

Lawyers

o

f

Color

**HOT  
LIST  
2020**

## Our Team

Christopher Nelson - Editor at Large

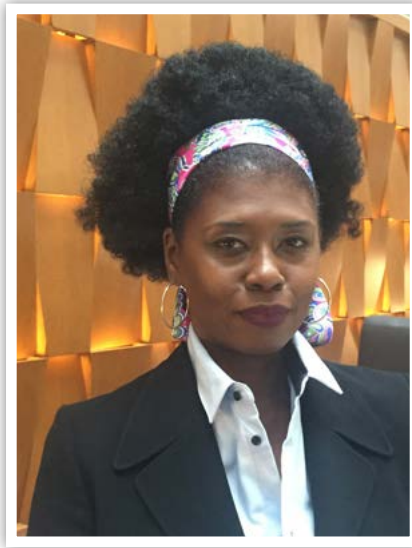
Gabriela Martinez - Administrator

Kaitlyn Williamson - Coordinator

Yolanda Young - President & Executive Director

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

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



**T**he honorees, who all work as in-house counsel, government attorneys, or law firm associates and partners, were chosen through a two-pronged process. Our selection committee, composed of the editorial staff, fellows and advisers, reviewed nominations and researched legal publications in order to identify promising candidates. We accepted nominations from mentors, peers, and colleagues. We also made editorial picks based on our research of attorneys who had noteworthy accomplishments, giving special attention to candidates who were active in diversity pipeline initiatives.

Join me in saluting our 2020 Hot List honorees.

Yolanda Young  
President & Executive Director

# LAWYERS OF COLOR INITIATIVES

## **Create a black law student judicial clerkship collaborative**

Throughout the country there are judicial clerkship programs targeted at diverse law students; however, few clerkships go to black law graduates. We are going to create a collaborative that helps determine and scale the most effective methods and programs.

## **Provide qualified summer associate candidates to firms that have difficulty recruiting black law students.**

We contacted nearly 100 law firms that had less than 1 percent black lawyers. Most did not respond, but of the three who responded, two explained they were IP firms and found it difficult to find black law students with STEM degrees. We are going to create a free black law student resume bank and pre-screening interview service law firms.

Lawyers

o

f

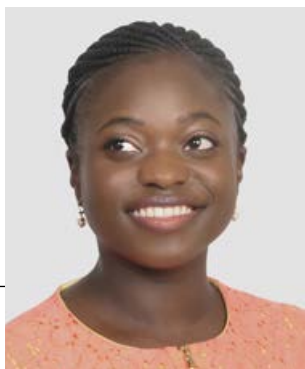
Color

**HOT  
LIST  
2020**

## Adebola Aderinto

Associate  
Jackson Lewis P.C.

J.D., Suffolk University Law School  
B.B.A., Temple University



Adebola M. Aderinto is an Associate in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, office of Jackson Lewis P.C. She is a service-oriented attorney with diverse civil litigation experience in state and federal courts.

While attending law school, Ms. Aderinto received the distinguished oral advocate award and was recognized for her commitment to pro bono work and diversity and inclusion at her graduation. In addition, she served as a student attorney in her law school's immigration clinic and a staff member of the Journal of Health and Biomedical Law.

Prior to joining Jackson Lewis, Ms. Aderinto was an associate with a boutique litigation firm in Philadelphia.

## Akilah Craig

Associate  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

J.D., Baylor Law School  
B.A., Franklin & Marshall College



Akilah is an associate in the Vorys Houston office and a member of the labor and employment group. Akilah defends employers in and before federal and state courts and administrative agencies on claims arising under various employment statutes, including Title VII, the American with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and their state law counterparts. She also counsels clients, particularly in the retail and energy industries on a wide range of employment matters, including calculating overtime rates, employment of minors, state law wage and hour requirements, internal investigations, and discharge and discipline of employees. Akilah has presented seminars on workplace civility, restrictive covenants, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Prior to joining Vorys, Akilah was an associate at a boutique litigation firm, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation. Akilah represented large corporations, small family businesses, and individuals in matters involving tort and contract claims."

## Alexander Bolden

Associate  
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

J.D., University of Chicago  
B.A., Bates College



Alex Bolden is an associate in the Corporate Practice Group. He has experience in corporate matters including mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and securities law compliance. He represents clients in both public and privately held entities across a wide range of industries.

## Alvin B. Carter III

Associate  
Brown Rudnick LLP

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



Alvin Benjamin Carter III is an associate in the Firm's Corporate Practice Group.

Alvin advises private and public company clients in a broad range of corporate and transactional matters, including debt and equity financings, corporate governance, entity formation, asset assignments, and state and federal securities compliance. Alvin also represents clients in intellectual property matters, including responding to USPTO office actions and brand licensing. He has represented clients in varying industries including emerging companies, venture capital, entertainment, medical technology, financial services, fashion, and FinTech, among others.

Prior to joining Brown Rudnick, Alvin interned for State Street Corporation where he reviewed and drafted contracts, license agreements, and other related IP documents.

## Amber Ali

Associate  
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman &  
Dicker LLP

J.D., South Texas College of Law  
B.A., University of St. Thomas



**A**mber Ali practices complex defense litigation, including product liability, premises liability and insurance defense matters.

While in law school, Amber interned for Justice Evelyn Keyes of the First Court of Appeals of Texas. She also interned for the Department of Legal Affairs at Harris Health, the Office of Institutional Compliance at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Civil Medicaid Fraud Division at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. Her previous law firm experience includes commercial litigation, insurance coverage and other areas of the law.

## Amy Depuy

Associate  
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

J.D., University of California –  
Hastings College of the Law  
B.S., Middle Tennessee State University



**A**my concentrates her practice in products liability litigation, with a particular emphasis on pharmaceutical and automotive industries. She has handled warranty litigation and catastrophic injury cases for major automotive manufacturers across the U.S., in both state and federal courts. She also has handled litigation involving employment and environmental issues.

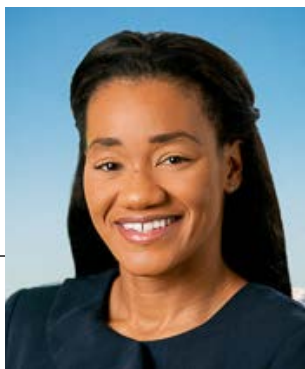
During law school, Amy served as a judicial extern for The Honorable Virginia A. Phillips, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She also completed an internship for an international motor vehicle manufacturer.

Outside her practice, Amy mentors law students and works to find and develop clean water projects in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico. Before joining Shook, she was an associate for Bowman and Brooke LLP in Los Angeles.

## Andrea Canfield

Associate  
Stoel Rives LLP

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law  
M.B.A., Delaware State University  
B.A., Delaware State University



**A**ndrea Canfield is a senior associate in the Corporate group. Andrea advises Alaska Native corporations and privately held, small and middle market companies in mergers and acquisitions. Andrea also counsels small business owners and startup companies in corporate governance, commercial transactions and debt financing. Andrea is a member of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and the ad hoc Corporate Pro Bono Committee.

Before joining Stoel Rives, Andrea was a summer associate at Lane Powell PC in Anchorage (Summer 2012) and a clerk at McGuire Woods LLP in Charlottesville, Virginia (Winter 2012).

Andrea was selected as one of "America's Leading Lawyers for Business" (Alaska) by Chambers USA (Corporate/M&A), Associates to watch, 2020.

## Angela B. Freeman

Associate  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Indiana University Robert H.  
McKinney School of Law  
M.S., University of Louisville  
B.A., University of Louisville



**A** member of the firm's Intellectual Property Department and Life Sciences practice group, Angela is instrumental in procuring IP rights in the U.S. and worldwide for client inventions.

Angela's practice includes preparing contractual agreements and opinions. She also performs IP due diligence in order to protect her client's interest during sales, mergers and acquisitions. In addition, Angela assists clients with procuring trademark and copyright registrations to protect their intellectual property rights.

Prior to her legal career, Angela worked as a biologist at global pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly & Co. In 2007, she received the Lilly Chairman's Ovation Award for Global Leadership in Diversity. In 2010, she was awarded the Eli Lilly Law Alumni Scholarship.

Angela also has additional research experience in the molecular, cellular and craniofacial biology department at a Louisville area birth defects center. In her time as a biologist, Angela was a regular contributor to publications and presentations on topics related to genetic and biological research.

## Anne-Carmene Almonord



Associate  
Arent Fox LLP

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

Anne-Carmene represents clients on various financing transactions, including transactions involving multifamily housing, manufactured housing, seniors housing, and affordable housing. Anne-Carmene also counsels clients on title matters and property management concerns, and has experience with domestic and cross-border matters involving project finance and workouts.

From 2015-2018, Anne-Carmene served as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees of Prep for Prep, a leadership development program based in NYC that provides access to superior education and life-changing opportunities for smart and dedicated students of color.

## Anum Amin



Associate  
Dykema Gossett PLLC

J.D., The University of California, Los Angeles School of Law  
B.A., The University of California, San Diego

Anum Amin is an associate in Dykema's Los Angeles office. Anum is a member of the firm's business litigation group.

Prior to joining Dykema, Anum served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Harold E. Kahn in Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco's law and motion department. Anum graduated from the University of California - Los Angeles School of Law where she acted as the Managing Editor of the Women's Law Journal. She also served as the Vice President of Judicial Affairs in the Moot Court Honors Board and as the Operational Director for thirteen pro bono clinics under UCLA's El Centro Program. Anum clerked for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office in the Hardcore Gang Division and worked as a Justice Corp Intern at the Family Law Facilitator's Office in San Diego.

## Ariel Simone Wossene



Associate  
Holland & Knight LLP

J.D., Washington and Lee University School of Law  
B.A., Fisk University

Ariel S. Wossené is a litigation attorney in Holland & Knight's Tysons office. Ms. Wossené focuses her practice on a variety of financial litigation matters.

Ms. Wossené represents financial institutions and companies in various industries on issues related to contract disputes, fraud, bankruptcy, misrepresentation and federal statutes, including the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) and Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA).

Ms. Wossené previously clerked for the 23rd Judicial Circuit Court, as well as the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

## Atoyia S. Harris



Associate  
Proskauer Rose LLP

J.D., Loyola University New Orleans College of Law  
B.A., Loyola University New Orleans

Atoyia Harris is an associate in the Labor and Employment Department and a member of the Employment Litigation & Counseling Group. With bench trial, jury trial, and administrative hearing experience, Atoyia approaches each matter strategically to provide the best result for her clients. She has advised and successfully defended matters on a wide variety of issues. She also provides training and conducts in-house investigations.

Prior to law school, Atoyia received her Bachelor of Music in Industry Studies with emphasis in classical piano from Loyola University New Orleans and was member of the Loyola University women's basketball team. She received her J.D. with an International Law Certification from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Atoyia served as the Moot Court Selection Chair and staff member of the Loyola Law and Technology Journal. While in law school, Atoyia interned as a law clerk for the Honorable Jay C. Zainey at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Honorable Robin Giarrusso at the Orleans Parish Civil District Court.



## Aurra Fellows

Associate  
Vinson & Elkins LLP

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

**A**urra is a trial lawyer who has litigated a wide variety of commercial disputes in federal and state courts, and private arbitrations. She has also assisted clients with internal and governmental investigations. Aurra uses her experience and creativity to zealously advocate for her clients.



## Autumn Gear

Associate  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Michigan State University College of Law  
B.S., Michigan State University

**A**utumn primarily litigates intellectual property and employment matters. She assists in virtually all aspects of pretrial practice, including research, drafting pleadings, discovery and drafting motions.

Autumn has also drafted appellate documents, including jurisdictional motions and appellate briefs. Autumn produces concise and directed legal arguments to advance clients' positions.

Autumn actively volunteers with the Volunteer Lawyers Network's housing clinic to provide legal advice to low-income tenants and landlords.



## Azer Akhtar

Associate  
Ballard Spahr LLP

J.D., West Virginia University College of Law  
B.A., West Virginia University

**A**zer Akhtar represents lenders in the financing of multifamily properties located throughout the United States. In this role, Azer primarily represents lenders and GSE loan servicers in the origination, sale, and servicing of commercial real estate loans under Freddie Mac's CME and TAH product lines; and Fannie Mae's DUS and MAH product lines. Azer has closed hundreds of transactions, including both conventional and affordable originations, and has extensive experience with financings involving low-income housing tax credits, HAP contracts, preferred equity, ground leases, PILOTs, tax abatements, and the like.

Azer also has experience representing CMBS lenders in connection with commercial real estate loans intended for securitization or sale in the secondary market. Additionally, Azer has represented national lenders in residential real estate foreclosures, real estate-related litigation and related appellate matters.



## Brittany Armour

Associate  
Reed Smith LLP

J.D., Washington University School of Law  
B.S.B.A., Xavier University

**B**rittany is an associate in the firm's Global Commercial Disputes Group. Her practice currently involves a wide range of complex commercial litigation matters including contract disputes, financial services litigation, products liability litigation, class actions, and business torts. Brittany has experience participating in various phases of pre-trial practice including drafting pleadings, reviewing experts' reports, and drafting dispositive motions.

Prior to joining Reed Smith, she was a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, where she analyzed cases on appeal, and drafted per curiam opinions and memoranda for the judges.



## Brittany Toni-Ann Chung



Associate  
Thompson Hine LLP

J.D., Cleveland-Marshall College of Law  
B.A., Case Western Reserve University

Brittany is an associate in the firm's Real Estate practice group. Her practice focuses on real estate matters in addition to banking and finance. She is nationally recognized for her leadership in advocating diversity, equity and inclusion at both community and national levels. Prior to beginning her legal career, she was instrumental in launching The International and Multicultural Exchange and the Undergraduate Diversity Collaborative—two student organizations dedicated to advocating for diverse students' needs and developing policies and programming to meet those needs at Case Western Reserve University.

Brittany's experience as a skilled moderator led to her serving as the inaugural leader for the Sustained Dialogue Campus Network program at Case Western Reserve University, which is part of the Sustained Dialogue Institute in Washington, D.C. During law school, Brittany served as the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Moot Court Team's Chairperson.

## Cameron Baker



Associate  
Fox Rothschild LLP

J.D., University of Florida, Levin College of Law  
B.A., University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Cameron focuses his practice on entertainment and sports law, commercial litigation and family law.

He represents professional athletes in contract, branding and licensing issues as well as in litigation and regulatory compliance. He also advises entertainment industry clients on a wide range of copyright, trademark and other intellectual property matters.

Cameron's family law practice is comprehensive. He handles a full range of family law matters including custody, support, divorce and partition of property.

He also represents clients in a wide variety of business disputes.

Cameron is a sought-after community speaker. He has addressed audiences at local high schools and Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, on issues such as entertainment and the law, choosing a career path and NCAA compliance.

He was also featured speaker at the October 2017 naturalization ceremony held at the Paul G. Rogers Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in West Palm Beach.

## Caleb L. Green



Associate  
Dickinson Wright PLLC

J.D., William S. Boyd School of Law  
B.A., University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Caleb Green is an associate in the Dickinson Wright Las Vegas office. His primary areas of practice include intellectual property, government affairs, immigration, and cyber-security and data protection matters. Namely, Caleb's experience revolves around on trademark prosecution, intellectual property litigation and enforcement, deportation defense, employment immigration, government affairs, and business matters. Prior to law school, Caleb worked as an information technology profession and network engineer for the Office of Information Technology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

## Chris Albert



Associate  
Haynes and Boone, LLP

J.D., University of Texas School of Law  
B.S., Louisiana State University

Chris Albert is an associate in the Mergers and Acquisitions Practice Group in the Dallas office of Haynes and Boone. His practice is focused on assisting public and private companies with a wide variety of matters, including mergers and acquisitions, securities transactions, SEC and stock exchange reporting requirements, internal reorganizations, complex commercial agreements, supply chain management, and domestic and international franchising.

While earning his law degree, Chris spent a semester studying French and European Union (EU) business law at the Université Jean Moulin Lyon III, where he was exposed to a range of regulatory considerations affecting companies that operate in the EU, including data breach, tax, finance, and international trade. Chris also served as the vice president for the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society, successfully managing the organization's academic resources, alumni relationships, fundraising, and community outreach.



## Chrisdo Fan

Associate  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

J.D., University of California, Irvine School of Law  
B.A., University of California at Davis

Chrisdo Fan focuses her practice on commercial real estate transactions. She represents clients in connection with the acquisition, disposition, financing, and development of commercial properties.



## Christina Campbell Rather

Associate  
Thompson Hine LLP

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

Christina is a member of the Real Estate practice group. She focuses her practice on all aspects of commercial real estate transactions.

Christina's experience includes drafting purchase and sale agreements, conveyance documents and corporate governance documents, including asset purchase agreements, operations transfer agreements, bills of sale, assignment and assumption agreements, board resolutions, operating agreements, membership interest purchase agreements and leases.

Prior to joining Thompson Hine, Christina was an associate with a firm in Washington, D.C. She previously served as a legal intern with an Atlanta firm, where she worked with public finance attorneys and clients in connection with a waste water refunding and low-income housing tax credit project for the City of Atlanta and student housing financing for a private college. Before law school, Christina spent two summers serving as a congressional intern with Reps. Lewis and Slaughter.



## Christopher A. Knight

Associate  
Mayer Brown LLP

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

Christopher Knight is an associate in Mayer Brown's Chicago office and a member of the Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice.

Christopher received his JD from the University of Virginia and his BS, cum laude from Eastern Michigan University. Christopher is admitted to practice in Illinois and Michigan.

Before joining Mayer Brown, Christopher practiced as a corporate litigator in Detroit, Michigan. He has represented a variety of clients, such as automotive companies, financial institutions, and manufacturers, litigating a broad range of issues covering intellectual property, complex commercial law, and commercial real estate. Before becoming a litigator, he served one year as a law clerk for the Honorable Gershwin Drain in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, where he handled one-third of the civil and criminal docket.



## Christopher Andrews

Associate  
Cooley LLP

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

Chris Andrews focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, securities litigation and white collar criminal defense. He has experience representing clients in a wide range of civil litigation matters, including contractual disputes and antitrust. He has also represented clients in inquiries or investigations led by regulatory and law enforcement agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Department of Justice. Chris maintains an active pro bono practice.

## David Acquay

Associate  
Ropes & Gray LLP

J.D., Harvard Law School  
B.S., Cornell University

David Acquay joined Ropes & Gray in 2019 as an associate in the mergers & acquisitions and technology, media & telecommunications practice groups. Prior to joining the firm, David was a corporate associate at a large New York law firm, where he represented public and private companies and private equity funds in a range of transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, financings, capital fundraising and general corporate governance.

During law school, David was an executive editor for the Harvard Business Law Review and a student advisor for the Harvard Law School Office of Career Services.

Before law school, David worked at Microsoft managing software development teams for one of Microsoft's enterprise software products.



## David Griffith

Associate  
Crowell & Moring LLP

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles School of Law  
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

David Griffith is an associate in Crowell & Moring's Orange County office and is a member of the firm's Antitrust & Competition and White Collar & Regulatory Enforcement groups.

David earned his B.A. from Loyola Marymount University, with a major in English and a minor in French. He earned his J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. While in law school, David served as co-editor in chief of the National Black Law Journal and also researched sentencing guidelines under Professor Sherod Thaxton. A staunch advocate of diversity in the legal profession, David mentored undergraduate students interested in law school and also served as a diversity intern with JAMS helping to improve diversity amongst their panelists and within ADR generally.



## Diana Bae

Associate  
Arent Fox LLP

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

Diana's practice is focused on management of domestic and international intellectual property portfolios, counseling, clearance, and prosecution and enforcement. She also has vast experience in domain disputes, Internet takedowns and handling global anti-counterfeiting matters.

Before joining Arent Fox as a full-time associate, Diana was a summer associate at the firm. Prior to that, she worked in the legal affairs department of a large, international media company, providing legal support to the company's human resources, corporate communications, and compliance teams.

Diana enjoys baking to satisfy her sweet tooth and trying out DC area restaurants and bakeries. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and Dachshund-Great Dane mix dog.



## Ebony S. Morris

Associate  
Garrison, Yount, Forte & Mulcahy, LLC

J.D., Southern University Law Center  
B.A., Southeastern Louisiana University

Ebony S. Morris is an associate based in the New Orleans office of Garrison, Yount, Forte, & Mulcahy, L.L.C. She is a member of the Louisiana Bar (2014). She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Greater New Orleans Chapter of Louis A. Martinet Society, Defense Research Institute, and the New Orleans Pro Bono Project. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

While in law school, Ebony served as the Articles Editor for the Southern University Law Review, Legal Writing Teaching Assistant to Professor Wendy Shea, and a Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Law Literacy Fellow. Ebony also served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Laura Prosser for Baton Rouge City Court and a legal extern for Chief Judge Brian A. Jackson of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

In her spare time, Ebony enjoys volunteering, spending time with her family, and writing.



## Ebunola Aniyikaiye

Associate  
Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.



J.D., American University, Washington College of Law  
M.B.A., American University, Kogod School of Business  
M.P.P., George Mason University  
B.A., St. Mary's College of Maryland

**E**bunola Aniyikaiye is an Associate in the Health Care and Life Sciences practice, in the Washington, DC, office of Epstein Becker Green.

Ms. Aniyikaiye focuses her practice on a variety of regulatory and transactional health care matters, including fraud and abuse issues, health care compliance, privacy and security, and regulatory issues impacting digital health and emerging technologies. She is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) with the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

Ms. Aniyikaiye is a Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's Life Sciences Interest Group, and she serves on the Health Law and Policy Program Advisory Council of the American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL). Ms. Aniyikaiye received her J.D., with a concentration in Health Law, from AUWCL, where she was an Articles Editor of the Administrative Law Review and graduated with Exceptional Service Honors for her commitment to pro bono work.

## Erica E. Aghedo

Associate  
Allen & Overy LLP



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

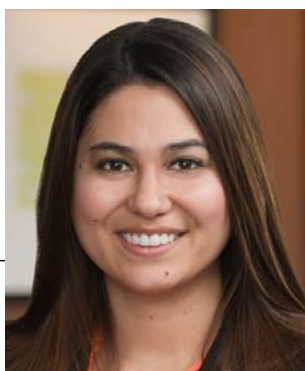
**E**rica is an associate in the Banking group in the New York office. She advises on leveraged finance matters, cross-border and domestic transactions and financings, secured transactions, corporate finance and project finance, as well as general corporate and commercial matters.

Prior to Allen & Overy, Erica interned at GE Capital Aviation Services and worked at a New York-based corporate law firm, focusing on acquisition financings, aircraft financings and capital markets offerings. Prior to law school, she worked with Citigroup's Transaction Services group.

Erica has been named to the National Black Lawyers Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers list and, in 2017, received the Legal Aid Society Pro Bono Publico Award for her pro bono work representing immigrants.

## Erika Weiss

Associate  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP



J.D., Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
B.A., Grand Valley State University

**E**rika's experience is diverse and includes American Indian Tribal law ranging from government services such as ordinance, code and regulatory drafting and enforcement, to both gaming and non-gaming economic development.

Erika also has experience in commercial and business litigation as well as securities litigation. She is able to utilize her litigation experience to advise and counsel corporate clients on risk mitigation across an array of matters, from entity formation to merger, acquisition, and disposition transactions.

As the daughter of an entrepreneur, Erika understands the operational pressures of running a business. It is with this understanding that she is able to advise corporate clients to assist in achieving both their legal and professional goals.

Erika frequently represents the firm at national conferences and on panel discussions regarding economic development in Indian Country. She has also recently launched a firm-supported podcast discussing tribal economic development. Together with her co-host, Erika discusses tribal economic development organizational structure, strategic planning, and transaction due diligence with more to come.

## Esperance Becton

Associate  
Dentons



LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center  
J.D., The John Marshall Law School  
B.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**E**sperance Becton is an associate in the Health Care practice and a resident of the Washington, DC office. Esperance's practice focuses on representing health care providers and entities, including health systems, hospitals, and physician groups in the areas of fraud and abuse, business transactions, regulatory compliance, and privacy and confidentiality.

Esperance's practice also includes advising on regulatory compliance issues in the fast-evolving health care technology space, counseling on federal and state matters associated with telehealth and telemedicine, digital health, and health information technology and data privacy.

Esperance brings a breadth of health care industry knowledge to her client work due to her broad background in health care. Prior to joining Dentons, Esperance was a Health Law Fellow at MedStar Health, the largest healthcare system in Maryland and the Washington, DC region, and a law clerk at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Esperance was recognized and selected for inclusion in the 2021 edition of "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" in Health Care.

## Esther Chang

Partner  
Mayer Brown LLP

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



Esther Chang is a Corporate & Securities partner in Mayer Brown's Chicago office. Esther focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, advising both public and private companies on cross-border and domestic mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, corporate governance, general corporate and business law. Esther was named a Rising Star by Illinois Super Lawyers between 2014 and 2017 for mergers and acquisitions. Esther speaks Mandarin and is proficient in French.

## Helen Ji

Associate  
Schiff Hardin LLP

J.D., University of Michigan Law School  
B.S., University of Maryland



Helen is an intellectual property associate whose practice primarily focuses on patent and trademark law. She has experience handling patent litigation matters and Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) proceedings, and has counseled a diverse range of clients, from small startups to established businesses, regarding transactional intellectual property issues.

Valuing efficiency without sacrificing efficacy, Helen strives to provide strong client service by delivering results. With a technical background in bioengineering, she has developed a diverse understanding of all elements involved in the medical application of engineering principles. Her past academic and laboratory experiences allow her to effectively handle a broad range of technologies including biomedical devices, ecommerce platforms, electronic devices, and pharmaceutical drugs in Hatch-Waxman disputes.

Helen interned for the Honorable Julian Abele Cook, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She also has experience counseling low-income clients within the Michigan Legal Aid Family Law Project; reviewing prosecutorial activities and forensic evidence within the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office.

## Ivie Serieux

Attorney  
Littler Mendelson P.C.

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



Ivie A. Serieux represents employers in all aspects of employment litigation, including matters involving race, age, sex and disability discrimination and retaliation.

Her practice focuses on representing and counseling employers in all aspects of employment discrimination litigation as well as emerging issues in Title IX compliance and litigation. She has represented clients in administrative proceedings as well as state and federal courts including successfully arguing before the Second Circuit of Appeals.

Ivie handles traditional labor arbitrations and grievances, conducts internal workplace investigations and manager/employee trainings. She also focuses her practice on providing advice and counsel to employers regarding their diversity and inclusion initiatives, training, and programming for talent recruitment and retention. She customizes and delivers impactful training on all topics related to diversity and inclusion in order to improve innovation, employee engagement and performance.

## Jamal Burk

Associate  
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

J.D., Suffolk University Law School  
B.A., Dickinson College



Jamal Burk defends the interests of clients in the consumer financial services industry in litigation. A former Special Assistant Attorney General, Jamal has extensive litigation experience, ranging from initial research and discovery to trial appearances.

Before joining Hinshaw, Jamal worked with the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. During his tenure, he handled cases within the District Court, Superior Court, and Special Victims Units.

While attending law school, Jamal was a client intake clerk for a Boston-based firm and also a legal clerk for firm in Providence, Rhode Island.

## Jamar King

Associate  
Thompson Hine LLP

J.D., University of Toledo College of Law  
B.S.Ed., Bowling Green State University



Jamar is a seasoned litigator with significant first-chair trial experience. He has successfully defended several criminal cases in court, resulting in acquittals. He has a deep understanding of the nuances of oral argument, having argued dozens of motions in both state and federal court. A former state public defender, clients find his tenacity and vigorous advocacy reassuring when navigating through contentious litigation.

Jamar focuses his practice on representing businesses, organizations and individuals embroiled in both criminal and civil litigation involving state and federal governmental agencies. His experience and confidence separate him from others when representing clients in challenging cases.

Jamar has also represented manufacturers and employers in personal injury actions, lenders and mortgage servicers in consumer financial litigation, trademark holders in intellectual property disputes, privately-owned public utilities against unconstitutional overreach of local governments, and businesses of all sizes in general contract and other commercial disputes. In every instance, whether resolved through settlement, motion practice, or at trial, Jamar has achieved great results for his clients.

## James A. Alexander, Jr.

Associate  
Alston & Bird LLP

J.D., Vanderbilt University  
M.Div., Vanderbilt University  
B.S., Howard University



James Alexander is an associate in Alston & Bird's Financial Services & Products Group. With perspective gained working in the Department of Justice and with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, James advises clients on regulatory compliance requirements, complex banking M&A/financial transactions, payment systems negotiations, and corporate governance decisions.

James received his J.D. and master of divinity dual degree from Vanderbilt University, where he was a Dean's Scholar and Branstetter Litigation & Dispute Resolution fellow in the law school while also being named a scholar and fellow in the divinity school. While pursuing his dual degree, James was an associate justice of the Moot Court Board, president of the Black Law Students Association, and a judge on the Appellate Review Board for the university, among other honors.

James has been named to The National Black Lawyers' "Top 40 Under 40" for outstanding black attorneys in the state of Georgia.

## James Vergara

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP

J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law  
B.S., Purdue University



James is experienced in preparing patent applications and providing strategic insight for a variety of software and communications-related intellectual property, including computer networking, security, machine learning, video analytics, big data, and virtualization.

Skilled in patent portfolio analysis, James is involved in conducting prior art searches, patent mining, and mergers and acquisition due diligence. In addition, James has experience in patent litigation support and writing freedom-to-operate opinions.

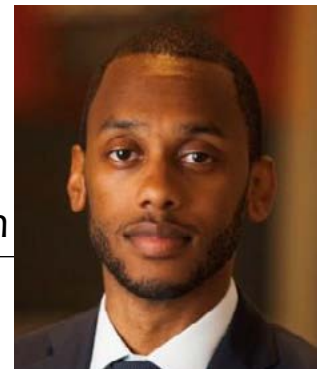
Prior to becoming an attorney, James worked as a software verification developer for Delphi-Delco Electronics Software Verification Lab, where he focused on programming test scripts for automotive devices. Working in-house in the technology industry gave James the business perspective of understanding how innovation unfolds in the corporate environment. He brings this sensitivity to the clients he serves today.

In addition, James taught English in Wakayama, Japan, through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. While teaching, James developed the ability to communicate with a wide variety of personalities while enhancing his communication abilities.

## Jan-Phillip Kernisan

Of Counsel  
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

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



JP Kernisan practices in the areas of employment law, white collar defense and corporate investigations and commercial litigation. JP routinely represents companies and executives facing corporate crises involving difficult legal and regulatory challenges, with particular experience advising companies related to allegations of corruption, discrimination and harassment and/or executive misconduct.

Mr. Kernisan has conducted internal investigations for large multinational companies, financial institutions and universities. Additionally, he routinely represents organizations and executives facing government and/or regulatory investigations by U.S. authorities, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and the New York Department of Financial Services.

JP is also the 2-time Chair of the New York City Bar's Associate Leadership Institute, a leadership initiative started in 2017 whose participants are minority senior associates in the City's elite law firms. He is a 2009 graduate of New York University School of Law and a 2006 graduate of the University of Maryland - College Park.

## Janay Stevens

Associate  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law  
B.A., University of Nevada

Janay is an associate in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the labor and employment group. She focuses her practice on counseling employers in both employment and traditional labor law matters. Janay regularly assists employers in complying with the Fair Labor Standards Act, the National Labor Relations Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments.

She also has experience defending employers against employment lawsuits that include claims of wrongful discharge, discrimination, hostile work environment and harassment, wage and hour violations, breach of contract and violations of non-competition covenants. Janay has represented clients in state and federal court, before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, and other similar state agencies throughout the country.

Janay founded and leads the Vorys Initiative for Business Empowerment, an innovative program aimed at making legal services more accessible to racial and ethnic minority owned businesses.



## Jasmine M. Joseph

Associate  
Foley & Lardner LLP

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

Jasmine Joseph is an associate with Foley & Lardner LLP. She is a member of the firm's Transactions Practice.

Jasmine's broad corporate practice is concentrated on the representation of investors and start-up companies and also involves general business counseling, venture capital financings, renewable energy and project finance transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and securities matters.

Previously, Jasmine was a summer associate with Foley and a recipient of the firm's Diversity Fellowship award, which recognizes summer associates that demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion as well as outstanding leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills.

At the firm, Jasmine serves as a supervisory attorney to Georgetown University Law Center's Entrepreneurship Practicum, a pro-bono effort that provides business counsel and legal advice to startups with a positive social impact and/or for entrepreneurs from underserved communities. She also participates regularly in Foley's Thurgood Marshall Academy Law Day Program.



## Jason Carruthers

Associate  
Thompson Hine LLP

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law  
M.P.A., Kennesaw State University  
B.A., Indiana State University

Jason is an associate in the Labor & Employment practice. He counsels clients on a variety of employment issues and protects their interests in litigation and administrative proceedings.

He advises employers on developing and implementing policies to ensure compliance with labor and employment laws and regulations, and provides training on legal and regulatory topics.

Jason has assisted in litigating matters involving claims alleging violations of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Family and Medical Leave Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He also has represented employers in administrative investigations of charges brought before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and assisted in mediating and negotiating settlements.



## Je'Quana S. Orr

Associate  
Robinson & Cole LLP

J.D., University of Connecticut School of Law  
B.A., Eastern Connecticut State University

Je'Quana Orr represents clients in all aspects of complex civil litigation. She is a member of Robinson+Cole's Business Litigation Group.

While attending the University of Connecticut's School of Law, Je'Quana worked as a student attorney for the School's Asylum and Human Rights Clinic. In that role, she co-authored a successful brief, in which the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services granted her client asylum. Je'Quana also was a legal representative for the Connecticut Fund for the Environment. In that role she researched and drafted legal memoranda on various environmental issues. She has also served as the Membership and Executive Editor of the Connecticut Public Interest Journal.

Prior to joining the firm, Je'Quana was also a member in the Army National Guard for six years.







## Jeffrey Chang

Associate  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP

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

Jeffrey Chang handles real estate matters, ranging from land use approvals to contracts for purchases, sales and commercial leases, particularly in New Jersey. His land use experience includes appearing before zoning and planning boards on behalf of developers and business owners to secure approvals for: preliminary and major site plans; minor, preliminary and final major subdivisions; use variances; and bulk variances. His transactional work includes negotiating and drafting contracts, including for the purchase and sale of commercial and residential properties. He also handles developer agreements, operating agreements, homeowner association formation agreements, condominium formation agreements, joint ventures, deeds and easements. In addition, Jeffrey assists clients with title issues and advises them on securing and closing commercial construction loans.

After graduating from law school, Jeffrey was a law clerk for Judge Lawrence M. Lawson in the Superior Court of New Jersey -- Monmouth Vicinage.

Jeffrey has intermediate knowledge of conversational Mandarin Chinese.



## Jennifer Lee-Cota

Associate  
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

J.D., Arizona State University  
M.Ed., Arizona State University  
B.A., Stanford University

Jennifer Lee-Cota is an associate in the firm's Litigation practice group. She has experience practicing in the areas of employment and business litigation.

Jennifer represents the firm's institutional clients in a broad range of commercial and employment matters. In her business litigation practice, she has assisted companies in a broad range of business litigation disputes, including complex contract disputes. In her employment practice, she has litigated cases involving claims of discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and breach of contract. She has also advised employers on compliance with federal and state employment laws, represented employers in administrative proceedings, and conducted internal investigations.

Prior to joining the firm, Jennifer clerked for the Honorable Diane M. Johnsen, Arizona Court of Appeals. While in law school, she externed for the Honorable David Campbell, United States District Court. Before private practice, Jennifer worked in the nonprofit and education fields.



## Jeong Ku Choi

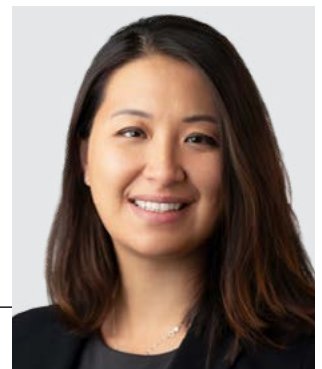
Associate  
King & Spalding LLP

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center  
M.S., Columbia University  
B.S., Binghamton University

Nick Choi is an associate in the firm's Trial & Global Disputes Practice. Nick focuses his practice on complex patent litigation matters in the pharmaceutical and high-tech industries.

Nick is based in King and Spalding's New York office where he works with a team of attorneys representing life sciences and high-tech companies.

Nick received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center while working as a patent agent at an international law firm in Washington, DC. Prior to law school, Nick worked as a patent examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office where he examined patent applications related to semiconductor devices and manufacturing processes. He received an M.S. in materials science and engineering from Columbia University, and a B.S. in chemistry, cum laude, with a minor in Spanish, from Binghamton University.



## Jessica Arena

Associate  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

J.D., The College of William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe Law School  
B.A., The College of William & Mary

Jessica Arena focuses her practice in the area of commercial litigation.

Prior to joining Eckert Seamans, Jessica served two years as a staff attorney with the Loudoun County Circuit Court, where she assisted the court in preparing for pretrial hearings and drafted letter opinions for cases the court took under advisement.



## Joan Akalaonu

Associate  
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law  
M.S.W., University of Illinois at Chicago  
B.A., Yale University

Joan Akalaonu counsels clients through all steps of complex commercial litigation in both federal and state court. She also advises and represents clients through government enforcement actions, internal investigations and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) compliance matters.

Before joining Faegre Drinker, Joan was an associate at Skadden, Arps Slate, Meagher & Flom, where she represented and advised clients in various commercial litigation matters, investigations and enforcement actions brought by government agencies, and internal investigations involving complaints and allegations of employee misconduct.

Joan enjoys volunteering, both locally and internationally, and is committed to social justice initiatives. She regularly participates in 5k walks/runs with her mother to support various social causes. Joan is also an avid reader and theater enthusiast. During law school, she served as a catechist teacher for Catholic Confirmation candidates.



## Joanna Gin

Associate  
Best Best & Krieger LLP

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

Joanna Gin is an attorney in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Municipal Law practice group. She serves as assistant city attorney for the City of Winters.

In addition to general public agency work, Joanna focuses on elections, compliance with Propositions 218 and 26, and solid waste, including the implementation of SB 1383 regulations.

Prior to attending law school, Joanna worked in legislative affairs for nearly a decade in Sacramento. Joanna was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the position of assistant deputy director in the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Department of General Services. While there, she helped oversee the office in the preparation of legislative analyses and policy recommendations relating to state contracts and property. During that time, she participated in the Leadership for Government Executives course at California State University, Sacramento, sponsored a Leadership for Government Supervisors cohort and spearheaded a department-wide food drive that raised a record 28,000 pounds of food for the Sacramento Food Bank.



## Jordan Bradford-Shivers

Associate  
Fenwick & West LLP

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

Jordan advises on a broad variety of litigation matters to support clients in the technology and life sciences industries.

During law school, Jordan competed as a part of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Team and served as the Vice President of the Black Law Students Association.



## Jules Porter

Founder  
Seraph Studios

J.D., University of St. Thomas School of Law  
M.B.A., University of St. Thomas  
B.S., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Jules Porter, a licensed attorney, proud Marine Corps veteran, previous manager of 100+ employees, and software coder. When she began law school and spoke with people in her home state she learned many people considered the issues and divisions they faced as longstanding, pervasive, known, and hopeless. Jules realized she could make a bigger difference for social justice and equality through developing video games that covertly teach empathy than by "just" being a lawyer (which she still does too). Jules merged her love of gaming and coding with her legal mind and business acumen to form Seraph 7 Studios.



## Kaileigh Callender

Associate  
Goulston & Storrs PC

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

**K**aileigh Callender is a litigator who handles a range of disputes related to the firm's employment, business and retail clients. Kaileigh handles legal research, due diligence, documentation analysis, negotiation, drafting of complaints and case management for issues that often involve breach of contract matters.

While at Boston University School of Law, Kaileigh served as Co-President of the Black Law Students Association, was a Member of the Criminal Clinic Defenders Program, and was a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellow.



## Katherine Bai

Associate  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

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

**K**atherine Bai is an associate in the Corporate Practice Group in the firm's Century City office and is a member of the firm's healthcare practice team.

Katherine focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, business formation and structuring, corporate governance and regulatory compliance for clients in the healthcare industry. She represents physician groups, health insurance companies and health plans, hospitals and hospital-affiliated foundations, private equity funds and strategic investors.

Katherine assists clients with complex acquisition and sale transactions and other strategic transactions. Her experience includes management of due diligence investigation processes, transaction documentation and management of approval processes. From a regulatory perspective, she is experienced with federal and state law governing the corporate practice of medicine, licensure and fraud and abuse compliance.



## Kavita Goswami Sehlat

Associate  
Baker, Donelson, Bearman,  
Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

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

**K**avita Sehlat comes from a family of bankers and began her career as a consumer banker. In addition to financial services litigation, Kavita regularly assists clients with front-end compliance and after-the-fact remediation related to federal consumer protection statutes.

Before becoming a lawyer, Kavita completed Bank of America's Management Development Program and worked in customer-facing departments like credit, collections, customer service, and telesales before specializing in direct mail marketing. Later she worked as a banker for Wells Fargo and managed Spanish speaking small business and personal banking customers.

In 2012, Kavita received the Firm's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award for the Memphis office for her successful representation of a young woman seeking asylum in the United States on the basis of religious persecution by violent gang members in El Salvador. In 2020, she will receive the Firm's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award for the Memphis office for a second time for her legal counsel and strategic advice to Calvary Place daycare in downtown Memphis.



## Kevonna Ahmad

Associate  
Fisher & Phillips LLP

J.D., University of Southern California, Gould School of Law  
B.A., San Diego State University

**K**evonna Ahmad represents and counsels employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, including employment discrimination, wrongful termination, harassment, retaliation, and wage-hour class action lawsuits. Kevonna also advises clients on a variety of workplace issues such as employment handbooks, personnel policies, and best practices.

During law school, she was a member of the Mediation Clinic where she mediated over 50 small claims and civil harassment cases in the Los Angeles County Superior Courts. Kevonna has also successfully mediated grievances between the EEOC and employees of the United States Postal Service.

Prior to joining Fisher Phillips, Kevonna clerked for a boutique employment defense firm in San Diego, where she created management trainings and lectures on various workplace issues. She has also been an in-house extern at an international investment bank and securities brokerage firm in Los Angeles, where she worked on labor and employment issues within the financial institution.



## Keunjung Cho

Associate  
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,  
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

J.D., Columbia Law School  
M.A., Harvard Graduate School of Design  
B.A., Brown University

**K**eunjung focuses her practice on securities offerings, corporate governance, and credit facilities for mutual funds, closed-end funds, and exchange-traded funds as well as formation and structuring of hedge funds and private equity funds.

Prior to joining Mintz, Keunjung was an associate and summer associate of a Philadelphia-based international law firm, where she prepared documents for a variety of securities, governance, and credit matters in the firm's Boston and New York offices.

While in law school, Keunjung served as a legal intern for the International Foundation for Art Research in New York. She was also a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and served as an articles editor of the Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts.



## Kevin Ha

Associate  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash,  
Smoak & Stewart, P.C.

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

**K**evin defends and counsels employers in labor and employment matters. He focuses his practice on class action and individual litigation ranging from wage and hour, discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful termination. Kevin also counsels businesses in complying with federal, state, and local employment laws.

Prior to joining Ogletree Deakins, Kevin litigated employment matters at a San Francisco based law firm. While in law school, Kevin served as a member of the University of San Francisco Law Review Volumes 51 and 52.



## LaShaila Spivey

Associate  
Frost Brown Todd LLC

J.D., Indiana University Maurer School of Law  
B.S., Indiana University Bloomington

**L**aShaila practices in the areas of trademark, copyright, and entertainment law. While in law school, LaShaila was a summer law clerk for CMG Worldwide, a student associate for the Indiana University Intellectual Property Law Clinic and Independent Film Legal Clinic. Additionally, LaShaila served as a Certified Legal Intern at IU's Student Legal Services.



## Lawrence Burns

Associate  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

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

**L**awrence has handled diverse intellectual property and civil litigation matters in both federal and state courts. His experience ranges from patent and copyright infringement disputes to complex commercial litigation. Lawrence brings an interesting outlook on the law, shaped by his unique experiences such as working for HBO's legal team, and studying abroad at multiple law schools in Tokyo, Japan. He speaks fluent Japanese.

Lawrence was born and raised in South Central, California. He actively looks to give back to his community through pro bono matters.

## Linda Nguyen Bollinger



Associate  
Littler Mendelson P.C.

J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law  
B.S., Santa Clara University

Linda Nguyen Bollinger represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment litigation, including wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, class actions, wage and hour, trade secrets and other proprietary information issues. She has appeared in state and federal court as well as arbitration, mediation, and administrative agency proceedings.

Prior to joining Littler, Linda practiced employment defense at a boutique firm in Silicon Valley. While in law school, Linda served as editor-in-chief of the Santa Clara Law Review. She also externed for the Hon. Jacqueline Duong of the Santa Clara Superior Court and Justice Nathan D. Mihara of the California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District.

## Manish Antani



Associate  
Loeb & Loeb LLP

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

Manish Antani maintains an international corporate practice focusing on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances, financings and general corporate matters. Manish represents and advises a diverse set of domestic and international clients in a variety of industries including technology, branded apparel / fashion, entertainment and media, private equity and manufacturing.

## Marina Ahmad



Associate  
DLA Piper

LL.M., University of California, Berkeley, School of Law  
LL.B., University of London

Marina Ahmad focuses her practice in the area of corporate transactional law.

Marina represents various public and private companies in a wide range of US and cross-border strategic transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity financings and corporate restructurings, as well as other general corporate and securities matters. Her clients cover a wide range of industries and include publicly traded and privately held corporations, emerging growth companies and multinationals.

## Melanie Ayerh



Associate  
Stephoe & Johnson LLP

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles School of Law  
B.A., Mount Holyoke College

Melanie Ayerh focuses her practice primarily on complex commercial and class action litigation.

Melanie has experience counseling and defending corporate entities, including Fortune 500 companies, in consumer fraud, product liability, violations of consumer protection statutes, toxic exposures, and mass tort matters. She has extensive experience in all phases of litigation, from inception through discovery and trial.

Melanie's background in biology and chemistry has allowed her to develop a particular proficiency in technical, scientific, and medical matters, including issues related to toxic exposure and their sequelae. She strives to develop efficient and creative strategies to advance her clients' interests and has obtained favorable results through pre-filing negotiations, dispositive motion practice and settlement negotiations.

## Michelle Li

Associate  
Thompson Hine LLP

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center  
LL.M., Southwest Univ of Political Science  
LL.M., University of Missouri-Kansas City  
LL.B., Southwest Univ of Political Science



Michelle is an associate in the International Trade practice group. She focuses her practice on assisting clients in a wide range of industries with trade remedy proceedings.

Michelle's experience includes drafting and filing petitions, comments, case briefs and rebuttal briefs and presenting oral arguments to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. International Trade Commission the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Michelle also has advised clients on trade enforcement and anti-circumvention issues before the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

Michelle has extensive experience counseling and representing clients from the e-cigarette industry on a wide variety of issues.

Prior to entering private practice, Michelle served as a judicial intern to the Honorable Robert L. Wilkins of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and as a judicial intern to the Clerk of the Court of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas."

## Mustafa Abdul-Jabbar

Associate  
Sidley Austin LLP

J.D., Harvard Law School  
Ed.D., University of Pennsylvania  
B.A., University of Texas at Austin



Dr. Mustafa Abdul-Jabbar is in the Firm's Commercial Litigation and Disputes group in Sidley's Dallas office. Mustafa has a diverse practice that includes experiences with mergers and acquisitions disputes, shareholder activism defense, professional malpractice actions, real property issues and other complex business litigation matters. He also has experience representing special litigation committees in conducting internal investigations, and he has worked to resolve administrative disputes involving state regulatory agencies.

## Myles Baker

Associate  
Dickinson Wright PLLC

J.D., Michigan State University College of Law  
B.A., Michigan State University

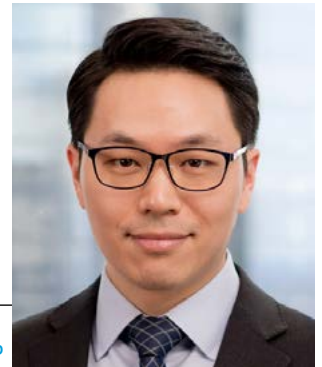


Myles J. Baker practices in the areas of complex business litigation, automotive litigation, and intellectual property. Myles received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from Michigan State University College of Law. Myles began his career with Dickinson Wright PLLC by joining the firm as a Summer Associate in back-to-back years during 2015 and 2016. Myles' ultimate goal is to utilize his wide range of skills and knowledge to provide effective legal counsel and achieve the best possible outcome for his clients.

## Namo Kim

Associate  
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

J.D., Cornell Law School  
B.S., University of Illinois



Namoo Kim focuses his practice on patent litigation, post-grant proceedings and patent prosecution. He handles matters in a wide range of technology areas, including telecommunications networks, signal processing, embedded systems and aerospace technology.

Prior to joining WilmerHale, Mr. Kim was a research assistant at University of Illinois, where he developed image processing software. As an engineering student, he helped develop a brain computer interface (BCI) and led student research teams in designing and constructing various drones.

While in law school, he worked as a judicial intern for New York Attorney General's Syracuse Regional Office and Illinois State's Attorney's Office in Champaign County.

## Nana Atsem

Associate  
Goodwin Procter LLP

J.D., University of North Carolina School of Law  
B.S., University of Charleston

**N**ana Atsem is an associate in the firm's Business Law Department and a member of its Technology and Life Sciences group. She joined Goodwin in 2011.

Ms. Atsem represents companies in mergers and acquisitions including the representation of acquirors, targets, boards of directors and transaction committees. She also represents companies in securities offerings, corporate governance and securities law compliance.

Prior to joining Goodwin, Ms. Atsem was a Fellow with the Employment Discrimination Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

While attending law school, Ms. Atsem was a Note and Comment Editor for the North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation, for which she authored "Choin v. Mukasey: The Road to Permanent Residency through U.S. Citizen Marriage & Divorce," 35 N.C. J. INT'L L. & COM. REG. No. 3 (Spring 2010).

Ms. Atsem is a member of the American Bar Association and the Boston Bar Association.



## Nicholas Austin

Senior Counsel & Vice President  
Wells Fargo

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

**N**ick Austin's work primarily focuses on providing expert counsel to major Fortune 100 businesses. He works at Wells Fargo as Senior Counsel and Vice President in the Corporate Strategic Transactions group, assisting on M&A and Venture Capital transactions.

Nick worked as Mergers and Acquisitions and Venture Capital Counsel at Caterpillar, where he advised senior company executives on legal matters pertaining to M&A and Caterpillar's venture capital and joint venture projects. Nick helped to establish Caterpillar's first corporate venture capital initiative, and served as General Counsel of Caterpillar's Toronto based tunneling business, Caterpillar Tunneling Canada Corporation, where he led legal operations for the entity.

Nick is the Chair and CEO of the Young Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the The Black Student Fund, and he previously served as the Treasurer of the Young Lawyers Division of the Washington Bar Association.



## Nita Garg

Associate  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

LL.M., Loyola University Chicago School of Law  
J.D., University of Texas School of Law  
B.A., University of Texas at Austin

**N**ita is an associate in the Houston office and a member of the health care group. She focuses her practice on assisting clients with health care issues, including those related to fraud and abuse, HIPAA compliance and employment agreements. Nita also has experience in health care litigation.

Nita also counsels clients on privacy matters related to HIPAA, FERPA, and GDPR. She assists clients on both the front end of privacy compliance, such as drafting policies and employee training, and on the back end with breach response. She is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP) and a frequent writer on developments in domestic and international privacy.

Nita has previously worked in the legal services department of a hospital and in the Civil Medicaid Fraud Unit at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, giving her expansive knowledge of the inner functions of the health care industry which helps her understand her clients' needs.



## Nneka Obiokoye

Of Counsel  
Holland & Hart LLP

LL.M., New York University School of Law  
LL.B., University of Nigeria Faculty of Law

**N**neka focuses her practice on commercial transactions in the renewable energy and oil and gas industries.

Nneka's experience translates across various aspects of the upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. In each of these sectors, Nneka helps clients navigate complex international and domestic commercial issues arising through the life of each project, including negotiating and drafting applicable agreements, and advising on contract implementation and interpretation.

Nneka's energy practice also involves drafting and negotiating commercial contracts pertaining to renewable energy projects.

Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Nneka provided full-service oil and gas transactional advice to various multinational entities, negotiating and advising on various contracts, including project development and financing contracts relating to natural gas liquids and gas-to-liquids projects.



## Ojeiku Aisiku

Associate  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

J.D., Brooklyn Law School  
B.S., Worcester State University

Ojeiku Aisiku practices in the area of intellectual property, focusing on patents, trademarks, and licensing agreements. He is a registered patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Before entering private practice Ojeiku was a judicial intern for the Honorable John D. Love of the Eastern District of Texas and the Honorable Kathy J. King of the Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term.



## Ojone E. Ameadaji

Associate  
Warner Norcross + Judd LLP

J.D., The University of Iowa College of Law  
B.A., Calvin University

Born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, Ojone is a member of the firm's Trusts and Estates Practice Group. Ojone concentrates her practice on estate and succession planning for individuals, families and businesses. Her compassion for people drew her to the trust and estates area because she feels she can both connect with and help people. She works to help her clients approach the future confident that their loved ones are provided for and their assets are protected. In addition to her estate planning practice, Ojone also assists clients with their immigration needs.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Calvin College and her law degree from The University of Iowa College of Law. Ojone values investing in the local community through volunteer work and serving on community boards.



## Omar Bareento

Associate  
McCarter & English, LLP

J.D., Rutgers Law School  
B.A., Syracuse University

Omar Bareento represents individuals and businesses in the resolution of a wide variety of corporate disputes. He has prosecuted and defended claims involving breach of contract, fraud, shareholder oppression, breach of fiduciary duty, and federal and state securities laws claims.

In the community, Omar serves and has served as Director of the Garden State Bar Association, Trustee of the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association, Board Member of Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center, Schools That Can, Leadership Council of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union County and the Islamic Society of Essex County. Omar is a founding member of "The Collective" – a professional group of nearly 20 African American male attorneys – created to promote community service, business development, and mentorship among attorneys of color in large New Jersey law firms and in-house departments.



## Osaro Aifuwa

Associate  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law  
M.S., Harding University  
B.A., Harding University

Osaro Aifuwa is a debt finance associate in the Houston office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. His experience includes financings of energy and infrastructure projects in the oil and gas and power sectors, including bank and bond financings, structured equity financings, margin loan facilities and leveraged financings.





## Pamela Aaron

Associate  
Goldberg Segalla LLP

Loyola Law School, LL.M.  
Cardiff University Faculty of Law, LL.B.  
University of Toronto, B.A.

**P**amela Aaron counsels and defends employers, insurers, and third-party administrators in workers' compensation matters throughout California. She focuses a significant portion of her practice on handling workers' compensation matters for major league sports organizations.



## Rebecca Beliard

Associate Corporate Counsel  
Amazon

J.D., University of Florida School of Law  
M.A., Saint John's University  
B.A., Saint John's University

**R**ebecca Beliard focuses her practice on a wide range of transactional matters including contract negotiations, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property and general corporate matters. Rebecca's broad industry experience includes technology, music, entertainment, sports, television, film, fashion and apparel, hospitality, restaurants, and live events.

Rebecca currently serves as an advisory board member for the Sports Business and Leadership Association and as an Ambassador of African American Art for Miami's Perez Art Museum (PAMM). Rebecca is involved with both the ABA's Forum on Entertainment and Sports law and the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association.

Prior to joining Akerman, Rebecca worked at several media and entertainment companies including CBS Corporation, Sony Music Entertainment and Emmis Communications (Hot 97). While attending law school, Rebecca served as an editor for the Journal of Technology Law and Policy and the Journal of Law and Public Policy. Rebecca was the Vice President of the Entertainment and Sports Law Society and helped to revive the annual Entertainment and Sports Law Symposium.



## Renée-Lauren V. Ellis

Associate  
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

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

**R**enée-Lauren Ellis is a Manatt Health associate in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. An experienced food and drug law attorney, she focuses her practice on medical device regulatory matters.

Before joining Manatt, Renée-Lauren worked as a regulatory associate for two large national firms. While at these firms, she focused on food and drug law, working on dietary supplement, cosmetic, and over-the-counter drug and device compliance, and on transactions involving FDA-regulated companies.

Renée-Lauren also served as regulatory counsel in the Office of Compliance and Enforcement at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products.



## Reon Cloete

Associate  
Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve  
Franklin & Hachigian, LLP

LL.M., Harvard Law School  
LL.M., University of Cape Town  
LL.B., University of Cape Town

**R**eon is a corporate and securities associate in our New York office. Reon specializes in the representation of emerging growth companies throughout their lifecycles.

Reon's practice focuses on general corporate counseling, venture capital financings and mergers and acquisitions. Reon represents a wide variety of technology companies from consumer internet, software, telecommunications and entertainment technology industries, as well as a number of leading venture capital firms.





## Ronak Chokani

Associate  
Stoel Rives LLP

J.D., Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
B.B.A., Baylor University

**R**onak Chokhani is an associate in Stoel Rives' Corporate group and focuses his practice on health care transactions. He provides guidance on a wide range of regulatory and corporate transactional matters to medical groups, managed care companies, and other health care entities. Ronak's business acumen and passion for the health care industry coupled with his distinguished legal research and writing skills make him an asset for his clients. He constantly strives to increase the breadth and depth of his legal knowledge to ensure his clients receive sound legal guidance.

Before joining Stoel Rives, Ronak was a legal intern in the Office of the General Counsel at Lone Star College System (2018); a summer associate at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz P.C. (2018); a legal intern in the Office of the General Counsel at Hewlett Packard Enterprise (2017); and a summer associate at Rose Law Firm (2017).



## Schera Sampson

Associate  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

J.D., University of Cincinnati College of Law  
B.A., Shawnee State University

**S**chera is a business and finance attorney based in Taft's Cincinnati office. She leads clients through complex legal matters such as mergers and acquisitions, entity formation, compliance issues, business disputes, and more.

Earning her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Schera has gained legal experience as a summer associate at Taft and as a law clerk at a world-leading company that is among the top aircraft engine suppliers. She received her undergraduate degree from Shawnee State University.



## Simone I. Ford

Associate  
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP

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

**S**imone Ford is an Associate in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Ms. Ford's practice focuses on serving the diverse needs of clients in litigation and trial practice.

Ms. Ford earned her B.A. in Government at the University of Virginia. While at the University of Virginia, she served as an Intern for both the National Courts Division for the United States Department of Justice and the Special Representatives Office for Intergovernmental Affairs for the United States Department of State.

Ms. Ford earned her J.D. degree, cum laude, from the University of Georgia. While in law school, Ms. Ford competed on the moot court team, winning national titles at both the 2018 Charleston National Moot Court Competition and the 2019 Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship. She also served as the Senior Managing Editor on the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law. Ms. Ford served as a Judicial Intern for the Honorable Steve C. Jones, Judge of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Georgia.



## Sonali Shah

Associate  
Hogan Lovells US LLP

J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law  
B.S., The University of Georgia

**S**onali Shah prepares and prosecutes patents in the United States. Leveraging a background in biochemical engineering, Sonali approaches preparing and prosecuting patents from a unique perspective.

Sonali's practice focuses on a wide range of technologies including medical devices, software, artificial intelligence systems, automotive technologies, and mechanical devices and machines.

Sonali chose intellectual property law because it is at the pinnacle of cutting-edge technologies across a myriad of industries. It is a stimulating area in which to practice because she is tasked with a new challenging technology each day.

While attending law school at Santa Clara University School of Law, Sonali earned the High Tech Law Certificate with a focus in Intellectual Property. She received her bachelor of science degree in biochemical engineering from the University of Georgia.

## Stacie Chau

Associate  
Holland & Knight LLP

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

Stacie L. Chau is an attorney in Holland & Knight's Los Angeles office and a member of the firm's Private Wealth Services Dispute Resolution Team. Ms. Chau's practice focuses on complex trusts and estates litigation and administration. Ms. Chau aims to provide the most efficient resolution to disputes, always keeping in mind the best interests of her clients and the complex issues and emotions that probate litigations often involve. Whether through mediation, alternative dispute resolutions or trial, Ms. Chau is with her clients every step of the way to navigate through the dispute and achieve successful results.

Ms. Chau is also active in the Asian American legal community. She is a member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and serves as the chair of NAPABA's communications subcommittee of trusts and estates section.



## Stephanie S. Elder

Associate  
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory &  
Natsis LLP

J.D., Loyola Law School  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Stephanie Elder is a results-oriented, ardent litigation attorney who handles complex matters in state and federal courts across California. Stephanie is passionate about achieving the best possible outcome for her clients and she leverages this enthusiasm with her practical, problem-solving approach to litigation. A diverse practitioner, Stephanie has litigated cases across a variety of areas of law, with a focus on labor and employment.

Stephanie began her career in the litigation department of Arnold & Porter, LLP, where she helped secure a favorable jury verdict on behalf of a multinational oil and gas company against breach of contract and other related claims. Upon her transition to Greenberg Gross LLP, Stephanie was the lead associate in a malpractice trial where beneficiaries of a trust unsuccessfully sought more than \$200 million in damages from her client, a law firm, for purported misconduct, fraud, and civil RICO violations.



## Swati Sharma

Associate Legal Counsel  
Adobe Inc. ; The ACLU of Utah;  
Women of the World

J.D., Brigham Young University School of Law  
B.A., Brigham Young University

An immigrant from Nepal, Swati is a US trained Attorney who received both her Juris Doctorate and Undergraduate degrees from Brigham Young University, Utah. She currently works on the Legal Team at Adobe. Inc. on the Enterprise Licensing Team, working on complex Contract negotiations, Privacy, Data Security, Corporate, and Product licensing issues.

Outside of work, Swati volunteers on the Board of various Organizations and Projects that promote equality, diversity and cultural awareness, such as the ACLU of Utah and Women of the World. Swati is an ardent promoter of Human Rights.



## Tala Amirfazli

Associate  
Burr & Forman LLP

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law  
B.S., University of Georgia

Tala is an Associate in the firm's General Commercial Litigation Practice Group where she specializes in business disputes and financial services litigation.

Tala also maintains an active pro bono practice through the firm's pro bono initiative with the Health Law Partnership ("HeLP"), an interdisciplinary community collaboration between the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and Georgia State University College of Law, through which she regularly assists families with ill and/or disabled children in obtaining guardianships over minors and incapacitated adults. Tala also founded Burr & Forman's partnership with Kids in Need of Defense ("KIND"), the leading organization providing assistance to the unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children who enter into the United States immigration system. With the help of volunteer attorneys, Burr helps ensure that the these children do not appear in immigration court without representation.



## Tariq Javed

Associate  
Perkins Coie LLP

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center  
M.S., The University of Pennsylvania  
B.S., Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology

**T**ariq Javed focuses his practice on patent litigation matters in district court, the International Trade Commission (ITC) and Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) proceedings for clients in the semiconductor materials and fabrication, computer/device hardware and software, medical devices, telecommunications, and network architecture, among others. He has experience in all facets of patent litigation, including claim construction, fact and expert discovery, pretrial motions, and trial.

Tariq maintains an active pro bono practice and has represented detained immigrants in removal proceedings. Prior to practicing law, Tariq was a senior engineer at Comcast NBCUniversal.



## TaRonda Randall

Associate  
Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC

J.D., University of Alabama School of Law  
B.A., University of Alabama at Birmingham

**T**aRonda Randall brings direct experience with Division I NCAA compliance issues to her institutional clients who seek to operate within all NCAA guidelines.

Through her work as an athletics compliance officer at two major NCAA Division I institutions, TaRonda gained first-hand experience in the complex issues these institutions face, including analyzing NCAA legislation, drafting and submitting waivers and Level III violations of NCAA bylaws, as well as assisting with infractions investigations. In addition, she completed the NCAA Postgraduate Internship Program at the NCAA National Office, where she gained valuable experience with the NCAA enforcement staff.

In 2016, she was named a "Rising Star" award recipient by Women Leaders in College Sports.

TaRonda graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where, as a women's basketball student-athlete, she served as a team captain and Vice-President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. During her time at UAB, she received the Conference USA Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, Conference USA Spirit of Service Award, Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medal, and Jim Castaneda Postgraduate Scholarship.



## Tasha Schwikert

Associate  
Munck Wilson Mandala LLP

J.D., University of Nevada Las Vegas -  
William S. Boyd School of Law  
B.A., University of California Los Angeles

**T**asha Schwikert is an associate in Munck Wilson Mandala's corporate practice. She supports the corporate team in various client matters, including her work on a complex company merger transaction that was over \$100 million in value. She also supports the firm's more recent growth area in commercial real estate transactions with purchase and sale transactions ranging from \$20 to \$60 million a month.

Tasha is involved in ongoing efforts to advocate for sexual assault victims in all 50 states. In May 2019, Tasha was instrumental in the effort to extend the Texas statute of limitations for child sexual abuse victims as a result of her testimony before the Texas Senate State Affairs Committee.

Tasha is a frequent speaker to youth groups and women's leadership organizations. She served as a panelist for the 2019 S.H.E. Summit Dallas that assembled more than 500 attendees focused on diversity and inclusion and she has presented at various diversity and inclusion forums throughout Dallas.



## Thomas Bullock

Associate  
Jenner & Block LLP

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

**M**r. Bullock received his JD from Harvard Law School in 2019. There, he served as Secretary for the Harvard Black Law Students Association. He also served as a student attorney in Harvard Defenders, obtaining dismissals for clients in show cause hearings, and Harvard's Criminal Justice Institute, winning his first jury trial and securing an acquittal for his client as a 3L. Mr. Bullock was recognized by the Harvard Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Program for completing 1,000 hours of pro bono service.



## Thomas Cordova

Associate  
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

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



Thomas focuses his practice on white collar criminal defense. His recent matters include conducting document review regarding complex medical issues and assisting in the preparation of clients to proffer to the Department of Justice; and conducting research regarding disclosure issues related to an internal investigation.

## Tiffany F. Boykin

Chief Compliance and Fair Practices  
Officer/Title IX Coordinator  
Anne Arundel Community College

J.D., University of Baltimore School of Law  
Ph.D., Morgan State University  
M.S., Towson University  
B.A., University of Maryland College Park



Tiffany F. Boykin has been appointed chief compliance and fair practices officer at Anne Arundel Community College. Most recently dean of student engagement at the college, Boykin holds a bachelor's in communication from the University of Maryland, College Park, a master's in communications management from Towson University, a Ph.D. in education from Morgan State University and a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

She also has been recognized recently as one of the "Diverse Top 35 Women in Higher Education" by Diverse: Issues In Higher Education.

## Tisidra Jones

Founder & CEO  
Strong & Starlike Consulting, Inc.

J.D., University of St. Thomas School  
of Law  
B.A., George Mason University



Tisidra is an award-winning artist and lawyer who works at the intersection of inclusion, engagement and equal opportunity policies. Her methodology blends legal and policy research, sociological studies, and arts-based approaches to community and civic engagement.

Tisidra has worked with nonprofits in the arts or those serving communities of color primarily when new programs were being launched or designed. On the public-sector side, she has worked with local, state, federal and international government entities. She acquired expertise as it relates to small, minority-owned, and women-owned business inclusion policies and programs.

Finding connections across sectors has been integral to the work that Tisidra has done. As a result, she has served on over 30 boards, advisory councils and community engagement committees across sectors. She has also curated cross-sector advisory committees for major initiatives.

While she is passionate about her work, in her spare time Tisidra loves being outdoors, enjoying Trinidadian food, and spending time with friends and family.

## Tophas Anderson IV

Associate  
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

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



Tophas Anderson IV is an associate in the Phoenix office of Lewis Brisbois and a member of the Medical Malpractice, Healthcare, and Long-Term Care & Elder Law Practices. He is known for his dedication and commitment to clients. He began his legal career as a prosecutor, and conducted more than 50 trials including 13 felony jury trials.

He is active in the community, previously serving on the Board of Directors of a local charity and he also spent several years as Chair of the State Bar of Arizona Civil Jury Instructions Committee. The Phoenix Business Journal recognized Tophas' professional accomplishments and community involvement by including him in the 2013 Forty under 40 class of business leaders.

Tophas has defended clients across numerous industries in matters ranging from medical malpractice, healthcare, personal injury, and employment. He works closely with clients to help them avoid legal pitfalls and when necessary, defends them in trial.

## Uchechi Egeonuigwe

Associate  
Brown Rudnick LLP

J.D., University of San Diego School of Law  
B.A., University of California, Riverside



Uchechi Egeonuigwe is an associate in Brown Rudnick's Bankruptcy and Corporate Restructuring group in the New York office. Ms. Egeonuigwe represents creditor groups, investors, equity holders, and individual borrowers in all aspects of restructuring stressed and distressed companies.

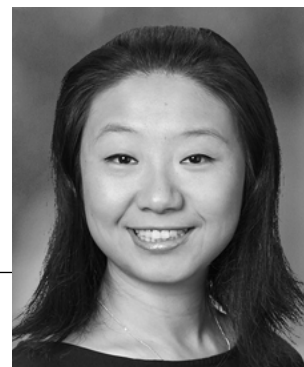
Ms. Egeonuigwe was honored by the Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm, with the William J. Lasarow Award. The National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges selected Ms. Egeonuigwe as a 2018 Presidential Fellow, which recognizes attorneys for their legal excellence in the practice of bankruptcy law, commitment to principles of civility, ethics, and professionalism, and commitment to the continued educational development of bankruptcy professionals.

Most recently, Ms. Egeonuigwe was selected as a Fellow for the New York City Bar Association's Associate Leadership Institute, an award-winning initiative geared toward assisting the advancement of diverse senior associates at major law firms. She was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America as "Ones to Watch" for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law in 2021.

## Yixin Gong

Associate  
White & Case LLP

LL.M., Stanford University School of Law  
LL.B., University of New South Wales  
B.Com., University of New South Wales



Yixin (Yish) Gong is an associate in the Silicon Valley office. She is a member of the Technology Transactions Practice and represents clients in technology and intellectual property matters.

Yish has extensive experience advising clients on IP and technology-related matters, particularly in connection with strategic collaborations, co-development arrangements, and patent and technology licensing agreements. She has represented clients in a wide variety of industries, including technology, fintech, entertainment, branded consumer goods, food and agribusiness, software, education and research & development.

Yish offers legal and commercial advice on commercial agreements, negotiating and drafting distribution agreements, joint-venture arrangements, IP licensing transactions, co-operation, research & development agreements, international trade agreements, and sponsorship and service agreements. She also has experience advising on the technology and IP aspects of M&A transactions and other commercial transactions. In 2017, she was awarded the Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 award in the Commercial category (awarded to the best young lawyers across Australia).

## Yousuf Ahmed

Associate  
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

J.D., University of Illinois College of Law  
B.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Yousuf concentrates his practice on preparing and prosecuting patent and trademark applications as well as counseling clients regarding pursuit of intellectual property. His duties encompass domestic, foreign, and international intellectual property matters.

Yousuf's technology practice includes work in the medical device, mechanical, and computer software fields. He has broad technical expertise with respect to various technologies, including minimally invasive cardiovascular instruments, joint replacement procedures, endoluminal stents, surgical catheters, heart valve systems, gastrointestinal devices, orthopedic fasteners, spinal distraction devices, surgical techniques, medical imaging systems, wearable and implantable health monitors, medical infusion devices, dental appliances, industrial fasteners, veterinary products, and horticultural systems.



Lawyers

o

f

Color

**HOT  
LIST  
2020**

**LAWYERS OF COLOR**

1629 K Street NW

Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

[lawyersofcolor.org](http://lawyersofcolor.org)