To Men, December 11, 2018
- Panelist, "Addressing Implicit Bias in the Workplace CLE Program" - Deloitte, Duane Morris & A Call To Men, November 14, 2018

- Moderator, "Emerging Practice Areas: e-Discovery, Privacy, Cryptocurrency," New York City Bar, October 30, 2018
- Panelist, "Addressing Implicit Bias in the Workplace," MBBA, Deloitte & Duane Morris CLE Program, August 8, 2018
- Moderator, "On Ramp to Success," City Bar, November 14, 2016
- Panelist, "Opening Session of the 2016/17 City Bar New Lawyer," Nonlinear Careers, September 6, 2016
- Speaker, "An Evening with New York City Corporate Counsel Zachary Carter," City Bar, March 15, 2016
- Panelist, "On Ramp to Success," City Bar, January 5, 2016
- Panelist, "Careers in E-Discovery: Life Beyond Document Review!" City Bar, November 17, 2015
- Opening Speaker, "Law Student Welcome Reception," City Bar, September 12, 2015
- Panelist, "Opening Session of the 2015/16 NLI: Successful Careers with Nonlinear Paths," City Bar, August 26, 2015



JENNIFER W. CHENG

Reed Smith LLP

Jennifer Cheng is a partner in Reed Smith's Global Corporate Group. She currently serves as the Global Vice-Chair of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions Group (U.S.) and her practice focuses on representing Fortune 500, international, and middle market companies in a wide range of corporate transactions both domestic and cross-border, including public and private mergers, asset and stock acquisitions and divestitures, auctions, joint ventures, corporate restructurings and private equity investments. Jennifer has represented clients in a wide range of industries, but her practice has an emphasis on the representation of public and private companies in the healthcare and life sciences industries as well as the financial industry.

Jennifer has particular experience in representing publicly listed companies in a variety of corporate transactions, including the sale of the company. Jennifer also represents financial advisors in fairness opinions and valuation-related work. In addition, Jennifer advises on issues of corporate governance and other general corporate matters.

Jennifer was named Rising Star by the New York Law Journal in 2019 and was also named among M&A Advisor's Emerging Leaders in 2019. She was named "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers for M&A in New York in 2018 and was also recognized by IFLR1000 as Highly Regarded in the practice area of M&A in New York in 2018 and 2019. In addition, she was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award.



DAI WAI CHIN FEMAN

Parabellum Capital

Dai Wai is responsible for the development and execution of Parabellum's commercial litigation investment strategies. Prior to joining Parabellum, Dai Wai was a litigation partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, where he specialized in commercial and antitrust litigation. Dai Wai has broad experience in complex disputes concerning breaches of contract, competition, tortious interference, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, licensing, rights of first refusal, shareholder oppression, soft intellectual property, and securities. He has advised and represented clients ranging from Fortune 100 companies to closely-held family businesses through all phases of litigation, from case assessment through trial, appeal, and enforcement proceedings. While in private practice, Dai Wai was consistently named a Super Lawyers Rising Star in Business Litigation. Dai Wai received his A.B., cum laude, from Georgetown University and his J.D. from New York University School of Law. He is active in the Asian American Bar Association of New York, where he is a board member, Vice-Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and former Co-Chair of the Litigation Committee. He is also a Fellow of the New York City Bar Association Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, a member of the New York City Bar Association's Litigation Funding Working Group, and a member of the New York City Bar Association's Professional Ethics Committee.



MELISSA COLÓN-BOSOLET

Sidley Austin LLP

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 and trial. Melissa's engagements span numerous industries and legal claims, including those involving breach of contract, business torts and securities claims. Melissa also defends and counsels financial institutions, broker-dealers, investment advisers and senior corporate officers in investigations and enforcement matters brought by government agencies and other regulators, including the SEC.

Melissa's litigation skills and reputation as a trusted business counselor has earned her industry accolades. She has been named a "Rising Star" for Business Litigation in New York City by *Super Lawyers* from 2014 through 2018. She is also a recipient of the Hispanic National Bar Association's 2017 "Top Lawyers Under 40" Award.

Melissa is also a leader in the New York legal community. She served as chair of the NYC Bar Association's Women in the Legal Profession Committee and is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and the National Bar Association. An active Cornell Law alumna, Melissa also serves on the Dean's Advisory Council and helped create Latino Lawyers of Cornell.



EKTA R. DHARIA

United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York

Ekta Dharia is an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. Through her work, Ekta represents the interests of the United States in a wide range of defensive and affirmative civil actions in the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts, as well as in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Ekta previously worked as a litigation associate at MoloLamken LLP and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Ekta also served as a law clerk to the Honorable William F. Kuntz, II of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Before attending law school, Ekta completed the American India Foundation's William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India. Ekta received her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was an Executive Articles Editor of the *Georgetown Law Review*, and her A.B. *cum laude* from Duke University.



LYNN FELDMAN

Clear Channel Outdoor

Lynn Feldman is Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of CCOH, Inc.

Feldman advises CCOH Inc.'s board of directors and senior leadership team on all major transactions, litigation, financial strategies and other critical initiatives. She is responsible for the development and execution of the legal strategy and operations that support the company's business plans. Additionally, she leads the company's compliance program. Feldman also serves as General Counsel for Clear Channel Outdoor Americas.

An accomplished legal executive prior to coming to CCOA, Feldman served as the EVP and General Counsel for Wyndham Hotel Group, a subsidiary of Wyndham Worldwide Corporation. Prior to that role, she served as the SVP, Deputy General Counsel and public company Corporate Secretary for the parent company, Wyndham Worldwide. Earlier in her career, Lynn was in various corporate roles within Cendant Corporation and a Corporate Associate at Lowenstein Sandler. She received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.



LUKE FERRANDINO

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Luke V. Ferrandino is Chief Marketing Officer of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP. In this role, he oversees the firm's Business Development Department, which is responsible for guiding and supporting the firm's business development, marketing, communications, client development and branding efforts. Prior to his joining Paul, Weiss, Luke was head of marketing at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. And prior to that, he was business development director at Paul, Weiss. Earlier in his career, he worked in business development roles at Sherman & Sterling LLP and Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

Luke speaks frequently on legal industry business development and marketing topics, including at recent events hosted by Legal Marketing Association (LMA), Sandpiper Partners and Ark Group. Luke received his MBA from Fordham's Gabelli School of Business, with a concentration on marketing and finance.



GEORGE FLOWERS

Invisible Hurdle, LLC

George W. Flowers is an experienced executive and leadership consultant.

As an executive, he has extensive experience developing policies and procedures to improve organizational performance, and successfully developing and executing strategic plans. As an attorney, he has an established track record of regulatory compliance and facilitating transactions.

For organizations and individuals, George is a collaborative thought partner who helps clients sharpen strategic vision while incorporating keen business judgment. In addition, he helps develop top-notch leadership skills and team building, with high ethical and performance standards.

In 1995, George graduated from Princeton University where he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2001. Between college and law school, he served as an artillery officer in the United States Marine Corps. He started his legal career in the corporate group at Paul Weiss. Subsequently, he was in-house counsel at Merck and Schering-Plough, where he also served as the Chair of the Global Law Department Diversity Committee.

Later, he served as the Executive Director of the Beginning with Children Foundation and the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute. In addition, he was Special Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, before starting Invisible Hurdle.

In addition to executive coaching for individuals, recent organizational engagements include: training at HBO and the NYC Bar Associate Leadership Institute; speaking at the American Council of Chief Defenders conference; training at the leadership retreat for La Salle University; and keynote speaker for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Education Retreat. He is also currently working on building a non-profit for veterans and writing a book.



PATRICK GADSON

Vinson & Elkins LLP

Patrick is co-leader of V&E's Shareholder Activism practice based in New York.

He leverages his deep experience in capital markets, M&A, corporate governance and private equity to counsel senior management and boards of public companies across a wide array of industries with respect to proxy contests and other shareholder activism campaigns, such as merger contests, precatory proposals, consent solicitations, withhold the vote/vote "no" campaigns and short attacks. Patrick also advises clients concerning corporate governance, investor relations, hostile takeovers, strategic minority investments and corporate capital investments in the U.S. and abroad.

Prior to joining V&E, Patrick practiced law at Olshan Frome Wolosky where he was a lead attorney on more than 40 activist situations for well-known activists such as Elliott Management, Starboard Value, Engaged Capital, GAMCO and Land & Buildings. As a result of his substantial experience working with many of the world's most high-profile activists, Patrick also coleads V&E's select engagements for investors in their "white squire" and other investments in public companies, ranging from passive to active investments, including full-blown proxy fights. Patrick also previously practiced at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

Patrick is also V&E's resident expert in securities and other regulations that cover the life-cycle of shareholders' investments in public companies, including Section 13 of the Exchange Act (e.g., Schedules 13G and 13D) and Regulation 14A (i.e., the "proxy rules").

Experience Highlights

- Progenics Pharmaceuticals in the defense of the proxy fight by Altiva Management
- Amber Road in the defense of the proxy fight by Altai Capital
- Continental Grain in its activism campaign with D.E. Shaw against Bunge
- Blackwells Capital in its proxy contest against Supervalu Inc.
- Nutrisystem in the defense of the activism campaign of Legion Partners
- Primo Water in the defense of the activism campaign of Legion Partners
- Owens Realty Mortgage in its proxy contest defense against Hovde Capital Advisors and Opal Advisors and in connection with the "withhold the vote" campaign by Freestone Capital
- Sandridge Energy in its proxy contest defense against Carl Icahn and in the defense of the unsolicited bid of Midstates Petroleum



THAIS GARCIA

Clifford Chance LLP

Thais Garcia is a partner in the Corporate/M&A practice of Clifford Chance in New York and a member of the firm's Latin America Group. Thais specializes in cross-border M&A, restructurings and joint ventures with a focus on the Americas market. Thais regularly represents private equity houses, pension funds, infrastructure funds, corporates and other investors in their investments and corporate transactions in Latin America and the U.S. Among the sectors she focuses on are energy and infrastructure, consumer goods & retail and TMT.

Thais is admitted to the New York Bar, the Madrid Bar (Colegio de Abogados de Madrid) and also holds a degree in Brazilian law. Thais is a member of the Inter-American Affairs Committee of the New York Bar Association. At Clifford Chance, Thais is a member of the firm's Diversity Committee, Co-Chair of the Black and Latino Subcommittee and is also actively involved in the firm's pro bono program. Thais is recognized as a "Next Generation Lawyer" in Legal 500 for Corporate and M&A (Latin America: International Firms) and was also included in Legal 500's U.S.-Mexico Private Practice Powerlist 2019.



DAN GOLDBERGER

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Dan is the head of Dorsey's New York office and a partner in the Trial Group. As a litigator, Dan represents clients in a diverse range of industries in federal court, state court private arbitration and before administrative bodies. His representations include matters relating to banking, investment funds, unfair competition, intellectual property with a focus on trademarks, technology, bankruptcy and licensing. In addition, Dan regularly advises and litigates on behalf of clients involved in partnership, shareholder, LLC member, employment and other commercial disputes.

Dan is a member of Dorsey's China practice, regularly representing Chinese banks in a wide range of matters as well as other Chinese clients. He also writes and speaks about matters concerning cybersecurity and data protection, and advises clients regarding cyber strategies, compliance programs, policies and procedures. In addition, Dan has been an adjunct professor of law at Cardozo Law School, where he taught a course on legal writing, research and oral advocacy. Throughout his career, Dan has performed extensive pro bono, including the representation of a community of Amish farmers involving constitutional claims against their town government.



ALPHONZO A. GRANT

Morgan Stanley

Alphonzo A. Grant, Jr. is a Managing Director and Head of the Global Litigation Group's Special Investigation Unit for Institutional Securities and Investment Management at Morgan Stanley. He is responsible for internal investigations of employee business conduct violations and overseeing investigations of institutional customer complaints in the Americas. He also represents the Firm in various regulatory and criminal matters.

Alphonzo is also an Adjunct Professor at Cardozo School of Law and a board member of the Eastern District Civil Litigation Fund—a non-profit that provides funding for certain expenses incurred by pro bono attorneys in connection with the representation of pro se litigants in civil matters before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Prior to joining Morgan Stanley in 2011, Alphonzo was a Litigation Special Counsel and the Director of Diversity Initiatives at Sullivan & Cromwell.

Alphonzo also served as a Commissioner on the N.Y.C. Civilian Complaint Review Board (2011-2014), an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of N.Y. (2002-2006), a Litigation Associate at Sullivan & Cromwell (1999-2002), and a law clerk to the Honorable Edward Korman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of N.Y. (1998-1999).

Alphonzo is a graduate of Stony Brook University (B.A. 1993, M.P.S. 1994) and Brooklyn Law School (J.D. 1998).



SHIRELL A. GROSS

Measure of Ambition LLC dba

Shirell A. Gross, Esq. has had a successful career as a Senior Executive in Fortune 500 companies. Most recently Shirell was Vice-President, Division Counsel and Head of Law for Bayer Pharmaceutical's Radiology business. In her role, she had numerous responsibilities including global and North American management teams, overseeing legal support for the worldwide commercial business and the support functions of product supply, regulatory, communications, policy, quality, and its informatics (software) business. Before this role, she was the global head of law for Bayer's diabetes care business. Shirell also served on Advamed's (the medical device trade association) where she served on the Board's Legal Committee. Shirell is currently a board member for Executive Women of New Jersey, whose mission is to advocate for greater gender diversity of senior leadership in Corporations.

Before Bayer, Shirell was corporate counsel at Quest Diagnostics where she initially was responsible for managing litigation, risk management, and outside counsel. Shirell later focused on commercial transactions, risk management, quality and compliance supporting regional laboratories, the chief medical officer, and joint ventures. Before Quest, she was an associate at Aaronson, Rappaport Feinstein, and Deutsch, representing physicians and hospitals in medical malpractice and professional conduct actions. She started her career as a prosecutor in Bronx, NY. She received her B.S. from Northeastern University and her J.D. from Hofstra University.

While climbing the corporate ladder, she has actively lifted as she rose, using her influence to bring along the next generation of business and community leaders. Shirell's passion centers on helping women and people of color, defy the odds and have a successful corporate career. In this regard, she recently left a successful career in corporate America to have an even greater impact on helping others by becoming a certified life coach and starting her own firm. She now supports others through her new company Measure of Ambition LLC d/b/a ShirellSpeaks where she provides keynote speaking, workshops, and coaching services. She also sponsors women empowerment events. Shirell is a sought-after speaker for many associations and companies addressing personal self-awareness primarily centered around fears and self-doubt, leadership, and professional development.

She was recognized by Savoy magazine as one of the Most Influential Black Lawyers in America and was the featured Executive in the Quarter 3 July 2019 issue of Profile magazine where she was described as “Dedicated to Growth”. She has also received numerous professional awards, including Black Doctors.org’s Top Blacks in Healthcare, Hofstra University School of Law’s Outstanding Women in Law, the YWCA of Bergen County Women of Influence Honoree, and Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter’s Women’s History Month honoree.

Shirell is completing a book on personal self-awareness and self-actualization where she also talks about her upbringing, personal hardships, and career ladder, and noting lessons learned along the way.



PAUL GOUCHER

Ameriprise Financial

Paul B. Goucher is Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel and Global Head of Asset Management Legal for Ameriprise Financial, Inc., and Chief Legal Officer of Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC. In these roles, Mr. Goucher leads a legal team located in the United States, Europe and Asia and is responsible for overseeing the legal support provided to the global asset management business of Columbia Threadneedle Investments, including legal and regulatory advice with regard to Columbia Threadneedle’s fund and institutional business, product development initiatives, product distribution, global trading needs and the implications of new regulations.

Mr. Goucher joined Ameriprise in November 2008, in connection with Ameriprise’s acquisition of the asset management firm of J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated. At Seligman, Mr. Goucher was a Managing Director, serving in a variety of capacities, including General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, as well as Secretary or Assistant Secretary of various subsidiaries of Seligman and the Seligman Group of Funds. At Seligman, Mr. Goucher was responsible for providing legal and compliance support to Seligman and its affiliates with respect to a variety of investment funds and products advised or sponsored by Seligman, including U.S. mutual funds, closed-end investment companies and offshore and hedge funds. Mr. Goucher also provided legal support with respect to the many business agreements entered into by Seligman and its affiliates, including operational and trading agreements with service providers, venture capital investment agreements and investment advisory agreements with separate account clients and wrap sponsors.

Prior to joining Seligman in August 1997, Mr. Goucher was an Associate with the New York law firm of Rogers & Wells (now known as Clifford Chance), practicing in that firm’s investment management group.

Mr. Goucher graduated *summa cum laude* from Albany Law School in 1993 and received his B.S., *magna cum laude*, in Business Administration from Providence College in 1990. He is a member of the bar of the State of New York and the New York City Bar Association.



DR. MILANA L. HOGAN

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Dr. Milana L. Hogan is the Chief Legal Talent Officer at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, where she oversees the firm's talent management initiatives, including the formal assignment systems, mentoring and career development programs, performance evaluations, diversity and inclusion initiatives, human resources, formal training curriculums, and all aspects of the firm's worldwide recruiting efforts. Prior to joining Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in 2006, Dr. Hogan worked in the New York office of Dickstein Shapiro LLP, and before that in the New York office of Milberg LLP. In addition to her work at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Dr. Hogan is the Vice Chair (and Chair-elect) of the Professional Development Consortium. She also serves as a liaison to the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession and she is the Co-Chair of the ABA's Grit Project. Dr. Hogan recently published her first book, *Grit, The Secret to Advancement*, on the impact of grit and growth mindset on the success of women lawyers. She received her B.A. in Political Science from Brown University and she holds a Doctor of Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Phil, and their four children (ages 8, 6, 4 and 2).



CASSANDRA LABBEES

Epstein Becker Green, P.C.

Cassandra Labbees is a Member of the Firm in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation practice, in the New York office of Epstein Becker Green. For more than a decade, she has provided counsel to clients in the financial services and health care industries, corporate clients, and tax-exempt and not-for-profit institutions on a wide range of employee benefit issues involving tax-qualified and non-qualified plans, 401(k) plans, ESOPs, defined benefit plans, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), multiemployer plans, and health and welfare plans. Cassandra counsels clients on compliance with various laws, including the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), COBRA, and the Internal Revenue Code, and on executive compensation compliance issues, including Section 409A.

Prior to joining Epstein Becker & Green, P.C. in 2016, Cassandra worked at the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration, where she conducted complex civil and criminal investigations of employee benefit plans, service providers, trust departments and other financial entities holding plan assets and/or providing investment advice to ERISA clients.

In 2019, Cassandra was recommended by *The Legal 500 United States* in the area of Employee Benefits, Executive Compensation, and Retirement Plans: Design. Cassandra is an active member of the New York City Bar Association's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Committee. Cassandra was a member of the 2018 Associate Leadership Institute class.



MARC A. LEAF

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Marc Leaf leads our New York office and is a trusted counselor and adviser to senior government officials, corporate leaders and independent directors. He combines the practical advice of an experienced dealmaker with the insight developed through senior government experience to help issuers and investors across industry lines achieve their goals in capital raising, business combinations and joint ventures. Marc serves on the firm's board.

Skillful Advice to Public Companies

Marc advises boards, special committees and senior management on federal securities laws, compliance, disclosure issues and risk management, as well as on corporate governance, fiduciary duty and other matters of Delaware corporate law.

He assists with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) comment letters, no-action requests, response to stockholder proposals, stock exchange listing requirements, resolution of audit issues, financial restatements and internal investigations.

Corporate Finance and Securities Law Transactions

Marc advises clients on corporate finance and securities law transactions throughout the capital-raising life cycle, including venture capital investments, Regulation D offerings, Rule 144A transactions, IPOs and shelf-registrations, as well as spin-offs, split-offs and tracking stocks. He has advised global underwriting syndicates in dollar- and euro-denominated registered debt offerings and U.S. and foreign private issuers in registered offerings of equity and debt securities.

Representative Experience

Marc has advised clients on numerous corporate finance and securities law transactions. Representative matters include:

- Global underwriting syndicates in numerous dollar and euro-denominated registered debt offerings
- Numerous U.S. and foreign private issuers in registered public offerings of equity and debt securities
- Wireless provider in CDN \$350 million financing with Chinese manufacturer and China Ex-Im Bank
- Spin-off of satellite television distributor and subsequent roll-up transactions

- Spin-off of media services company
- Lenders and investors in \$410 million in first-lien and second-lien secured credit facilities, as well as multiple rounds of equity investment, for privately-held satellite Internet provider
- Numerous private placements and registered exchange offers of high-yield debt, including convertible and exchangeable securities
- Debt tender offers
- Swaps and other derivative transactions
- Numerous venture capital investments, representing both issuers and investors in all stages of development and financing, as well as bridge loans and fund formation

Mergers, Acquisitions and Other Strategic Transactions

Marc assists clients in the technology, media and telecommunications, retail, apparel, finance and other industries with mergers, acquisitions and other strategic transactions. He has extensive experience in transactions involving strategic acquirers and middle-market targets, including public-company acquisitions.

Representative Experience

- Major cable provider and entertainment company in numerous acquisitions, including advanced advertising and technology innovators and an over-the-top streaming video provider
- Media services company in sale of content distribution unit to digital media services provider
- Media services company in sale of creative and media services divisions to entertainment services provider
- Public holding company in acquisition of home security monitoring services company
- Major public media company in acquisition of 40% preferred equity stake in satellite radio company
- Investor group in sale of satellite broadband provider
- Entertainment and event technology company in a \$630 million leveraged acquisition by private equity, founder, and management
- Major public media company in acquisition of television stations through \$230 million tax-free split-off
- Numerous other acquisitions of technology, media and telecommunications assets with an aggregate value in excess of \$2 billion
- Multiple “going private” and “going dark” transactions

Technology Transactions

Marc has significant experience representing clients in technology development, distribution, and outsourcing transactions, including:

- Technology development corporation (Shenzhen, China) in outsourcing arrangement for applications development and maintenance services for global financial institution
- Outsourcing arrangement for applications development, maintenance and IT infrastructure support for major power company
- Outsourcing arrangement for applications development and maintenance for major energy services company
- Certification agreements and other licensing arrangements for interactive program guide leader
- Formation of joint venture to exploit technology for synchronous use of television and Internet content
- Middleware provider in negotiation of proposed joint venture with a cable MSO to develop and distribute interactive TV technology

- Internet service provider in agreement to jointly develop and deploy a multi-function set- top box with a major multichannel video programming distributor (MVPD)
- Formation of joint venture to provide audience measurement and research for interactive television

Personal Interests

Marc and his wife, Debra Oaks, have five children and two dogs, and they all enjoy rambling through the woodlands of the Hudson Valley and Berkshire hills.



DAVID LEVINE

Bloomberg L.P.

David F. Levine is the General Counsel of Bloomberg L.P. where he oversees the global legal and compliance functions. David is also the Executive Sponsor for Bloomberg's Black Professional Community. David is Chair of the Board of Directors of the New York City Bar Association's City Bar Fund, and serves on the Board of Counselors of Equal Justice Works, and Union College's President's Council. David is also a Founding General Counsel and serves on the Advisory Board of the Move the Needle Fund. Prior to joining Bloomberg, David was a partner in the Corporate and Financial Services department of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, where he counseled clients on a broad range of media and technology-driven transactions. David holds a J.D. from the New York University School of Law, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and B.A. from Union College.



SHEILA MURPHY

Focus Forward Consulting

After 20 years of successfully litigating and developing and coaching talent in corporate America and law firms, Sheila is pursuing her passion for helping others reach their full potential. Leading with passion and purpose, Sheila is CEO and President of Focus Forward Consulting LLC and Chief Learning & Talent Officer of WOMN LLC, which are focused on having individuals and businesses achieve their career and business goals. Sheila also continues to support the financial industry in her role as an expert and consultant at Bates Group.

In 2018, Sheila retired as Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel at MetLife where she provided litigation, regulatory and risk mitigation advice. As a well-respected thought leader, Sheila served as an executive sponsor to MetLife's U.S. Women's Business Network, co-chaired the Legal Affairs Academy providing developmental opportunities to legal and compliance professionals worldwide and served as a member of its U.S. Task Force on diversity. Prior to joining MetLife, Sheila was at the law firm of Thacher Proffitt & Wood.

Sheila is a member of the Boards of Directors of National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) and PowerPlay, NYC, an organization that engages and educates underserved girls with a focus on sports. Sheila serves on the advisory board of Transforming Women's Leadership in Law and co-chairs the CARE's Women's Network of New York, which works on eradicating poverty through empowering women and girls. Previously, she was a member of the Board for Read Alliance. Sheila received from Corporate Counsel and Inhouse Counsel the Women, Influence, Power in Law, Lifetime Achievement Award for her commitment to advancing and empowering women in the legal profession. Women's Venture Fund awarded Sheila the highest Leaf Award in recognition of her commitment to helping others advance in their careers. She was named a Most Influential Irish Woman by the Irish Voice, a Leading Women Lawyer in NYC by Crain's New York, a Business 100 honoree by Irish America and one of 250 Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs by Databird Journal. Sheila also has received the Benchmark Litigation In-house Award at the Americas Women in Business Awards, the Virginia S. Mueller Outstanding Member Award from NAWL and a First Chair award for hard work, innovation and significant contributions to the legal community.

Sheila is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she served on the Comparative Labor Law Journal and the School of Management at the State University of New York at Binghamton where she graduated magna cum laude. Sheila is a frequent speaker on litigation and regulatory issues, talent, and business development, leadership and diversity.



BRANDON NELSON

JetBlue

Brandon Nelson is General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at JetBlue, with responsibility for legal, compliance, ESG and sustainability, and cybersecurity at the growing airline. Nelson joined JetBlue in 2005 and has held a number of leadership roles within the legal team. His diverse experience includes leading a team of transactional lawyers who represent the company in commercial, marketing, real estate, business development, intellectual property and technology matters. He also serves on the investment committee of the company's wholly owned corporate venture capital fund, JetBlue Technology Ventures.

Prior to JetBlue, Brandon practiced corporate and business litigation law at firms in California and New York, most recently at Shearman & Sterling. He holds a bachelor's degree in business from Howard University and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.



ELLIE NIEVES

Guardian Life Insurance Company/Leadership Strategies for Women, LLC

Ellie Nieves is Vice President & Counsel, Government Affairs at the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America where she is responsible for the company's state government relations activities in New York, New Jersey, and Ohio. Ellie also serves as the Diversity Strategy Partner for the Law, Compliance and Government Affairs Department. In this role, Ellie partners with Human Resources to develop departmental programming in support of Guardian's goals to invest in talent, drive a culture of inclusion and involvement, provide an inclusive customer experience and champion inclusion in the community. Ellie is the founder of Guardian's Women's Leadership Network, an employee resource group with over 400 members and 6 chapters across the U.S. and in India.

In her spare time, Ellie is a leadership speaker and coach. She is the Founder & President of Leadership Strategies for Women, LLC where she develops seminars and webinars for companies and associations that want to grow their emerging women leaders into effective managers and executives. She also coaches women one-on-one who want to achieve more both personally and professionally.

Ellie attained a B.A. in Communications from Fordham University and a J.D. from the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. She received her MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business with specializations in Leadership and Global Business.



SHARIS POZEN

Clifford Chance USA LLP

Sharis Pozen is the Co-Head of the Global Antitrust Practice at Clifford Chance. She has extensive experience in both government and private practice. Over the course of her career, Sharis has held senior positions at GE, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and two major law firms based in New York and Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining Clifford Chance, Sharis was the Vice President of Global Competition Law and Policy at GE, where she was responsible for merger clearance on numerous significant, transformational deals, steering global antitrust investigations to positive conclusions, antitrust compliance and other related issues.

Sharis is one of the few antitrust practitioners who has served in high-level positions at both the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.

While working at a major New York-based law firm, Sharis was a partner and a leader in their antitrust and competition practice, where she advised clients on a broad spectrum of antitrust issues related to mergers and acquisitions, litigation, criminal investigations and counseling across national and multinational industries, including technology and telecommunications, health care and pharmaceutical, energy, financial services, transportation and agriculture.

While serving as acting assistant attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, Sharis led many high-profile matters and worked extensively with leaders of international antitrust authorities. She also oversaw several criminal antitrust matters.

Prior to working at the U.S. Department of Justice, Sharis was a partner at a major Washington, D.C.-based firm, where she served as a director of the firm's Antitrust Group. Her practice focused on antitrust issues and trade regulation across a broad spectrum of industries.



MATTHEW F. PUTORTI

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Matthew Putorti is a counsel in Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman's Litigation Group where his diverse practice focuses on insurance recovery, international arbitration, and complex commercial disputes. At Pillsbury, he serves on the Executive Committee of Pillsbury Pride, as co-chair of the Attorney Development Committee representatives, and as a member of the New York Office's Hiring and Summer Committees; he formerly served as a member of the Pro Bono Committee. His pro bono practice has included representing the cities of New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco against the Department of Defense and the military branches to ensure those government agencies report disqualifying information to the national criminal background check system for gun sales; a group of retired Immigration Judges in filing two amicus briefs with the United States Supreme Court in *Barton v. Barr* and *Pereida v. Barr*; trans individuals in changing their names; and an unaccompanied minor seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Outside of the Firm, Matt is Secretary of the New York City Bar Association's International Human Rights Committee, a board member of LeGaL (the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York), a member of the Executive Committee of the Associate Board of Bottom Line (an organization that helps low-income, first-generation high school students get into and through college); and co-chair of the Boston College LGBTQ Alumni Council.

In 2016, Matt was selected by the National LGBT Bar Association as one of the 40 best LGBT attorneys under 40. He graduated from Fordham Law School in 2011, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Fordham International Law Journal*, and from Boston College in 2006. Matt was a member of the Associate Leadership Institute's 2017 class, and co-chaired the Institute in 2019.



KAVI REDDY

Brunswick Group

Kavi Reddy is Co-General Counsel of Brunswick Group, a strategic advisory firm focused on critical issues at the center of business, politics and society. Kavi handles contractual issues, litigation, employment matters, regulatory and compliance matters, risk assessments and intellectual property (and more!).

Previously, Kavi was Vice President, Deputy General Counsel of Gizmodo Media Group, publisher of Gizmodo, Deadspin, Jezebel, Jalopnik and more. Kavi was responsible for the business, advertising, sponsored content, commerce/deals, production and licensing areas of GMG, as well as for The Onion and The Root, and provided counsel to reporters and editors on First Amendment, defamation, right of publicity, copyright and fair use, social media, litigation, newsgathering and FOIA/access issues. Kavi was Deputy General Counsel of Gawker Media and prior to that, Counsel at NBCUniversal, handling reality television-related work for Bravo, Oxygen and Style, and later, content acquisitions for USA, Syfy, Chiller and Cloo. Kavi got her start as a trial lawyer, enjoying 7 years at Boies, Schiller and Flexner and is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and Wesleyan University. Additionally, Kavi serves on the board of directors of Bowery Babes, an organization devoted to making downtown NYC a better place to raise families.



SHEVON ROCKETT

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Shevon's practice focuses primarily on the defense of pharmaceutical, medical device, and other companies in complex litigation matters. She has represented AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Dentsply Sirona, Intuitive Surgical, Inc., Pfizer, Takeda, TASER International, Inc., and other large corporate clients in local, regional and national products liability and commercial litigation, as well as in government investigations and consumer fraud cases.

Shevon plays an integral role in case strategy and fact development, and has managed active dockets

involving single suits, collections of individual lawsuits, class actions, and Multidistrict Litigations. She also has experience organizing and supervising large-scale document production and review projects.

Shevon develops trial strategy, and has successfully drafted and argued dispositive, *in limine*, and *Daubert/Frye* motions. She also has significant experience preparing expert witnesses and company employees from various backgrounds and areas of expertise for depositions and trial. In addition, Shevon conducts litigation risk assessments, establishes and manages e-discovery processes, implements compliance programs, and conducts trainings for in-house counsel and staff.

Shevon maintains an active pro bono practice that has included section 1983 prisoner civil rights litigation, divorce representation, and the successful obtainment of permanent residence status for immigrants through the Violence Against Women Act. She has also represented homeowners in premises liability matters, and successfully appealed the denial of an assistive technology petition for a disabled client. Shevon has been on the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania's Pro Bono Roll of Honor each year since 2009.



ALANNA RUTHERFORD

Visa

Alanna Rutherford is Vice President of Global Litigation and Competition at Visa Inc., where she oversees a variety of antitrust and regulatory issues, as well as a wide portfolio of work that includes, among other things, all intellectual property and European litigation.

Prior to that, Ms. Rutherford was an equity partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, where her primary practice areas were complex civil litigation and antitrust. She played a leading role in a number of successfully concluded trials and litigation matters. Among her most prominent cases were the constitutional takings case against the United States brought by AIG shareholders, which resulted in a successful trial verdict against the Government; the 9/11 World Trade Center insurance trial concerning whether the terrorist act constituted one incident or two, which resulted in a successful jury verdict for her clients; and a \$4 billion settlement on behalf of American Express in its antitrust case against Visa and MasterCard, which was then considered one of the largest settlements in history.

In addition to being the youngest and first black equity partner at her firm, Ms. Rutherford has received numerous accolades and honors, including being named to the inaugural edition of Crain's 100 Women Leading Lawyers in New York, Law 360's Rising Star – One of the top 5 trial lawyers under 40, National Law Journal's Outstanding Woman Lawyer 2015 award recipient, and Super Lawyers 2014 – 2018. Ms. Rutherford also serves on the boards of Avenues for Justice, a non-profit alternative to juvenile detention in New York, which she also chairs, and New York Live Arts.

Ms. Rutherford attended Columbia University School of Law, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and a senior editor of the Columbia Law Review. She also attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the Institute of Political Studies ("Sciences Po") in Paris, France.



KIMBERLY SPOERRI

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Kimberly Spoerri is a partner in the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. Her practice focuses on public and private mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments, and corporate governance matters. She also regularly represents major investment banking firms acting as financial advisors to acquirors or target companies. Kim has played a leading role in some of the firm's most high-profile transactions, including representing Honeywell, American Express and Google on recent transactions.

Kim has been recognized as a Notable Practitioner for M&A by *IFLR 1000* and *The Legal 500 U.S.* (Large Deals \$1BN+). She was shortlisted by *Euromoney Legal Media Group Americas* in 2018 for its Rising Star Award for "Best in Mergers & Acquisitions" and in 2019 for its Women in Business Law Award for "Rising Star: Corporate." In addition, Kim was honored in 2019 as a "CUP Catalyst" by the *Council of Urban Professionals* for her work as an agent of change in the field of law.

She received her J.D. from the New York University School of Law, where she served as a Senior Executive Editor on the *New York University Law Review*, and a B.A. from Princeton University.



GEORGE A. THOMPSON

JPMorgan Chase

George Thompson is a Managing Director and Practice Group General Counsel at JPMorgan Chase, and leads Chase's Marketing, Digital & Project Management Legal Team. Mr. Thompson and his team provide strategic guidance, thought leadership and expert drafting and negotiation in support of Chase's marketing initiatives, including corporate sponsorships and celebrity endorsements, as well as the Firm's efforts to launch and support various products and services offered on Chase's digital consumer platforms. Mr. Thompson has held a number of different roles in the Chase Legal Department, including leading the Card Services Regulatory Legal team, and the Strategic Transactions Legal team. Prior to joining Chase in 2011, Mr. Thompson was a Vice President in the American Express Legal Department, where he supported the Global Commercial Card division.

Before joining Amex, Mr. Thompson was Senior Business Affairs Counsel at Sony Corporation of America, where his practice focused on venture capital and private equity investing, mergers and acquisitions, and software and technology licensing. Mr. Thompson began his legal career as an M&A associate in the New York office of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Brooklyn College, where he majored in Philosophy.



LATISHA THOMPSON

Morrison Cohen LLP

Latisha V. Thompson is a partner in Morrison Cohen's Business Litigation Department and serves as the Department's Vice-Chair. Latisha is an accomplished litigator whose broad litigation practice encompasses general commercial, real estate, securities and employment litigation, among other areas. Latisha routinely advises CEO's and multi-national companies on complex commercial and real estate transactions and other high stakes matters. Latisha is also experienced in advising and defending clients in matters involving enforcement of restrictive covenants and confidentiality provisions.

Although many of her cases have been successfully resolved for her clients on pre-trial motions, Latisha's experience includes representing clients through trial and appeal, as well as in proceedings before the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and other agencies and regulatory bodies. Latisha's representations include public companies, multi-million dollar private companies, hedge funds, private equity funds, investment bankers, start-ups, developers, real estate companies, information and technology companies, high net worth individuals, and partnerships.

Latisha is a member on the New York City Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.



TIFFANYE THREADCRAFT

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Tiffanye Threadcraft is a Counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and assists equity sponsors, other borrowers and lenders in a range of corporate finance transactions, including working capital facilities, debt restructurings, acquisition financings and cross-border financings. She also advises ad hoc lender groups, alternative capital sources, hedge funds and other financial investors in connection with distressed investments.

Prior to joining Akin, Tiffanye was an associate in the New York office of a prominent law firm, where she gained experience forming private equity funds, advising public companies regarding compliance with U.S. securities laws and exchange listing requirements, and representing both borrowers and lenders in syndicated loan financings.

Tiffanye is active in the firm's pro bono practice, representing creative non-profits and other clients in a range of corporate transactions. She externed with a local legal services organization prior to her time at Akin and provided comprehensive legal counsel to community based organizations and members of the impact finance and investment industry. She maintains connections to the community of impact finance and investment professionals and organizations as the industry evolves.

Tiffanye received her J.D. in 2012 from Howard University School of Law and her B.A. in 2007 from Harvard University. She was a 2018 Fellow in the Associate Leadership Institute.



ROSSIE E. TURMAN III

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Mr. Turman primarily advises clients in connection with syndicated loans, out-of-court and Chapter 11 reorganizations, acquisition financings, leveraged buyouts, bridge loans, asset-backed loans, subscription facilities, receivables facilities, project financings, and other types of complex and traditional transactions. Also, Mr. Turman is providing leadership in the firm's efforts to expand its capacity to service clients engaged in cross-border transactions involving the African continent.

His work with corporate clients has included representations of Aflac, El Pollo Loco, Norfolk Southern Corp., Pfizer and Spectra Energy. Institutional clients have included BlackRock, Credit Suisse and Wells Fargo. Additionally, Mr. Turman has been involved in a number of reorganizations and restructurings. His work in Africa includes advising public and private entities, governments, parastatals, NGOs and individual investors. He has been involved in transactions in the retail, infrastructure, energy, oil and gas, mining, agribusiness, technology and banking spaces. Mr. Turman also has actively supported several charities on the African continent for over two decades.

Mr. Turman serves on the board of the United Way of New York City. He is a trustee for Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. Mr. Turman has provided *pro bono* services for economic development activities. In 2013, he was named "Private Practitioner of the Year" by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association of New York City. In 2015, he was listed in *Savoy Magazine* as one of the "Most Influential Black Lawyers" in the United States. Mr. Turman remains very active in training and mentoring associates in the firm and attorneys of color across the legal profession.



KAREN WATAI

Welcome Change LLP

Karen J. Watai is the Founder and President of Welcome Change LLC, and the author of *Lead Your Way: Practical Coaching Advice for Creating the Career You Want*. She works closely with her clients to achieve results in the areas of leadership, career development, diversity, and inclusion.

Karen has coached and/or trained individuals from a variety of organizations including Goldman Sachs, McKinsey & Company, New York Life, Kaplan Inc., Comcast, BET Networks, Tory Burch, and DREAM. In addition, she has worked with many of the top law firms in the Vault 100 rankings. Her coaching clients include Executives, Partners, Vice Presidents, and managers of corporations, professional services firms, investment funds, and non-profit organizations. She has been a coach for the Global Institute for Leadership Development and Harvard Business School Executive Education. Karen served as the Lead Facilitator for the IAB Education Foundation's iDiverse Task Force in its inaugural year. The Task Force focused on increasing diversity and inclusion in the digital media and advertising industries.

Prior to founding Welcome Change LLC, Karen spent almost 20 years in investment banking and private equity. She was a Vice President at Goldman Sachs where she executed transactions in the Private Finance Department and was a relationship manager in the Capital Markets Department. She also worked in the Management Development and Training Department where she designed, developed, and delivered major initiatives including mentoring, diversity, compliance, and business programs. Karen left Goldman Sachs to become a partner in the Exeter Group of Funds, a private mezzanine and equity investment firm.

Karen has received the Master Certified Coach designation, the highest credential awarded by the International Coach Federation. She holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, and an A.B. from Harvard University. She is certified in the Hogan Assessment Systems, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument, and the PDI Profilor. Welcome Change LLC is certified as a Minority Business Enterprise.

Karen lives just outside of New York City, and is often in the city working with clients and seeing Broadway shows.



JOSEPH K. WEST

Duane Morris LLP

- Trial Partner, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer; Member of Partners Board
- Former Associate General Counsel & Head of Global Outside Counsel Management at Walmart Stores, Inc.
- Former CEO of Minority Corporate Counsel Association
- Former Assistant General Counsel – Head of Litigation at Entergy Corp
- Served as Adjunct Professor at George Mason Scalia School of Law and Tulane Law School
- Named to “Savoy Magazine List of 100 Most Influential Black Lawyers”
- Named to “List of 50 Most Influential Diverse Attorneys by Council on Legal Education Opportunity”
- Graduate of Tulane Law School
- Recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award: Diversity & Equality Chambers and Partners



BENJAMIN F. WILSON

Beveridge & Diamond PC

Benjamin Wilson is Chairman of top-ranked national environmental law firm Beveridge & Diamond (B&D). He represents major corporations, municipalities, and developers in complex litigation matters. He serves as the Court-Appointed Monitor for the Duke Energy coal ash spill remediation project and as Deputy Monitor for Emissions & Environmental in the Volkswagen AG emissions proceedings. Ben also has deep experience with environmental justice representations.

Professional Background

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Ben holds a BA in History from Dartmouth College and a JD from Harvard Law School. After law school, Ben worked in the Atlanta office of King & Spalding, focusing on litigation and tax matters. He joined the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in 1979 where he gained substantial trial expertise in commercial litigation matters and received Special Achievement Awards in recognition of his performance in 1981 and 1982. Ben went on to work as an associate, and then a partner focused on civil litigation, at Rose, Schmidt, Chapman, Duff, and Hasley before joining B&D in 1986 as the firm's first African American partner.

Community Involvement

An ardent advocate for diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, Ben has been recognized for his leadership by the following organizations, among others:

- Presidential Award, National Bar Association (2019)
- Lead by Example Award, National Association of Women Lawyers (2018)
- MASKED Award, United Negro College Fund (2018)
- Sheryl J. Willert Pioneer Diversity Award, Defense Research Institute (2017)
- Lifetime Achiever, Professional Excellence Awards, *National Law Journal* (2017)
- Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit, Washington Bar Association (2016)
- Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award, Thurgood Marshall College Fund (2016)
- Spirit of Excellence Award (the Commission's highest honor), ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession (2014)

Earlier this year, the *National Law Journal* featured Ben in its magazine cover feature, "The Vanguard and the Vision," and a companion piece, "A Leader Must Be Fearless," for his leadership, including establishing the African American Managing Partners & General Counsel Network in 2009 (then the African American Managing Partners Network) and the Diverse Partners Network in 2008.

Ben is Chair of the Environmental Law Institute and serves on the Board of Directors of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College, and the Board of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. For the past 30 years, he has been the Chairman of the Environmental, Energy, and Public Utilities Law Section of the National Bar Association. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Law at the Howard University Law School. In 2018, *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* featured Ben in the "Black Scholars Matter" series, celebrating Black academicians and their work.



KAREN WILSON THISSEN

Ameriprise Financial

Karen Wilson Thissen joined Ameriprise Financial in 2004 and has served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel since 2017. Karen has 25 years of legal experience within the financial services industry. As head of the Ameriprise Financial General Counsel's Organization, Karen leads the firm's legal, compliance and corporate governance functions. Her global teams in North America, Europe and Asia manage all legal and regulatory issues for the company and its advice and wealth management, global asset management and insurance and annuities businesses.

Prior to joining Ameriprise in 2004, she was a partner with the law firm of Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis, with a focus on securities law. She represented broker-dealer, asset management, and insurance clients on a variety of litigation and regulatory matters. Karen has a finance degree from Georgetown University and attended the University of Chicago Law School.

Karen has served on a number of non-profit boards in the Minneapolis community. Within Ameriprise, Karen is executive sponsor for the PRIDE business resource network.

Special thanks to the 2020 Associate Leadership Institute Planning Committee, who finalized the faculty and curriculum:

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