

OUR HOUSE IS YOUR HOME

DAVID W.D. MITCHELL, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL (2013)



The New York City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline programs support high school, college, and law students as they pursue careers in the legal profession. ALI Fellow David W.D. Mitchell, a 2013 graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School and member of the Labor and Employment Law Committee, shares his City Bar Story. He is currently a senior associate at Hogan Lovells.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I first came to the City Bar as a junior associate at Hogan Lovells and a new member of 1844 (a group of approximately 60 Black male lawyers who primarily practice in New York City's Vault 100 law firms and in-house legal departments.) The City Bar graciously allowed 1844 to hold its monthly meetings there, thus beginning my relationship with the organization.

DESCRIBE YOUR CITY BAR COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE.

I serve on the Labor and Employment Law Committee as an affiliate member. I am currently in the process of organizing a panel on recent developments to sexual harassment laws for an upcoming summit centered on the topic.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO YOURSELF 10 YEARS AGO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Keep building and maintaining strong relationships with your peers. Learn the importance of mentors and sponsors. Don't limit yourself when setting out the goals you want to achieve.

WHO ARE YOUR MENTORS?

I feel fortunate to have had strong mentor relationships with seasoned attorneys from early on in my career. I am especially grateful to the wisdom and support I have received from Nate Saint-Victor and Conway Ekpo.



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WERE THERE ANY SURPRISES ALONG YOUR CAREER PATH?

When I started working at a law firm fresh out of law school, I expected that my practice would focus exclusively on litigation. Upon joining the labor and employment group shortly thereafter, I found myself spending an increasing amount of time serving as a specialist on M&A transactions. I learned that I quite enjoy working on transactional matters, an area in which I previously had little to no interest. This experience taught me to continue to pursue projects that interest me and to keep an open mind in the process.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CITY BAR?

It has been a pleasure getting more involved at the City Bar in recent years through my membership on the Labor and Employment Law Committee and as an Associate Leadership Institute (ALI) Fellow, and as a mentor to this year's Fellows. I look forward to further strengthening my ties with the City Bar as my career develops and grows.