THE BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION: THEN & NOW

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | 5:00 PM EST
EVENING PROGRAM

WELCOME REMARKS
Bret Parker, Executive Director,
New York City Bar Association

PANEL DISCUSSION
Sheila S. Boston (Moderator), President,
New York City Bar Association
Lloyd W. Brown, II, Past President,
Metropolitan Black Bar Association
Anta Cissé-Green, President,
Metropolitan Black Bar Association
Honorable L. Priscilla Hall,
National Bar Association, Metropolitan Black Bar Association,
Association of Black Women Attorneys
President CK Hoffler, President,
National Bar Association
Sheila S. Boston is a litigation partner at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP. She is a trial lawyer and litigation strategist who defends clients from initiation of the case through trial and/or settlement. A member of her law firm’s Product Liability Group and Complex Commercial Litigation Department, Ms. Boston has successfully litigated before both state and federal courts, with significant MDL experience in mass tort actions, 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; in that capacity, she has worked with experts all over the country in numerous fields of medicine and science. Ms. Boston is valued by her clients for her advocacy skills, dependability, and collaborative spirit.

Ms. Boston has been recognized by Who’s Who Legal in Product Liability Defence every year since 2012. In 2018, she was recognized as a “legal lion” trial attorney by Law360 as a result of a successful defense verdict in Daniel Russell et al. v. Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. et al., in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Representing pro bono clients as well as medium-sized companies and large corporations, Ms. Boston has received other recent accolades including recognition by the National Law Journal as a 2020 Litigation Trailblazer; a 2020 Volunteers of Legal Service award; 2019 New York City Legal Services Honoree award; 2018 Crain’s New York Leading Women Lawyers recognition; 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers recognition by Savoy Magazine; and a New York Law Journal’s 2014 Lifetime Achievement award.

Ms. Boston is a member of her firm’s Pro Bono and Hiring Committees, and she was elected to serve as an Ombudsperson for the firm. (continued)
An active participant in bar associations and the legal community at large, she became the 69th President of the New York City Bar Association in May 2020, an organization comprised of over 25,000 members. Notably, her presidency has historical importance, as Ms. Boston is the first woman of color to serve as the organization’s President in its 150 years of existence. Appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on New York’s First Department Judicial Screening Committee, Ms. Boston is finishing her second term in that capacity. Ms. Boston also currently serves as the Vice Chair of DRI’s Drug and Medical Device Steering Committee.

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." Most recently, she was recognized by the New York State Unified Court System’s Black History Month Committee with the “2020 Equality of Justice Award” and by Columbia Law School’s Black Law Student Association with a “2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.” Moreover, she is a life member of the National Bar Association, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, and the Association of Black Women Attorneys.

Ms. Boston received her A.B. from Princeton University in 1990, and her J.D. from the Columbia School of Law in 1993. She is admitted to practice law in the New York State Courts, the SDNY, the EDNY, the NDNY, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.
Lloyd W. Brown, II, joined Citi in July 2009 as Citi’s Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Executive and directs Citigroup’s CRA Regulatory Group.

He serves as the firm’s Corporate CRA Officer and Vice Chair of Citibank, N.A.’s CRA & Fair Lending Committee. Mr. Brown works to protect and promote the firm’s reputation with numerous stakeholders, particularly bank regulators, community groups and policy makers. He partners with Citi’s CRA related business heads to establish CRA lending, investment and service goals, which annually exceed $10 billion; oversees the related data integrity reviews; and establishes guidelines to promote and execute a robust regulatory and control culture throughout the firm.

Mr. Brown brings to his position a unique blend of business and legal experience in managing corporate governance, bank regulatory compliance, fair lending, government affairs, corporate social responsibility, and philanthropy. Immediately prior to joining Citi, he served as Executive Vice President, Head of Government Affairs and Community Development at BNY Mellon, where he was a member of its Global Operating Committee.

Mr. Brown is a graduate of Columbia University and holds a Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers University School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, New York and the United States Supreme Court.
Anta Cissé-Green is Associate General Counsel and Director of Legal Operations at NYU Langone Health with primary responsibility for advising the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs on a variety of fundraising and tax-related legal matters including drafting and negotiating agreements for gifts and bequests, administration of bequests from trusts and estates, not-for-profit legal and taxation issues and general contracting for fundraising events and activities for NYU Langone Hospitals and the NYU School of Medicine. As Director of Legal Operations for NYU Langone, Anta develops and drives the Office of General Counsel’s administrative priorities, leads key departmental projects, including selection and implementation of technology and efficiency of legal operations.

Anta received her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, summa cum laude, and her L.L.M. in Tax from NYU School of Law. Immediately prior to joining NYU Langone Health in 2016, Anta was Senior Counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in the firm’s private client services section of the tax group where she advised wealthy individuals on the development of tax efficient vehicles for the transfer of wealth, complex estate and trust administration issues, charitable planning strategies and the formation and governance of tax exempt organizations. Previously, Anta was an associate with Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and law clerk to the Honorable Lois Bloom, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Anta has been awarded various accolades and honors in connection with her work in the legal profession. In addition to being named as an honoree in the Crain’s 2019 Notable Women of Law, Anta has also been honored by the New York Law Journal as a “Lawyer Who Leads By Example”, in recognition of her many years of commitment to providing pro bono legal services to under-represented New Yorkers; named to the National Black Lawyers Top 100 Attorneys; and as a New York Metro Area Rising Star by Superlawyers in the area of tax and estate planning. Anta is an active member of her community in her role as President of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the largest unified association of Black and other minority lawyers, in the New York metropolitan area.
The Honorable L. Priscilla Hall served as an Associate Justice of the New York State Appellate Division, Second Department for nine years having been appointed by Governor David A. Patterson on March 9, 2009. Prior to serving in that position, Justice Hall served as the Administrative Judge of the New York State Supreme Court Criminal Term in Kings County. She was elected to NYS Supreme Court on November 2, 1993 and re-elected on November 6, 2007. As a Supreme Court Justice, she presided over criminal and civil matters. In response to the unprecedented increase in child protective complaints following the Nixzmary Brown trial over which she presided, Justice Hall volunteered to serve in Family Court.

An active community leader, Justice Hall served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Achievement First Charter Schools. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Common Justice, a restorative justice program in Kings and Bronx counties, which began under her administration in Supreme Court.

She is a founding member of the Brooklyn Community Church and serves as Vice Chair of the Deacon Ministry. Justice Hall is a member of the board of the Friends of Marcy Houses, Inc. She was recently appointed by Federal Monitor Peter L. Zimroth to oversee compliance by the NYPD with Stop, Question and Frisk laws specifically overseeing a pilot program for officers to wear body-worn cameras.

Justice Hall has received many awards and honors but is especially proud of receiving the William H. Hastie Award from the National Bar Association, the establishment of the L. Priscilla Hall Leadership Academy by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and on February 13, 2019 becoming the first recipient of the Hon William C. Thompson Award from the Appellate Division, Second Department.

HONORABLE L. PRISCILLA HALL

Association of Black Women Attorneys, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, National Bar Association
CK Hoffler is a seasoned trial lawyer and the CEO of the CK Hoffler Firm, a trilingual law firm (English, French and Spanish) based in Atlanta, Georgia. She specializes in commercial litigation, opioid litigation, catastrophic injury, civil rights, global commercial transactions, medical negligence, wrongful death, and employment cases. Ms. Hoffler is licensed in Georgia, Florida, Virginia, D.C., and Pennsylvania. To date, CK Hoffler (and her teams) has tried and/or settled cases totaling over $800 million. An accomplished attorney, Ms. Hoffler was previously a partner at Edmond, Lindsay & Hoffler, LLP and a partner at the Willie Gary Firm in Florida, where she ran the commercial and international litigation practice for 13 years. She is also counsel to civil rights icon The Reverend Jesse Jackson and has represented him and the Rainbow Push and Wall Street Project for the past 30 years. Ms. Hoffler also lectures extensively on trial and best-practices strategies to legal professionals and young lawyers across the nation. On July 29, 2020, Ms. Hoffler was sworn in as President of the National Bar Association.

Ms. Hoffler received a JD from Georgetown University, BA from Smith College and studied at College du Leman, University of Geneva in Switzerland and Branksome Hall in Canada. She speaks French fluently and is proficient in Spanish and Portuguese. She holds a number of honors and awards for her achievements in law and is active in her community. Visit the CK Hoffler Firm at www.ckhofflerfirm.com.

CK HOFFLER
President
National Bar Association
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