

2009 EVENT PROGRAM BOOKLET

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN OF COLOR ATTORNEYS IN LAW & BUSINESS, INC.



4TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE VISIBLY SUCCESSFUL

WELCOME RECEPTION
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

CONFERENCE DATES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 – THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009
THE RITZ-CARLTON, ATLANTA (DOWNTOWN)

DIAMOND SPONSOR



Curtis L. Mack, Esq.



Jacquelyn E. Stone, Esq.

March 3, 2009

2009 Leadership Institute Law School Scholarship

Dear Leadership Institute Participants:

McGuireWoods LLP is proud and honored to sponsor the 2009 Leadership Institute Law School Scholarship. Providing financial assistance to talented law students is of extreme importance to McGuireWoods, particularly in light of the shrinking number of diverse students graduating from law schools. At McGuireWoods, we take great pride in encouraging and supporting these talented women who are destined to become future leaders in the legal profession. We wish the scholarship recipients much success in their academic pursuits and future endeavors.

We applaud The Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys for presenting seminars to educate students on oratory skills, presenting a professional image and developing strategies for success in the classroom as they pursue their law degrees.

Congratulations to The Leadership Institute for bringing together outstanding panelists, moderators and presenters who will share important insights for those seeking to reach the pinnacles of the legal profession.

Best wishes for a successful conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Curtis L. Mack'.

Curtis L. Mack, Partner
McGuireWoods LLP
The Proscenium
1170 Peachtree Street N.E., Suite 2100
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-7649
404.443.5722
cmack@mcguirewoods.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacquelyn E. Stone'.

Jacquelyn E. Stone, Partner
Firmwide Hiring Partner
McGuireWoods LLP
One James Center
901 East Cary Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-4030
804.775.1046
jstone@mcguirewoods.com

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THE
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
FOR
WOMEN OF COLOR ATTORNEYS
IN LAW & BUSINESS, INC.

Our Mission

It is our mission to educate, mentor, inspire and network with women of color attorneys and businesswomen, as well as create a forum to teach mentoring and networking skills that are critical to our success in the business world.

This mission will be achieved during our annual events featuring the most prominent women of color attorneys and businesswomen in the United States.

The Leadership Institute also fuels the pipeline by funding scholarships to women of color law students in partnership with McGuireWoods. Our “Aspiring Lawyers’ Conference Track” session provides valuable instruction and training to prepare these students for law school.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

[Sponsors as of February 11, 2009]

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND FIRMS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN OF COLOR ATTORNEYS.

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[Official Scholarship Sponsor for 2008]

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FOUNDER'S WELCOME

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN OF COLOR ATTORNEYS IN LAW & BUSINESS, INC.

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E. JEWELLE JOHNSON, ESQ.

MICHELLE ROTHENBERG-WILLIAMS, ESQ.

March 3, 2009

Greetings!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our 4th annual Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys in Law & Business Conference!

What an amazing year this has been! We have just inaugurated our first African American President who has brought new energy to the White House and to the country.

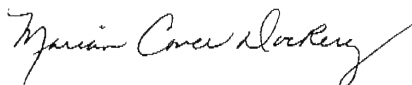
President Obama has appointed many women of color to key positions in his administration and had the support of these same women during his campaign.

Over the next two days, we will hear from women who are leaders in the Profession, including Michele Coleman Mayes, Vice-President and General Counsel, Allstate Insurance, Inc. our keynote scholarship luncheon speaker. We will also have "A Conversation and Tea with Cathy Hampton," a member of Obama's Finance Committee who left her position as general counsel and secretary of RARE Hospitality to join the campaign as a volunteer. Her interviewer will be Dr. Jane Smith, Executive Director, Leadership Center for Spelman College, who will talk to Cathy about her amazing career, her mentors and how her networking skills helped to propel her career.

We hope that you will take advantage of this conference's valuable resources, meet new attorneys, network with our speakers and gain valuable knowledge from the presentations over the next two days.

Please enjoy the conference and again, welcome!

Best regards,



Marian Cover Dockery, Esq.
President and CEO



Marian Cover Dockery, Esq.
Chair and Founder

VICE-PRESIDENT WELCOME

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN OF COLOR ATTORNEYS IN LAW & BUSINESS, INC.

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+MARCIA SPILLER

ANITA WALLACE THOMAS, ESQ.

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HALIMA HORTON, ESQ.

KEISHA HUDSON, ESQ.

E.JEWELLE JOHNSON, ESQ.

MICHELLE ROTHENBERG-WILLIAMS, ESQ.

March 3, 2009

We are delighted to have you with us at the Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys in Law and Business's Fourth Annual Conference.

Over the past three years, we have learned from many inspiring women of color including:

- Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court Leah Ward Sears
- TV personality Judge Glenda Hatchett
- Sachi Koto, former CNN anchor
- Teri Plummer McClure, General Counsel UPS

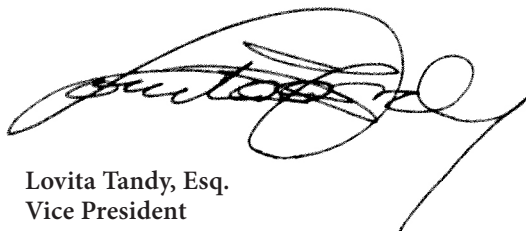
We have also learned from each other. Every year our conference presenters and participants grow more diverse and we strive to create more opportunities to deepen the bonds of sisterhood and support among the many women of color who have chosen a career in the law. This year, in response to your requests, we have added additional opportunities for you to spend time mentoring and getting to know each other.

We are delighted to have with us Arin Reeves and Paulette Brown who will provide us with an update on the ABA's Visible Invisibility report which served as the inspiration for our organization. Please review this important work and the follow-up piece *Visibly Successful*, issued in late 2008.

We hope that you will take the tools and guidance from this conference and continue along your own path to success in the legal profession. We also hope that you will use this time to offer wisdom, friendship, and/or support to another woman of color who is 10 years, 5 years or even 1 year behind you on the same path.

Again, welcome and make yourself at home.

Sincerely,



Lovita Tandy, Esq.
Vice President



Lovita Tandy, Esq.
Vice-President, LIWOCA

MAYOR'S WELCOME



Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta



CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

March 3, 2009

Greetings:

As Mayor of the City of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the *4th Annual Conference of The Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys in Law and Business*.

The Leadership Institute plays an integral role in educating, mentoring and inspiring women of color attorneys and law students to become leaders in their Profession. This year's program will present outstanding speakers who will explore strategies that you can adopt to become better at your craft as well as discuss the importance of giving back to one's community. We hope that your experience and discussions here will give you a renewed energy to excel in your Profession and reconfirm your unwavering commitment to your communities.

While in our city, we encourage you to explore the many attractions Atlanta has to offer including: the Martin L. King Jr. Center, the Apex Museum, Underground Atlanta, the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca-Cola, CNN Center, Centennial Olympic Park, Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Children's Museum of Atlanta and many more! We invite you to share in our southern hospitality, sample cuisine at our many fine restaurants and enjoy the rich and diverse heritage of our city.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I wish you an informative event!

Sincerely

Shirley Franklin

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Jeffrey O. Bramlett, Esq.
President of the
State Bar of Georgia

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA



Supporting Lawyers' Service to the Public and the Justice System

March 3, 2009

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the State Bar of Georgia and its 40,000 lawyers, I welcome each participant to the 4th Annual Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys in Law & Business, Inc.

We convene in interesting times. As we face together the challenges of economic contraction at home, warfare and military engagements abroad, and a profound crisis in confidence that has shaken the global economy to its foundations, the legal profession stands at a crossroads of opportunity. To address those challenges successfully, lawyers and businesspeople will be called upon to join with the public sector to bring the necessary skills, training, and experience to the task of finding consensual solutions. We will face these challenges most effectively if we are inclusive of diverse people, open to diverse ideas, and unified by our shared belief in equal treatment under the rule of law.

Inspired by the American Bar Association's Visible Invisibility report, this Conference has become an important gathering place for the networking, mentoring and encouragement that promotes our shared objectives of a diverse and inclusive society. The State Bar of Georgia is proud of the Leadership Institute's work, the generous support of the Conference's sponsors, and the leadership of Georgia lawyers in the Institute and in this Conference.

I hope you have a successful Conference and an enjoyable stay in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff', followed by a horizontal flourish.

Jeffrey O. Bramlett
President

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

March 3-5, 2009

4th Annual Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys in Law & Business, Inc.
The Ritz-Carlton Downtown • 181 Peachtree Street, NE • Atlanta, GA 30303



Welcome and Networking Reception

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

6:00 - 8:00 PM

The Georgian Room • The Ritz-Carlton Downtown

SUTHERLAND

Day Two General Session

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

7:30 AM - 4:45 PM

Continental Breakfast Sponsored By:
Sutherland

Ballroom Pre-Function Area
7:30 AM - 10:00 AM



McGuireWoods Scholarship Presentation

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Michele Coleman Mayes

2009 Law Student Scholarships Sponsored By: McGuireWoods LLP

2009 "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Awards



Luncheon Sponsored By:
DLA Piper US LLP

The Grand Ballroom



Reception

Sponsored By: Georgia-Pacific & Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Georgia-Pacific LLC • 51st Floor • 133 Peachtree St., NE



LexisNexis®

Day Three General Session

Thursday, March 5, 2009

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Networking/Mentoring Breakfast with a "Wrap"
Sponsored By: **LexisNexis**

The Grand Ballroom
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Networking Luncheon

Thursday, March 5, 2009

11:30 - 1:15 PM

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore

The Grand Ballroom

PROGRAM AGENDA

March 3-5, 2009

4th Annual Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys in Law & Business, Inc.

(8.0 Hours Regular CLE Credit, Including up to 3.0 Hours Professionalism Credit)

(All program events will take place in the Lower Level Grand Ballroom unless otherwise noted.)

Day One

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Welcome and Networking Reception
The Georgian Room • Ritz-Carlton Downtown

BAKER BOTTS LLP

Day Two

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

7:30 AM

Registration Opens

7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Continental Breakfast
Ballroom Pre-Function Area
Sponsored By: Sutherland

SUTHERLAND

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Welcome

Marian Cover Dockery, Esq.
President/CEO
Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES:

Randi Greene Chapman, Esq.

9:00 - 10:15 AM

(1.0 Hour CLE Credit,
Including 1.0 Hour
Professionalism Credit)

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

War Stories of Women of Color Equity Partners:
What Every Woman Must Know To Effectively Practice Law

Participants Will:

- Learn the value of understanding the intricacies and politics of their law offices
- Learn to navigate diversity issues in the law office
- Learn about law firm economics and the power of networking
- Learn to manage their careers to achieve personal and professional objectives

MODERATOR:

Philippa V. Ellis, Esq.
Partner
Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney, LLP
Atlanta, GA

SPEAKERS:

Sofia Adrogué, Esq..
Partner
Looper Reed & McGraw, P.C
Houston, TX

Holly Fujie, Esq.
Shareholder, Buchalter Nemer, P.L.C.
Los Angeles, CA
and President, State Bar of California

Sharon Y. Bowen, Esq.
Partner
Latham & Watkins, LLP
New York, NY

Mary B. Richardson-Lowry, Esq.
Partner
Mayer Brown JSM LLP
Chicago, IL

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

10:15 - 11:30 AM
(1.3 Hours
Regular CLE Credit,
Including 1.0 Hour
Professionalism Credit)

OWEN, GLEATON, EGAN,
JONES & SWEENEY, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CONCURRENT MORNING BREAKOUT MENTORING SESSIONS:

[Ballroom Salons 1 & 2]

Session #1

Strategies To Secure and Nurture Successful Mentoring Relationships in a Law Firm

Participants Will:

- Learn how to internally network and identify potentially successful mentoring relationships
- Learn strategies for overcoming barriers to successful networking and mentoring
- Learn how to nurture and make a mentoring relationship mutually beneficial to mentor and mentee
- Learn how to use mentoring relationships to advance their legal skills and careers

MODERATOR:

Angela Payne-James, Esq.

Partner

Alston & Bird LLP

Atlanta, GA

SPEAKERS:

Lisa E. Chang, Esq.

Dekalb County Attorney

Decatur, GA

Allegra Lawrence-Hardy, Esq.

Partner

Sutherland

Atlanta, GA

Leslie D. Davis, Esq.,

Partner

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Chicago, IL

Cristina Espinosa Rodriguez, Esq.

Partner

Baker Botts LLP

Houston, TX

CONCURRENT MORNING BREAKOUT MENTORING SESSIONS:

[Ballroom Salons 3 & 4]

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Session #2

Launching Your Own Practice: A Super Mentor Gives Invaluable Advice

Participants Will:

- Learn to evaluate whether solo practice is a good choice for them and to identify the "right time" to launch a solo practice
- Learn to secure the resources necessary to successfully manage a solo practice
- Learn to foster referral networks and the unique challenges of marketing a solo practice

SPEAKER:

S. Raye Mitchell, Esq.

The Mitchell Law Group, P.C.

Oakland, CA

The Mitchell Law Corporation
A Professional Corporation

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

10:15 - 11:30 AM

ALSTON
+ BIRD_{LLP}

CONCURRENT MORNING BREAKOUT MENTORING SESSIONS:

[The Georgian Room]

Session #3

The Superjugglers: Writing A Book, Practicing Law and Juggling Personal Responsibilities

Participants Will:

- Learn to prioritize tasks to effectively manage deadlines and to navigate conflicting and/or overlapping demands from partners or clients
- Learn to create time for book writing and other personal interests
- Learn to say “no” without making enemies

MODERATOR:

Lea Ann Souza-Rasile, Esq.

Partner

Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

Miami, FL

PANELISTS:

Chrisna D. Jones, Esq.

Partner

Devlin & Robinson P.C.

Atlanta, GA

Pamela Samuels-Young, Esq.

Managing Counsel,

Labor & Employment Law

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.

Torrance, CA

Altomease R. Kennedy, Esq.

Of Counsel

Ashcraft & Gerel LLP

Washington, DC

Judge Gail Tusan Washington

Superior Court of Fulton County

Atlanta, GA

10:15 - 11:30 AM

CONCURRENT MORNING BREAKOUT MENTORING SESSIONS:

[The Congress Room (3rd Floor)]

Session #4

Confronting The Challenges and Embracing The Transition of Moving From Government To Private Practice

Participants Will:

- Learn to evaluate whether their unique skills are best suited for government or private practice
- Learn the “best,” “worst,” and “most surprising” aspects of transition from government to private practice
- Learn how to identify an appropriate avenue for launching a career in private practice
- Learn to effectively leverage existing relationships to build their career in private practice

MODERATOR:

Singleton B. McAllister, Esq.

Partner

LeClair Ryan

Washington, DC

PROGRAM AGENDA

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

PRESENTERS:

Antoinette Cook Bush, Esq.
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meager
& Flohm & Affiliates LLP
Washington, DC

Leslie T. Thornton, Esq.
Partner
Dickstein Shapiro LLP
Washington, DC

D. Billye Sanders, Esq.
Partner
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, PLLC
Nashville, TN

Carol Hawkins, Esq.
Asst. Manager, HR, E/SE Regions
Nippon Express USA, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM
(No CLE Credit)

MCGUIRE WOODS SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON:
Presentation of Scholarships to Law Students
2009 Breaking The Glass Ceiling Awards Presentation
Sponsored By: DLA Piper US LLP

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Fred McClure or DLA Piper Representative



KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Michele Coleman Mays
Executive Vice-President & General Counsel
Allstate Insurance Company
Chicago, IL



1:45 PM – 3:00 PM
(1.3 Hours
Regular CLE Credit,
Including 1.0 Hour
Professionalism Credit)

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSIONS

Visibly Successful: Our Progress, Our Challenges, Our Future

Participants Will:

The panelists will tackle the issues and challenges of women of color attorneys raised by this seminal ABA report; the progress made since the report was written and outline strategies for women of color attorneys to overcome those obstacles and succeed in their law offices.

SPEAKERS:

Arin N. Reeves, J.D., Ph.D
The Athens Group
Chicago, IL

Paulette Brown, Esq.
Partner
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP
Madison, NJ

The Athens Group

3:00 – 3:30 PM

NETWORKING AND MENTORING BREAK
Ballroom Pre-Function Area

Sponsored By: Coca-Cola Enterprises

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

3:30 – 4:45 PM

The Six Figure Trap: How To Keep Your Financial Health, Plan For Retirement and Keep Your Options Open

SPEAKER:

Maceo S. Sloan, Jr., Financial Advisor, SMITH BARNEY, Atlanta, GA

PROGRAM AGENDA

Thursday, March 5, 2009

(No CLE Credit)

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Reception

Sponsored By: Georgia-Pacific & Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Georgia-Pacific Center • 51st Floor • 133 Peachtree Street, NE • Atlanta, GA



Nelson
Mullins

Day Three

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

(No CLE Credit)

NETWORKING/MENTORING BREAKFAST WITH A “WRAP”

The Grand Ballroom

Sponsored By: LexisNexis



Remarks by LexisNexis

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

[The Congress Room (3rd Floor)]

10:15–11:30 AM

(1.3 Hours Regular
CLE Credit)

Session #1

Business Development: An Insider’s Guide To Rainmaking and
The Key To Partnership Status

Participants Will:

- Learn how corporations evaluate and award business
- Learn how to gear their practice and professional development to optimize their success at business development
- Learn to identify potential business contacts and to use nonlegal interests to network and develop business
- Learn what makes a pitch memorable and how to “seal the deal”

MODERATOR:

Anita Wallace Thomas, Esq.

Partner

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Atlanta, GA

PANELISTS:

Carolina Brok-Perez, Esq.

General Counsel

Kemira North America
Kennesaw, GA

Lisa Kobialka, Esq.

Partner

King & Spalding LLP
Redwood Shores, CA

Fredrick H.L. McClure, Esq.

Partner

DLA Piper USA LLP
Tampa, FL

Alison R. Nelson, Esq.

Managing Counsel

Ford Motor Company
Dearborn, MI



Thursday, March 5, 2009

10:15–11:30 AM

MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS: [The Georgian Room]

Session#2

The Role Of The Corporate Attorney: Going In-House and Finding Your Niche In The Corporate World

Participants Will:

- Learn to evaluate whether and when an in-house practice is right for them and to identify in-house opportunities
- Learn the duties and responsibilities of in-house counsel and how they advance the mission of their internal clients
- Learn to effectively identify business drivers in the in-house legal setting

MODERATOR:

Horace G. Dawson III, Esq.

Vice President and Division General Counsel
Darden Restaurants
Orlando, FL

PANELISTS:

Maureen Sutton-Hernandez, Esq.

AT&T Advertising Solutions
Tucker, GA

Sandra Mulrain, Esq.

Division Counsel
Georgia-Pacific
Atlanta, GA

Valencia Porter, Esq.

VP/Employment
Waffle House, Inc.
Norcross, GA

Noni Ellison-Southall, Esq.

Senior Counsel
Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.
Atlanta, GA



10:15–11:30 AM

MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

[The Cabinet/Caucus Room (3rd Floor)]

Session #3

Maximizing Your Law Degree In Non-traditional Employment Settings

Participants Will:

- Learn to identify nontraditional employment opportunities
- Learn how to make short and long-term career plans and decisions
- Learn to maximize the value of a law degree in a non-legal or quasi-legal environment

MODERATOR:

Margaret Reeves Lottimore, Esq.

Senior Claims Analyst
XL Insurance (Bermuda) Ltd.
Hamilton, Bermuda

PANELISTS:

Denise Cleveland-Leggett, Esq.

Of Counsel, Baudino Law Group, PLC
Atlanta, GA

Alexandrina H. Douglass Robinson, Esq.

SVP, Head of Procurement
ING America
Atlanta, GA

Valerie A. Jackson, Esq.

Director of Diversity
Sutherland
Washington, DC

Natalia Martín, Esq.

Director of Diversity
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP



BALCH & BINGHAM LLP

Thursday, March 5, 2009

11:30 AM – 1:15 PM

LUNCHEON

The Grand Ballroom

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore
United States District Judge
Southern District of Texas
Houston, TX

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

(1.3 Hours Regular
CLE Credit)



AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

[The Congress Room (3rd Floor)]

Session #1

Recognizing and Managing The Health Hazards Of Practicing Law: Guidelines For Women of Color

Participants Will:

- Learn how to identify and manage stress in the law office to avoid burnout
- Learn the value of preventative health
- Learn effective habits to promote wellness

MODERATOR:

Debra C. Carlton, M.D.
Associate Medical Director of Clinical Affairs
Kaiser Permanente of Georgia
Atlanta, GA

PANELISTS:

Sandra A. Maass-Robinson, M.D.
Psychiatrist
Atlanta, GA

Simone S. Whitmore, M.D.
OB/GYN
North Perimeter OB/GYN
Duluth, GA

Kofi Konwandi, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor Community Health and
Preventive Medicine, Global Health Task Force
Chair, Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Karen W. Neely, Esq.
Breast Cancer Survivor
Founder of Triple Pink

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

[The Cabinet/Caucus Room (3rd Floor)]

Session #2

My Leadership Scorecard: Leveraging Strengths and Working Around Challenge Areas for Peak Performance

Participants Will:

- Learn to master the art of the first impression in personal presentation, communication and body language
- Learn appropriate business etiquette for common situations
- Learn ten tips for getting to the top of their game

PRESENTER:

Patricia Hayling Price
Exceednow LLC
New York, NY

Thursday, March 5, 2009

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM



SALLY WILLIAMSON AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

[The Georgian Room (3rd Floor)]

Session #3

Communications: Effective Advocacy and Public Speaking

Participants Will:

- Learn tips on effective oral and legal advocacy
- Learn the do's and don'ts for public speaking
- Learn informal presentation techniques

MODERATOR:

Sally Williamson

Sally Williamson & Associates, Inc.

Atlanta, GA

2:45 PM – 4:30 PM

(1.8 Hours Regular
CLE Credit)



Leading Women, Leading Change

A Conversation and Tea with Cathy Hampton...

A Year on the Obama Campaign Trail

INTERVIEWER:

Dr. Jane Smith, Ed.D.

Executive Director

Leadership Center of Spelman College

Atlanta, GA

SPEAKER:

Cathy Hampton, Esq.

Former Member of the

Obama Finance Committee,

Former General Counsel of Rare Hospitality, Inc.

ADJOURN

ASPIRING LAWYERS TRACK

All sessions held in
The Charter Room
3rd Floor
Ritz Carlton (Downtown)

Sponsored By: **KING & SPALDING**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

**I. THE ART OF COMMUNICATING:
A CRITICAL SKILL NEEDED IN LAW SCHOOL**

Avarita Hanson
Executive Director
Chief Justice
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta, GA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

II. FINANCING YOUR LAW SCHOOL EDUCATION

Marilyn Sutton, Esq.
Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid
Mercer University School of Law
Macon, GA

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

**III. THE 4 LEVELS TO EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS:
PERFORMANCE, PROFESSIONALISM, PRESCENCE & PERCEPTION**

Patricia Hayling Price
EXCEEDNOW
New York, NY

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

IV. THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS IN LAW SCHOOL

Bernadette Hartfield, J.D.
Associate Professor
Georgia State University College of Law
Atlanta, GA

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

4:45 PM - 5:45 PM

**V. STRATEGIES TO LAND A LAW FIRM POSITION:
TIPS FOR LAW STUDENTS WHEN INTERVIEWING WITH FIRMS**

E. Jewelle Johnson
Partner
Fisher & Phillips
Atlanta, GA

Joy Lampley
Assistant Chief Counsel
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Atlanta, GA

Charlotte Combre
Partner
McKenna Long Aldridge
Atlanta, GA

Tacita Mikel Scott
Partner
Adorno & Yoss
Atlanta, GA

CHAIRWOMAN BIO



Marian Cover Dockery, Esq.

President and Founder

Executive Director

State Bar of Georgia Diversity Program
Atlanta, GA

Marian Cover Dockery is the Chair and Founder of The Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys, Inc.

Professionally, Ms. Dockery is the executive director of the State Bar of Georgia Diversity Program where she leads the Bar in designing programs to promote diversity among its members. Ms. Dockery specializes in employment discrimination, sexual harassment, labor relations and diversity issues. Additionally, Ms. Dockery serves on the arbitration panel for the FNRA. Prior to her current positions, Ms. Dockery practiced at the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education (Atlanta) as a Senior Attorney and was an Adjunct Professor at the John Marshall School of Law.

Before moving to Atlanta, Ms. Dockery held several positions including Trial Attorney at the EEOC, and as in-house counsel at FEDEX Corporation in Memphis, TN where she was the first woman and first minority in the Legal Department. Additionally, Ms. Dockery worked in Cleveland, OH at BP Oil (The Standard Oil Company) as Corporate EEO/AA Manager, the first African-American woman to serve in an executive management position at the company. While at BP Oil, Ms. Dockery completed the Executive Management Program at the University of New Hampshire.

Ms. Dockery is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Her professional activities include the American Bar and National Bar Associations, the Gate City Bar, Georgia Association of Women Lawyers (GAWL) and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA).

Currently, Ms. Dockery is a trustee on the Shepherd Foundation Board where she serves on the Community Relations Committee. Ms. Dockery is also a member of the Mount Holyoke College "2010 Legacy Campaign for Diversity" Committee. For eight years, Ms. Dockery was a member of the Pace Academy Board of Trustees where she chaired the Communications Committee. Ms. Dockery has also served on the following Boards: The Theatrical Outfit (Atlanta), The Executive Board of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. (Atlanta), where she served as Teen Co-Sponsor for two years, the Equal Employment Advisory Council (Washington, DC) where she represented BP Oil, the Cleveland Urban League, and the Memphis Gallery of Art.

Ms. Dockery received her B.A. in Political Science and History from Mount Holyoke College where she was Sophomore Class President and her J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law where she was an Earl Warren Fellow, a member of the Moot Court Board and Honor Council and named Outstanding Oralist, Appellate Argument I.

She is married to Keith M. Dockery, M.D. They have two children, Stephanie, who is currently pursuing her Masters in Art Business, Sotheby's Institute of Art-Singapore and Todd, a senior at Northwestern University.

VICE-CHAIR BIO



Lovita Tandy, Esq.
Vice-President
Partner
King & Spalding, LLP
Atlanta, GA

Lovita Tandy is a partner in King & Spalding's Business Litigation Practice Group and she focuses on labor and employment law and complex commercial disputes. She also Chairs the firm's Diversity Committee and provides diversity-related legal services to law firms, other professional services firms and corporations. She has been named a "Georgia Rising Star" in Civil Litigation and Labor & Employment by *Atlanta Magazine* and *Law & Politics* from 2005 to the present and was one of ten lawyers profiled in the magazine's 2006 edition. She was named one of Atlanta's "Up and Comers" by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in 2004 and has appeared in *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*. She speaks frequently on substantive labor and employment law issues as well as issues related to diversity in law firms.

Ms. Tandy's employment and diversity related experience includes: conducting high-level internal investigations, providing employment related training to corporations and high-level executives, strategic diversity counseling, ensuring wage-and-hour compliance, and structuring reductions-in-force. She has defended dozens of employment discrimination and/or retaliation claims involving federal and state anti-discrimination laws, whistleblower laws and the FLSA. She regularly represents unionized employers in collective bargaining negotiations, board proceedings and arbitrations. She has also prosecuted and defended multiple trade-secret and restrictive covenant matters.

She is a graduate of Harvard University and Duke School of Law. She is the current Vice President of the Leadership Institute for Women of Color in Law and Business, Inc. and the current Vice President of the Association of Legal Diversity Professionals. Prior civic and charitable contributions include: Board Member Sheltering Arms for Children, Grady Hospital Board of Visitors and Vice President of the Atlanta Anti-Prejudice Consortium.

DAY ONE: LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Michele Coleman Mayes
Exec. VP & GC
Allstate Insurance Company
Chicago, IL

After leaving the illustrious campus of the University of Michigan Law School, Michele Coleman Mayes embarked upon a journey that would undeniably impress all who encounter her. She began her legal career in the United States Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney first in Detroit, Michigan and then in Brooklyn, New York. From there she became Chief of the Civil Division in Detroit. In 1982, Ms. Mayes decided to enter the corporate sector as the Managing Attorney of the Burroughs Corporation. After a merge between Burroughs and Sperry Corporations, Ms. Mayes was appointed as Staff Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Worldwide Litigation of the new corporation—Unisys.

In February 1992, Ms. Mayes went on to join the Colgate-Palmolive Company as Vice President and Associate General Counsel U.S. In 1993 as recognition for her hard work, Ms. Mayes was promoted to Vice President of Human Resources and Legal for North America. From there Ms. Mayes trail blazed her way through the company and became the Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary.

As distinguished as Ms. Mayes had already proven to be, she refused to allow her accomplishments to end there. In February, 2003, Ms. Mayes assumed the position of Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Pitney Bowes. In that capacity, Ms Mayes is responsible for handling the legal affairs of the company, while overseeing the Company's Government Affairs group, the Office of the Corporate Secretary, and its Corporate Governance function, which includes Environmental Health and Safety and Corporate Compliance and Integrity Affairs. While at Pitney Bowes, Ms. Mayes has made it her personal mission to address the diversity commitment of the Company's outside law firms.

In September, 2007, Ms. Mayes was named Vice President and General Counsel of Allstate Corporation where she leads Allstate's Law and Regulation Department and plays an integral role in guiding Allstate's business strategy. Ms Mayes also directs all of the corporation's legal and public policy activities and serves as a member of the senior management team reporting to Allstate's president and CEO, Thomas J. Wilson.

Known for her tenacious spirit, charismatic charm, and commitment to excellence, it is beyond a shadow of doubt that Ms. Mayes is the woman who will get the job done. With her vow to push diversity efforts to new heights, Michele Coleman Mayes is the epitome of what success after Michigan Law School is all about.

DAY TWO: LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore
United States District Judge
Southern District of Texas
Houston, TX

In 1994 when **Judge Vanessa Diane Gilmore** was sworn in, she was then the youngest sitting federal judge in the nation. The native of Silver Spring, Maryland was also the youngest member of her freshman class at her alma mater, Hampton University. Gilmore decided to undertake a career in law after she represented herself and won a minor civil lawsuit. She graduated from the University of Houston Law Center in 1981.

In 1982, Gilmore began a 13-year tenure at a Houston law firm that later became known as Vickery, Kilbride, Gilmore & Vickery. There she specialized in civil litigation. Gilmore became an active member of the Houston civic community, serving on the boards of a number of organizations including the YWCA, Child Advocates, End Hunger Network and the Houston Ballet. She also became involved in the Texas political arena while serving as counsel and teacher in the area of election law.

Her civic activities outside of the courtroom brought her to the attention of Governor Ann Richards who in 1991 appointed Gilmore to the Texas Department of Commerce Policy Board, where she also served as chairperson from 1992 to 1994. Her appointment to that board made Judge Gilmore the first African-American to serve on this board responsible for increasing business, tourism, and job training development in Texas. In 1993, she also served as chairperson of Texans for NAFTA. In this capacity, she worked regularly with diplomatic leaders, including the President of Mexico, to increase U.S. trade opportunities. Judge Gilmore was nominated to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton in 1994 and became the first University of Houston graduate to be appointed to the Federal bench. She is a sought after lecturer and speaker and has published noteworthy opinions on patients' rights, copyright and patent law and the first amendment. She serves on the board and advisory boards of a number of charitable organizations including the Houston Zoo, San Jacinto Girl Scouts, Spaulding for Children and Habitat for Humanity, and on the Board of Trustees for Hampton University. She is the recipient of numerous civic awards for community service and is a member of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, the Missouri City Chapter of Links and Jack & Jill of America, Houston Chapter. She has co-authored a book for the children of incarcerated parents and is currently at work on three books related to adoption including a children's book. She is the proud mother of one son.



Jane E. Smith, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Spelman College Center for
Leadership & Civic Engagement
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Jane E. Smith is Executive Director of the Spelman College Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (LEADS). The mission of LEADS is to develop and teach a leadership model based on the experiences of African-American women leaders. This model, Engaged Leadership, requires intellectual, personal and community involvement in activities that improve the quality of life for women, men and children.

Dr. Smith began her professional career in 1975 at Spelman College where she served as Assistant to the President. From 1981 to 1990, she was the Managing Director of INROADS, Inc., responsible for corporate placements for college interns. In 1991, Mrs. Coretta Scott King invited Dr. Smith to serve as Director of Development at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. From 1994 to 1998, she directed the award-winning Atlanta Project at The Carter Center. In this capacity, she reported to former President Jimmy Carter. From 1998-2001, Dr. Smith was President and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women, founded by noted educator and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune. Prior to rejoining Spelman College in 2004, Dr. Smith was CEO of Business and Professional Women/USA, a national membership organization that promotes equity for all women in the workplace.

Today, in addition to her work as Executive Director of LEADS, Dr. Smith is a member of boards for the following: American Institute for Public Service, "To The Contrary," a nationally syndicated television program, the Women's Leadership Exchange and the United States Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Smith was appointed by former President William Clinton to the National Women's Business Council and by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the United Nations Beijing Plus Five Conference delegation. She has served as a member of the National Judging Panel for the National Women's Hall of Fame Inductees, the US Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, a Trustee of the University of the District of Columbia and a judge for Lifetime Television's Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Dr. Smith holds a Doctorate of Education in Social Policy Analysis from Harvard University, a Masters in Sociology from Emory University, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Spelman College, and honorary doctorates from Spelman College and Texas College. She has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Emory University Alumni Medal, the American Association of University Women's Woman of Distinction Award, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Roy Wilkins Award, and the Johnnetta B. Cole Spelman College Alumnae Achievement Award.

Dr. Smith has two sons and four grandchildren.

GUEST SPEAKER: A CONVERSATION WITH...



Cathy Hampton, Esq.

Former Member of the
Obama Finance Committee,
Former General Counsel of
Rare Hospitality, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Cathy Hampton began her legal career as an associate with the New York law firm of Shearman and Sterling after graduating from Spelman College and Harvard Law School. Cathy practiced corporate securities and international finance law at Shearman and then marketing, advertising and general corporate law at the National Basketball Association. She later served as Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for EarthLink, Inc. and General Counsel and Secretary for EarthLink's PeoplePC subsidiary.

Cathy's most recent legal role was General Counsel and Secretary at RARE Hospitality International, Inc. Her responsibilities included corporate governance, securities, general corporate, intellectual property, compliance, real estate, marketing, employment and litigation matters for RARE and its 20,000 employees.

After leading the disposition and transition of RARE to Darden Restaurants, Cathy joined Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign as a full-time volunteer in January 2008. She trained voter protection volunteers, advised on faith-based initiatives and led voter registration, community outreach and canvassing efforts, in addition to her fundraising efforts as a member of the campaign's National Finance Committee.

Cathy has been a frequent speaker and author for continuing legal education seminars and publications. She is a member of the Bar in Georgia, New York and the District of Columbia. Her professional affiliations include the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys. She has served on the boards of Youth Communication and the Women's Resource Center, chaired the Atlanta Black/Jewish Coalition's Project Understanding Retreat, and chaired the Atlanta Women's Foundation Economics Justice Program. Cathy is a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2003, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Cascade United Methodist Church. She was named a "Young Leader to Watch" by *Ebony* magazine and mentors students across the country.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Sofia Adrogué, Esq.
Partner
Looper Reed & McGraw, P.C.
Houston, TX

Sofia Adrogué, is a Partner of the Firm of Looper, Reed & McGraw. *Texas Monthly Magazine* and *Law & Politics Magazine* as well as the *Super Lawyers* Corporate Counsel Edition have recognized her as a “Texas Super Lawyer,” and *Texas Lawyer* has profiled her as one of Texas’ Lawyers Top “40 Under 40.” She is a Texas Executive Women “Woman on the Move,” one of Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women, *Houston Women Magazine*, a *Houston Chronicle* Channel 11 “Texas Legend,” an ABC Channel 13 “Woman of Distinction,” a *Hispanic Business Magazine* “Elite Woman,” a *Houston Jaycees* “Outstanding Houstonian,” a *Texas Jaycees* “Outstanding Texan,” and a U.S. Jaycees “Outstanding Young American.”

Sofia is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Owner/President Management (OPM) Program and an Alumna of the Harvard Business School. She was elected as the U.S. Keynote Graduation Speaker for HBS OPM 37, ostensibly the first woman in the history of OPM, as well as the U.S. Class Representative. She received her undergraduate degree from Rice University, *magna cum laude*, where she was a member of *Phi Beta Kappa* and her law degree from the University of Houston Law Center, *magna cum laude*, both while on full academic scholarships.

Actively involved in business litigation and consultation as well as ADR, she is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory and a member of Who’s Who in American Law and Who’s Who of American Women. She is a frequent CLE speaker (over 100 to date) and publisher (over 60 to date) on topics such as business torts, managing complex litigation, experts, mass torts class actions and ethics as well as healthcare peer review.

The proud mother of Sloane (13), Schuyler (8) and Stefan (5), Sofia has been recognized for her public service by the City of Houston with a proclamation of July 4, 2004 as “Sofia Adrogué Day.”



Sharon Y. Bowen, Esq.
Partner
Latham & Watkins LLP
New York, NY

Sharon Y. Bowen is a partner in the New York office of Latham & Watkins and is a member of the firm’s Corporate Department where she represents corporations, private equity firms, financial and institutional clients on a broad range of corporate, finance and securities transactions, private equity, strategic alliances, securities offerings, corporate restructurings, distressed debt and asset acquisitions and venture capital financings.

Ms. Bowen is the Co-Chair of the firm’s Diversity Committee and Chair of the firm’s Diversity Hiring Subcommittee. Ms. Bowen was recognized by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association as its 2006 “Lawyer of the Year” and has been named the New York City Bar Association’s 2007 Diversity Champion. She has also been selected as one of America’s top Black lawyers by *Black Enterprise*. *The Network Journal* profiled Ms. Bowen in its 2006 cover story and in a 2005 article describing her efforts to promote diversity, and *Multicultural Law Magazine* noted that Ms. Bowen was “part of a diversity momentum within the firm and the legal community.” Most recently, Ms. Bowen was selected to be a member of the 2008 DirectWomen Board Institute, a collaboration between Catalyst and the ABA Section of Business Law designed to develop and support the placement of women lawyers on corporate boards of major public companies.

Ms. Bowen also serves as a member of the board of directors of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc., the New York City Economic Development Corporation (Executive Committee), Northwestern Law School (First Vice Chair, Executive Committee and Executive Committee of the Fund Board), PENCIL and UrbanAmerica, Inc.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Paulette Brown, Esq.
Partner
Edwards Angell Palmer &
Dodge LLP
Short Hills, NJ

Paulette Brown is a partner at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, a member of the Labor & Employment Group and the Firm's first chief diversity officer. Throughout her career of practicing in excess of 30 years, Paulette has held a number of positions, including in house counsel to a number of Fortune 500 companies and as a municipal court judge. She has litigated a variety of employment matters, including, but not limited to, class actions, sexual harassment, marital status, WARN, race and age discrimination and issues pertaining to FMLA. Paulette is also experienced in all aspects of workplace training and collective bargaining.

She is a certified mediator for the United States District Court, District of New Jersey and serves as Secretary of Committee of the Labor and Employment Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Paulette has been recognized by the *New Jersey Law Journal* as one of the prominent women and minority attorneys in the State of New Jersey.

One of Paulette's proudest moments was when she led a delegation to monitor the first free and democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. Paulette is a past president of the National Bar Association and the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey. She serves on the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession and co-chaired the report, *Visible Invisibility: Women of Color In Law Firms*.

As a result of her charitable efforts and work with various bar associations, Paulette has received numerous awards, including: the Medal of Honor Award from the New Jersey Bar Foundation, the Equal Justice Award from the National Bar Association, and the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism. In February, 2007, she received the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award and in May, 2007, Paulette received the NJ NAACP's Trailblazer Award.



Antoinette Cook Bush, Esq.
Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate,
Meagher & Flom LLP
Washington, DC

Antoinette Cook Bush is a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, where she heads the Communications Group. Ms. Bush represents companies in administrative, legislative and transactional matters involving communications issues. Specifically, her clients include: Border Media, Viacom, News Corp., Inner City Broadcasting, Association for Maximum Service Television, and Virgin Mobile.

Ms. Bush also serves on Skadden's Diversity and Hiring Committees.

Ms. Bush was Executive Vice President of Northpoint Technology Ltd. and Broadwave USA, Inc. from 2000 to 2003, where she oversaw the legal, regulatory, legislative and business development aspects of Northpoint operations.

Prior to joining Skadden, Arps in 1993, Ms. Bush served as senior counsel to the Communications Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

Ms. Bush is a graduate of Wellesley College, Northwestern University Law School and serves on the Boards of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, The HistoryMakers, and Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Debra G. Carlton, M.D.
Associate Medical Director
of Clinical Affairs,
Kaiser Permanente
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Debra G. Carlton is an internal medicine physician and the Associate Medical Director of Clinical Affairs with Kaiser Permanente in Atlanta, GA. In that role, she directs the Quality, Patient Safety, Prevention and Health Promotion, Population-Based Care and Medical Informatics Programs. Dr. Carlton is a member of the Board of Directors of the Kaiser Permanente National Care Management Institute and has also served on the Kaiser Permanente National Care Experience Council charged with identifying the components of a superior care experience in the minds of members. Dr. Carlton was named “Physician of the Year” by Kaiser Permanente in 1998 and Administrative Physician of the Year in 2005. Her achievements have been highlighted in *The Atlanta Business Chronicle* and *The Group Practice Journal of the American Medical Group Association*.

Dr. Carlton received her B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Life Sciences and her M.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Carlton is board certified in Internal Medicine.

She is married to William Craven, M.D. and they have three daughters, Moriah, a T.V. producer in Louisville, KY; Morgan, a graduate of Stanford and 1L at Harvard Law School and Meredith, a junior at Williams College.



Lisa E. Chang, Esq.
DeKalb County Attorney
DeKalb County Law Department
Decatur, GA

Lisa Chang was confirmed as DeKalb County Attorney by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners on January 12, 2009, after being nominated for the position by DeKalb County’s new Chief Executive Officer, Burrell Ellis. Lisa started in her new position as DeKalb’s Chief Legal Officer on January 26, 2009.

Prior to becoming County Attorney, Lisa had a solo practice in Decatur that focused on employment law, and she handled some commercial litigation. Lisa was Counsel with the Atlanta office of Jones Day from 1997 to 2005, where she successfully defended employers in individual and class action employment lawsuits throughout the southeast. Lisa was identified as “the best of the best” employment lawyers in “Cutting-Edge Labor and Employment Practitioners,” an article published in the January-February 2006 issue of *Diversity & The Bar*.

Among other activities, Lisa is a vice president and board member of the Georgia Legal Services Program; past chair and current board member of the Labor & Employment Section of the Atlanta Bar Association; a past president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; and, a member of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Paralegals.

Lisa clerked for the Honorable James S. Holden, United States District Court for the District of Vermont. She is a Harlan Fiske Stone graduate of the Columbia University School of Law, class of 1986, and a graduate *cum laude* of Amherst College, class of 1982.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Charlotte A. Combre, Esq.
Partner
McKenna Long & Aldridge
Atlanta, GA

Charlotte A. Combre concentrates her practice in the area of health care law, including regulatory and litigation matters. Charlotte's practice includes advising and representing healthcare facilities before state administrative agencies on certificates of need matters and Medicaid claims reimbursement. In addition, she regularly advises health care organizations on tax exempt compliance matters, licensure, certification and accreditation, health care compliance, physician contracting, managed care contracting and clinical research issues. Charlotte's experience includes review of records retention policies and schedules, and corporate restructuring and governance.

Charlotte is a regular speaker on certificate of need and licensure of health care facilities. She has also spoken at various seminars on the retention and confidentiality of medical records as well as institutional review board matters.

Charlotte has been selected as a 2005 and 2006 *Georgia Super Lawyers'* Rising Star.



Leslie D. Davis, Esq.
Partner
Sonnenschein Nath
& Rosenthal LLP
Chicago, IL

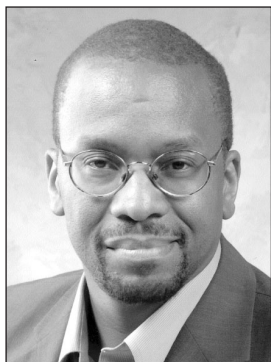
Leslie Davis' practice is concentrated in complex commercial litigation, tort litigation, and Media/First Amendment cases. She represents major corporations and institutions in a wide range of matters, including commercial contract and lease disputes, products liability, fraud claims, and insurance defense and coverage.

Ms. Davis is an experienced trial lawyer who has been the lead counsel for numerous jury trials, bench trials and mandatory arbitrations. She successfully co-defended a major corporation, an insurance company and a medical school in jury trials with multi-million dollar exposure. In addition to her numerous trial victories, she has an extensive background in resolving cases in State and Federal Court in Illinois and other states through dispositive motions and negotiating favorable settlements.

Ms. Davis has served as an adjunct professor at Roosevelt University and John Marshall Law School. She is a member of Sonnenschein's firm-wide Diversity Committee and is active in many bar associations and civic activities. She was named to the Illinois 40 Attorneys Under 40 to Watch in the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* in 2001 and is a member of the Board of Directors for Legacy Charter School and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Ms. Davis is admitted to practice in both Illinois and Missouri.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Horace G. Dawson, III, Esq.
Vice President and
Division General Counsel
Darden Restaurants, Inc.
Orlando, FL

Horace Dawson is Vice President and Division General Counsel of Darden Restaurants, Inc., the largest casual dining restaurant company. Darden owns and operates over 1,700 Red Lobster®, Olive Garden®, LongHorn Steakhouse®, Bahama Breeze® and The Capital Grille® restaurants in the United States and Canada. His practice areas include intellectual property, advertising, licensing, corporate, securities, employment law, employee benefits and compensation, and purchasing and distribution.

Prior to joining Darden, he practiced in the corporate and securities areas in the Orlando office of Akerman Senterfitt and served as Vice President of Business Affairs and General Counsel of Hard Rock Cafe International, the restaurant, merchandising, hotel and live music venue chain.

Prior to joining Hard Rock, Horace practiced in the entertainment, securities, corporate, and communications areas for Telemundo Network, the Spanish language television broadcaster and for private New York City law firms.

Horace received his undergraduate, law and masters of business administration degrees from Harvard University.



Philippa V. Ellis, Esq.
Partner
Owen, Gleaton, Egan,
Jones & Sweeney, LLP
Atlanta, GA

Philippa Victoria Ellis, one of the founding partners of Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney, LLP, located in Midtown Atlanta, focuses her litigation practice in the areas of automotive and industrial products liability and commercial liability insurance defense.

Since 2000, she has served on the State Bar of Georgia's Standards in the Profession Committee, which was responsible for the development and implementation of the state's mandatory mentorship program for beginning lawyers. In addition to her involvement as a member of Defense Research Institute and Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, she is a member of the National Bar Association's Commercial Law Section and American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice and Litigation Sections. Ms. Ellis is also a member of the Gate City, Atlanta, Oklahoma, and Illinois State Bar Associations. *Atlanta Magazine* recognized Ms. Ellis as a "Georgia Super Lawyer" in Civil Litigation Defense in its March 2006, issue.

Her civic involvement includes the Alliance Theatre, where Ms. Ellis serves on the Board of Directors, co-chairs the Board Cultivation Committee and currently serves on the Executive Committee. She is an active member of the Lambda Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Ms. Ellis obtained her J.D. degree in 1988 from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where she earned an American Jurisprudence Award and was a member of the Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity. While in law school, she participated in a study abroad program during the summer of 1986, at Oxford University. Ms. Ellis and her husband, Burrell, are proud parents of twins, Burrell, III and Victoria.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Joy Lampley Fortson, Esq.
Assistant Chief Counsel
with the U.S. Department
of Homeland Security,
Office of the Chief Counsel

Joy Lampley Fortson is an Assistant Chief Counsel with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Chief Counsel, where she practices immigration law. In that capacity, Joy practices in Immigration Court and represents the federal government in the removal proceedings of illegal immigrants. Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security in 2007, Joy was an Assistant United States Attorney with the United States Attorneys Office in Atlanta, Georgia for six years. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she practiced in federal court where she prosecuted defendants in cases that ranged from white-collar crime to violent crime. Joy graduated from the University of Florida in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations and earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law in 1996.

In 2008, Joy served as the President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA). Currently, Joy sits on the GABWA Foundation Board of Directors and the GABWA Professional Development Academy Planning Committee. In 2008, Joy was selected for the 2009 Class of Leadership Georgia.



Holly J. Fujie, Esq.
Shareholder
Buchalter Nemer
Los Angeles, CA

Holly Fujie is the 84th President of the State Bar of California – the third woman and the second woman of color to hold that position. She graduated with honors from the University of California at Berkeley with a double degree in political science and economics, and from UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.

She is a litigation Shareholder in the Los Angeles-based law firm of Buchalter Nemer. Ms. Fujie serves on the Boards of the California State Bar Foundation, the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, the Federal Bar Association (Los Angeles Chapter) and Bet Tzedek (a legal aid organization), and the Advisory Board of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles. She is Vice President of the Boalt Hall Alumni Association and Treasurer of the Chancery Club. Ms. Fujie is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Committee for Diversity in the Profession and of the joint LACBA/WLALA Task Force on the Retention and Advancement of Women in the Profession.

During the Bush Administration, she served as Senator Dianne Feinstein's representative on the joint White House/Senate Bi-Partisan Judicial Advisory Committee which selected candidates for nomination to the U.S. District Court bench for the Central District of California, and she served on Senator Feinstein's Judicial Advisory Committee for federal judge and US Attorney nominations to the Central District of California during the Clinton Administration. She recently was named Chair of the Senator's Judicial Advisory Committee, to make recommendations on nominations to the US District Court for the Central District of California under President Obama. Ms. Fujie was Deputy General Counsel to the Rampart Independent Review Panel, and speaks frequently on diversity, litigation and work balance issues. She has been married to attorney Lee Cotugno since 1978, and they have two children, Sabrina (18) and Thomas (12).

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Avarita L. Hanson, Esq.
Executive Director
Chief Justice's Commission
on Professionalism
Atlanta, GA

In April 2006, Atlanta Attorney [Avarita L. Hanson](#) was chosen by the Supreme Court of Georgia as the Executive Director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism ("Commission").

Ms. Hanson was an Associate Professor at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and served as its Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Before joining John Marshall, she headed special legal projects and was the executive director of the Health and Consumer Services Section of the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. She has served as an Associate Judge Pro Hac Vice for the Fulton County Juvenile Court and as Clerk to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. She has also served as the Pro Bono Project Director for the State Bar of Georgia and Georgia Legal Services Program. Prior to and between government positions, Ms. Hanson engaged in the private practice of law, starting as a civil litigator with the Houston office of Fulbright & Jaworski law firm. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University and received her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Hanson has served as president of the Gate City Bar Association, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, Harvard Club of Georgia, the Atlanta Chapter of the Links, and in leadership capacities in many other bar associations, civic, social and community organizations. She is a member of Cascade United Methodist Church, Leadership Atlanta, Leadership Georgia, Leadership America and is the recipient of many awards. Most recently, she was inducted into the Gate City Bar Hall of Fame, received the Judge Barbara Harris Award for Community Service and Spirit of GABWA Award from the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, and Atlanta's John Marshall Law School named its chapter of the Black Law Students Association in her honor.

She has been married to William Alexander, M.D. for more than 30 years and they are the parents of two adult sons, Justin and Colin.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Allegra Lawrence-Hardy, Esq.
Partner
Sutherland
Atlanta, GA

Allegra Lawrence-Hardy is chair of the firm's complex business litigation group. Her practice includes commercial litigation and labor and employment law. She has litigated cases in federal and state courts for primarily Fortune 100 companies from California to New York and has extensive experience negotiating complex settlements and finding creative solutions.

Ms. Lawrence-Hardy has been ranked by Chambers USA and *Georgia Trend* magazine recognized her as one of "40 Under 40" Rising Stars in Georgia in 2003. The magazine has repeatedly named her in the *Georgia Trend* "Legal Elite." She was featured on the cover of the 2006 "Legal Elite" edition. The *Fulton County Daily Report* featured her in its annual "On the Rise" issue and *Atlanta Woman* named her one of "Atlanta's 25 Power Women to Watch." *Atlanta* magazine also has repeatedly named her a "Georgia Super Lawyer," as well as regularly recognized her in its "Top 50 Female Georgia Super Lawyers."

Before joining the firm in October 1997, Allegra served as law clerk for Judge Susan H. Black of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Allegra chairs the firm's Diversity Committee and is a member of the firm's Hiring Committee. She also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium, the Leadership Institute for Women of Color, and the Atlanta Girls' School, and the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia. She previously served on the Boards of Directors for the Justice Center of Atlanta, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society Board, the Georgia Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity and the Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking. She serves as pro bono counsel to the Atlanta Women's Foundation. She is a Past President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and currently chairs the Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. She also is a member of the Bleckley Inn of Court, the Gate City Bar Association and the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers. She was appointed to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, the Supreme Court's Commission on Domestic Violence, the Supreme Court's Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts and the Mayor's Commission on the Living Wage. She is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and Leadership Georgia.

In 2007, Allegra was honored as the recipient of the Gate City Bar Foundation's A.T. Walden Outstanding Lawyer Award and the Spirit of the Bench and Bar Award from the Black Law Students Association at the Georgia State University School of Law. In 2008, she received the State Bar of Georgia's Commitment to Equality Award and GABWA's Chief Justice Leah Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession.

As Sutherland's Diversity Partner, Allegra was the architect of Sutherland Scholars, a summer pre-law school "boot camp" offered at no cost for students from historically black colleges and universities. The firm graduated its first class of Scholars in 2005 and has since expanded the program to include Washington, DC. Over 100 students have graduated from the program. The Scholars learn skills targeted to help improve their success in the first semester of law school. Allegra regularly mentors students from the program.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Bernadette Hartfield, J.D.
Associate Professor
Georgia State University
College of Law
Atlanta, GA

Bernadette Hartfield teaches family law, juvenile law, juvenile justice, and education law. Her publications have addressed the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, jurisdiction in interstate adoption, grandparent visitation, race and gender in academic recruitment and hiring, the law's differential treatment of anger based on race and gender, and race in criminal law.

Professor Hartfield received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Spelman College and her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, where she was editor-in-chief of the Black Law Journal. She is a member of the California Bar on inactive status. She practiced law with Crosby, Heafey, Roach and May and the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County before becoming director of the Legal Education Opportunity Program at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. In that position, she designed and administered academic support programs, including a program for bar preparation. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Hastings, the University of San Francisco, and Spelman College.

Professor Hartfield has provided leadership to professional and community organizations that promote the welfare of children and families and that seek to extend educational opportunity to underserved groups.



Carol Hawkins, Esq.
Asst. Manager, HR, E/SE Regions
Nippon Express USA, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Carol Hawkins is a 1987 graduate of the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, where she served as Student Articles Editor of the Loyola Law Journal. Carol began her legal career in government practice with the Cook County States Attorneys' Office as Assistant States Attorney before making her first transition, from criminal law to labor and employment law, in 1990, as Assistant General Counsel to the United Steelworkers Union, where she spent six years. Carol next transitioned into private practice, joining Stokes and Murphy, PC, (now Shea, Stokes & Carter), first as Senior Associate (1995) and then partner (1997). Carol's next transition would take her into corporate in-house practice, as Director, Labor Relations & Employment Law with Fleming Companies (Texas, 2001), and SunTrust Bank, where she served as Senior Employment Counsel until 2004 before transitioning again into private practice as a partner with Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLC.

Carol has recently transitioned her 21 year legal career as employment and labor counsel into Human Resources with Nippon Express USA, Inc., a Japanese multi-national and international freight forwarding and logistics company, with U.S. headquarters in New York City. As Assistant Regional Human Resources Manager, Carol is responsible for human resources support and employee relations for Nippon's East & Southeast regions, with primary responsibility for the company's Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico branches.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Valerie A. Jackson, Esq.
Director of Diversity
Sutherland
Washington, DC

Valerie Jackson serves as Sutherland's Director of Diversity, where she focuses on managing the firm's continuing development and implementation of firmwide strategic diversity initiatives and programs. Valerie oversees Sutherland's diversity initiatives related to pipeline projects, recruiting and retention. She is also helping to develop new strategic partnerships with the firm's clients to help increase diversity throughout the profession.

Previously, Valerie served as Assistant Director of International Affairs at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in Washington, D.C. Before joining the PCAOB, Valerie practiced corporate and securities law with an international law firm in Atlanta.

She currently volunteers in the Atlanta and Washington communities, where she works to increase educational and professional opportunities for disadvantaged children and young adults.

She received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and bachelor's degree in government, with honors, from Harvard University.

Valerie is fluent in Spanish, conversational in Catalan, French and Portuguese, and has also studied Arabic, Mandarin Chinese and Persian.



Angela Payne-James, Esq.
Partner
Alston & Bird LLP
Atlanta, GA

Angela Payne James is a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation Group. She focuses her practice on patent, trademark, trade secret, and copyright litigation as well as other complex commercial litigation.

Ms. James has extensive experience in federal and state court at both the trial and appellate levels. She has litigated matters on behalf of a variety of technology-based clients including software companies, Internet service providers, and medical technology companies on a nationwide basis.

Recently, Ms. James represented a medical technology startup in a fraud/deceptive trade practices jury trial in federal court in North Carolina and won a judgment of \$318 million. On appeal, the case settled for \$180 million.

Ms. James also has extensive experience counseling clients on intellectual property compliance and enforcement matters, including web site and domain name disputes and administrative actions under ICANN's Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy.

Angela Payne James is the recipient of Alston & Bird's 2006 Diversity Leadership Award. The award recognizes exemplary service on behalf of Alston & Bird's diversity initiatives.

She earned her JD from Harvard University in 1996 and her BA from Harvard College in 1992.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



E. Jewelle Johnson, Esq.
Partner
Fisher & Phillips LLP
Atlanta, GA

E. Jewelle Johnson is a partner at Fisher & Phillips LLP. Her practice focuses on defending management against employment claims arising under federal and state law, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 1981, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Occupational, Safety and Health Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act. Jewelle also handles restrictive covenants and employee defection issues and claims, and advises clients on preventative measures aimed at reducing employment-related claims. Jewelle is Co-Chair of Fisher & Phillips' Diversity Committee and a member of the Firm's Recruiting and Development Committees.

Jewelle's honors include being selected as a Fellow of the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia. In addition, she was selected as one of "Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence" by the Atlanta Business League and listed in the 2007 "Who's Who in Law" section of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. Jewelle was also recognized as one of the "Top 25 Power Women to Watch in 2006" by *Atlanta Woman* magazine, selected as one of 14 attorneys identified as one of the Daily Report's 2006 young lawyers "On the Rise," and named one of "Georgia's Rising Star Super Lawyers" by *Atlanta* and *Law & Politics* magazines in 2005, 2006 and 2009.

Jewelle served as the 2007 President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and is currently Treasurer of the GABWA Foundation, Inc. In addition, Jewelle is a Director for the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium; Secretary of the West End Cluster of the Metro Atlanta Boys and Girls Clubs' Board of Directors; and a member of the National Bar Association, the National Employment Law Council, the Georgia Committee on Access & Fairness in the Courts, the State Bar of Georgia Communications Committee, the State Bar of Georgia Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee, and the Atlanta Business League.

Jewelle received her Bachelor of Philosophy and Bachelor of Arts from Miami University in 1994, and her *jurist doctorate* from the Duke University School of Law in 1997. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.



Chrisna D. Jones, Esq.
Partner
Devlin & Robinson, P.C.
Tucker, GA

Chrisna D. Jones is a partner at Devlin & Robinson, P.C. in Tucker, Georgia. She obtained her A.D. in nursing in 1985 from Macon College. While continuing her career as a critical care Registered Nurse, she earned her B.A. in English (Cum Laude) in 1995 from Georgia State University. She earned her J.D. in 1998 from the University of Georgia. During law school she was an active member and officer of the Black Law Students' Association and the Prosecutor for the law school's Honor Court. As a 3rd year law student, she was accepted as a student member of the prestigious litigation society Lumpkin Inns of Court.

Upon graduation from law school in 1998, she began her legal career at Long, Weinberg, Ansley, & Wheeler, LLP as an associate attorney. She left in February 1999 to pursue plaintiff's practice with the firm of Thomas, Means, Gillis, Devlin, Robinson & Seay, P.C. On March 1, 2001, she joined Devlin & Robinson, P.C. and became a partner in 2004.

As a natural progression from her years of experience in the medical field, Ms. Jones has concentrated on medical malpractice litigation, catastrophic personal injury, and general civil litigation since the beginning of her career.

Ms. Jones is presently a member of the American Bar Association, the Georgia State Bar, the Atlanta Bar Association, American Association for Justice, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, Gate City Bar Association, and Georgia Trial Lawyers Association.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Altomease R. Kennedy, Esq.
Of-Counsel
Ashcraft & Gerel LLP
Washington, D.C.

Altomease Rucker Kennedy is Of Counsel to Ashcraft & Gerel, a firm with offices in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. The firm is a part of the national legal consortium of Herman, Mathis, Casey, Kitchens & Gerel which handles class actions. Ms. Kennedy's practice is concentrated in the area of Federal False Claims Act matters. She began her career as a Legal and Social Policy Research Associate with the National Urban League's Research Department and she was an Assistant Litigation Counsel with the Economic Development Administration and she was in the General Counsel's office of Potomac Electric Power Company where she handled public utility regulatory matters. She was a partner with Ashcraft & Gerel for ten years before leaving to become Special Assistant and Counsel to the President of the Village Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focused upon improving the lives of African American boys.

Ms. Kennedy is a graduate of Goucher College where she served on the Board of Trustees for thirteen years and Georgetown University Law Center. She is past president of the Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation and Secretary of the Board of Directors of City Lights School, a private school for children with emotional and learning disabilities. She is a member of the American Association for Justice and Taxpayers Against Fraud.

Ms. Kennedy is married to the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr., Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. They are the parents of two daughters who attend Princeton University. She is the author of *Friends and Lovers in Black and White*.



Lisa Kobiialka, Esq.
Partner
King & Spalding LLP
Silicon Valley, CA

Lisa Kobiialka is a partner in King & Spalding's Intellectual Property Practice Group in the firm's Silicon Valley office. Spending her entire legal career in Silicon Valley, her practice has always involved cutting-edge technology. She has handled numerous trials and complex evidentiary hearings involving claims for patent infringement, trade secret misappropriation, trademark, false advertising and unfair competition in jurisdictions across the United States. She has handled over 70 patent litigation disputes involving a broad range of technologies, including biotechnology, medical devices, software, computer hardware, mechanical, business methods, and the electrical arts. Her practice also involves counseling on strategies for patent portfolio management, licensing and diligence matters. Ms. Kobiialka frequently does presentations to leaders in different industries regarding intellectual property issues and the impact of recent intellectual property decisions. In addition to being a member of IPO and AIPLA, she is a member of NAPABA, WIPLA, American Bar, and California Bar.

Ms. Kobiialka holds a B.A. from The University of California-Davis, M.M. from The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and J.D. from The University of San Francisco.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Kofi A. Kondwani, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Community Health
and Preventive Medicine and
Family Medicine at
Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Kofi A. Kondwani, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and Family Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the Course Director for the Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the Inter-Cultural Communication and Health electives. Dr. Kondwani chairs the Morehouse School of Medicine Global Health Task Force charged with organizing and developing international health initiatives for the school.

Dr. Kondwani received his Ph.D. in Psychophysiology from Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa. Dr. Kondwani has served as the meditation treatment provider in four randomized clinical control trials supported by the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. His research team at MSM in collaboration with PROMETRA International is developing a herbal microbicide from herbs received from Traditional Healers in West Africa. He received a full scholarship to present preliminary findings at the 2008 Microbicide International Conference in India.

Dr. Kondwani also served as Chair of the 2nd Global Summit on HIV/AIDS: Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Knowledge in Ghana and represented MSM in an effort initiated by the James R. Jordan Foundation to build a women and children's hospital in Nairobi Kenya.



Denise Cleveland-Leggett, Esq.
Of Counsel
Baudino Law Group, PLC
Atlanta, GA

Denise Cleveland-Leggett currently serves Of Counsel with the Baudino Law Group, a long standing firm with specialty in Healthcare. Her experience also includes serving as an attorney with the Business Practice Group and Governmental Relations team at Hunton and Williams. She served as counsel in the Department of Legislative Reference for the Maryland General Assembly. In her capacity with the Maryland Legislature she worked directly with both the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees.

In addition to her legal career Ms Leggett has demonstrated a keen commitment to community and civic affairs. She was selected by the State Bar of Georgia's Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism to receive the 2009 Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service. She was also recently selected to a second term as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Atlanta History Center. She is the immediate past President of the Board of Trustees for Literacy Action, Inc, where she also served as a Board of Trustee for over 10 years. She serves as President of the Board of Councilors for the Margaret Mitchell House and Museum. In 2008 she was selected as a Board of Trustee for True Colors Theater Company. In 2006 she was named among Who's Who in Black Atlanta. She was selected as a member of the 2003 Class of Leadership Georgia. She was appointed by the Lt. Governor to serve for two terms as a member of the Georgia Commission for Women. Ms Leggett has also served as a member of The Georgia State Ethics Commission.

Ms Leggett is married to a loving husband of 24 years, Dr. Christopher Leggett an Interventional Cardiologist. Ms Leggett has two beautiful children Alexandria 19 a student at Princeton University and Christopher 13.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Margaret Reeves Lottimore, Esq.
Claims Counsel
XL Insurance (Bermuda), Ltd

Margaret Reeves Lottimore is Claims Counsel with XL Insurance (Bermuda), Ltd where she manages high exposure claims and supervises the underlying litigation impacting that exposure.

Prior to entering the insurance field, Margaret was a criminal defense trial attorney specializing in DUI defense. She was a frequent speaker at DUI Seminars and a member of DODD (Defense of Drinking Drivers) of Georgia.

She was a misdemeanor prosecutor with the DeKalb County Solicitor General's Office from 1997 to 2000 where she managed an extensive case load that encompassed the entire spectrum of misdemeanor offenses from shoplifting to domestic violence to vehicular homicide.

Margaret is a 1996 graduate of Mercer Law School where she was inducted into the National Order of Barristers. She received her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York College at Cortland in 1985.

She is a past Vice President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and remains an active member. She is also a member of the State Bar of Georgia.



Mary B. Richardson-Lowry, Esq.
Partner
Mayer Brown JSM LLP
Chicago, IL

Mary Richardson-Lowry's law practice is focused primarily on public law. Mary represents clients on general commercial transactions principally related to governmental entities, including but not limited to telecommunications, transportation, municipal finance, local regulations, government relations, land use, housing and urban development, waste treatment and issues of public administration. She provides specific representation concerning the following areas of law: Utilities. Transportation. Commercial Transactions. Finance and Bonds. Emerging Markets.

Mary joined Mayer Brown in 2002 and is currently a member of the firm's Lateral Hiring and Diversity and Inclusion committees. Previously, she served as Commissioner for the City of Chicago's Department of Buildings (1998–2002). From 1994 to 1998, Mary acted as Assistant to Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago and, earlier, as Senior Supervising Attorney (1992–1994) and as Assistant Corporation Counsel (1987–1992) for the City of Chicago's Department of Law.

She earned her JD from Texas Southern University School of Law and her BA, with honors, from San Francisco State University.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Natalia Martín, Esq.
Director of Diversity
Simpson Thacher &
Bartlett LLP

Natalia Martín is the Director of Diversity at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. From September 2005 through August 2007, she served as the Firm's Director of Legal Personnel and Professional Development. Prior to assuming these positions at Simpson Thacher, she was an Associate Dean at Yale Law School, where she worked from 1991 to 2005. Ms. Martín was an Associate at Simpson Thacher's Corporate Department from 1987 to 1991. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1982 and her Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School in 1985. She is admitted to the bar in Connecticut, New York and Puerto Rico.

In 2004, Natalia Martín received the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association's Achievement Award, which honors Latinos who have shown outstanding achievement in the field of law and commitment to the Latino community. In March 2007, she received the *Flor de Maga Award* from the Puerto Rican Bar Association's Women's Committee in recognition of her efforts as co-founder of a series of networking breakfasts for Latina attorneys in New York City called "Cafecitos". Brooklyn Law School's Latin American Law Students Association presented her with its Cesar Perales Community Advocate Award for this work in April 2008. The Latino Law Students Association at Yale Law School gave Ms. Martín the Class of 2007 Award for her service to the Latino community at Yale. Ms. Martín is a member of the New York City Bar Association's Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession.



Singleton B. McAllister, Esq.
Partner
LeClair Ryan
Washington, DC

Singleton B. McAllister is a Partner of LeClair Ryan where she was tapped to establish a bi-partisan federal government relations practice that will include professional lobbyists and lawyers experienced in public policy development in both the legislative and executive branches of the government. Before joining LeClair Ryan, Singleton was a Member of ML Strategies, the lobbying components of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo. She was also a part of the Corporate Diversity Risk Management practice. Her practice included Public Law and Policy. She also served as the National Chair of the Corporate Diversity Counseling Group at Sonnenschein Nath and Rosenthal LLP, and General Counsel of the U.S. Agency for International Development, a position to which she was appointed in January 1996. She has an extensive background in government relations and legislative matters, government contracts, and represents national associations and businesses in United States federal procurement matters.

Singleton also held several senior policy and legal positions in the United States Congress, including service as Senior Counsel to the United States House of Representatives' Committee on the Budget, Chairman of the House Budget Committee and House Majority Whip, and as Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the House Small Business Committee. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Alliant Energy, Inc. and United Rentals, Inc.

Singleton received her J.D. from the Howard University School of Law and undertook graduate studies in Political Science at Howard University. She received her B.A. from the University of Maryland. After graduating from Howard University School of Law, Singleton clerked for Judge Jack E. Tanner of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. She is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and the U.S. Supreme Court.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Fredrick H.L. McClure, Esq.
Partner
DLA Piper US LLP
Tampa, FL

Fredrick H. L. McClure is a partner in the law firm of DLA Piper US LLP. DLA Piper, with approximately 3600 attorneys in North America, Europe and Asia, is the largest U.S. based law firm in the world.

Mr. McClure practices in and is the practice group leader of the firm's Florida Litigation Department. He is rated "Av" by Martindale Hubbell International Law Directory, the highest rating attainable from the highly-respected directory and rating system. Each year since 2004, *Florida Trend Magazine* has named Mr. McClure as one of Florida's Legal Elite, an honor accorded less than 2% of the nearly 80,000 members of The Florida Bar. In 2006 and 2007, *Law & Politics* magazine named Mr. McClure a "Florida Super Lawyer."

A true believer in the power of diversity, Mr. McClure has taken a leading role, both within his law firm and the organized bar at large, in efforts to increase the hiring, retention and promotion of women and lawyers of color. He currently serves as one of two Diversity and Inclusion Partners at DLA Piper, and he is a member of the firm's 18-member Executive Committee.



S. Raye Mitchell, Esq.
The Mitchell Law Group, P.C.
Oakland, CA

Raye Mitchell is the founder and CEO of The Mitchell Law Corporation, PC (MLC), a full service intellectual property, business law, employment law and entertainment law firm. Ms. Mitchell is also currently the President and CEO of Makin a Nu Reality, Inc (MNR), a multicultural entertainment and marketing firm, with an expertise in marketing to upscale markets and women of color. Both are located in Oakland, California.

Ms. Mitchell has almost three decades of professional business management and legal experience, after earning her J.D. from Harvard Law School with honors and an MBA from the University of Southern California. Ms. Mitchell's numerous academic, business and community service awards include: a Portrait of Success Award, nomination for *The Wall Street Journal* Global Award, "Top 50 Women to Watch," and most recently honored as 101+ Champions for Youth for her work in the community as the founder of I C HOPE: The Makin a Nu Reality Foundation, a non-profit committed to leadership training for at-risk African American, Latina and Asian American adolescent girls.

A fierce advocate for creating affirming experiences and images of women in general and women of color in particular in the media, advertisement, certain segments of entertainment industry and the legal profession, Ms. Mitchell works with young girls to motivate and train in leadership and self acceptance with an emphasis on health and self-esteem. Ms. Mitchell is heavily integrated into the entertainment industry and the business and legal community and has completed projects and speaking engagement in a range of forums from the Oscars to The Black Entertainment Television Awards (BET Awards).

Ms. Mitchell is the publisher and editor of a new ultra upscale socially conscious, magazine titled, *The Fine Art of Living Well*. Current works in progress include a documentary and companion book entitled, *Messages of Hope: You Can Change Reality*, a project by and about inspiring women of color to take charge of changing their lives and to inspire girls of color to achieve greatness in their lives. Ms. Mitchell is also completing work on a publication to be titled: *Notes on Leadership From the Celebration 55-The Harvard Women's Leadership Summit*. This project, drawn from Ms. Mitchell's participation in the Harvard Law School women's leadership summit in September 2008, addresses entrepreneur and leadership skills issues in general and for leadership development for women in particular.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Sandra Mulrain, Esq.
Division Counsel
Georgia-Pacific
Atlanta, GA

Sandra Hall Mulrain is Senior Counsel for Georgia-Pacific LLC. A member of Georgia-Pacific's legal department since 2007, her corporate practice focuses on commercial transactions, antitrust law, advertising law, compliance, litigation management and other general corporate matters. In addition to these duties, she also has responsibility for overseeing the company's contract risk management group. Georgia-Pacific is one of world's leading manufacturers and distributors of pulp, paper and building products in the United States – best known for its Dixie®, Quilted Northern®, Angel Soft®, and Brawny® brands.

Prior to joining Georgia-Pacific, Ms. Mulrain served as Senior Corporate Counsel at corporations such as AT&T, Verizon Wireless, and Simmons Bedding Company, where she specialized in corporate transactions, advertising law and regulatory matters. She also was in private practice as an associate with the New Jersey law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti, where she practiced in the areas of corporate law, public finance and governmental affairs. Prior to firm life, she served as a judicial clerk for the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Ms. Mulrain has served as a Board Member of the YMCA and as an active member of several Bar Associations. She earned her B.A. degree, *cum laude*, from Drew University and her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law where she was Editor of the Law Review.



Karen W. Neely, Esq.
Founder
Triple Pink Foundation, Inc.
Associate
Bryan Cave LLP and Affiliates
Atlanta, GA

Karen W. Neely is an Associate at Bryan Cave LLP and founder of Triple Pink Foundation, Inc. In her second year of practice, at the age of 34, Karen was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer - a rather aggressive sub-type of breast cancer that disproportionately affects young minority women. After completing her treatment, Karen realized the need to increase the awareness of this disease and the impact that it has in the minority community, so Triple Pink Foundation, Inc. was born.

Met with success early in the Foundation's establishment, Triple Pink received coverage in *Oprah Magazine* in the October 2007 issue. In addition, Karen Neely has been interviewed on FOX nationally-syndicated Mike and Juliet Morning Show (October 2007), WXIA (Local NBC Affiliate), WGCL (Local CBS Affiliate), and Good Day Atlanta.

Based in Atlanta, the Foundation is built on a legacy of survival and is committed to adding to its heritage. We strive to empower all women affected by breast cancer to live as long as possible with the best quality of life.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Alison R. Nelson, Esq.
Managing Counsel
Ford Motor Company
Dearborn, MI

Alison R. Nelson is managing counsel of Ford Motor Company's Consumer Litigation. Nelson is Ford's chief counsel on all consumer affair issues, and has responsibility for several thousand lawsuits. In addition, she handles some commercial litigation matters, including antitrust and contract disputes. Nelson also serves as chair of Ford's Outside Minority Counsel and Charitable Contributions committees. Nelson has served on various American Bar Association, National Bar Association and State Bar of Michigan committees. Within the ABA, she took office in 2005 for a three-year term as a member of the Board of Governors, has chaired the Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, and served in the House of Delegates and as a member on the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

She also is a member of the ABA Gavel Awards Committee. In other legal organizations she is a member of the Legal Aid and Defenders Association of Michigan, the National Bar Institute Board of Directors (Grants Committee Chair) and the State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice - Corporate Committee. From 2000 to 2001 she served as president of the Wolverine Bar Association. Active in her community, Nelson served as Assistant General Counsel for the Michigan State Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She has received several awards for her commitment to diversity, including the Wolverine Bar Association Trailblazer Award and the National Bar Association Presidential Award. Nelson is also an active member of the Word of Faith International Christian Center. Nelson received her Juris Doctor from Michigan State University College of Law and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Carolina Den Brok-Perez, Esq.
VP and General Counsel
North American Operations
Kemira Group
Kennesaw, GA

Carolina Den Brok-Perez is VP and General Counsel for North American Operations of Kemira Chemicals, Kemira Water and Kemira Specialty, subsidiary corporations of the Finnish Chemical Company, Kemira Oyj. The North American headquarters are located in Kennesaw, Georgia. Kemira had revenues in North America of approximately \$900 million for fiscal year 2008 and employs approximately 1500 employees in the U.S. and Canada.

She received a degree in Criminal Justice in 1992 and her law degree from Georgia State College of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and the Federal District Court in the Northern District of Georgia. As a young attorney starting out in Gainesville, Georgia, she set out to build a practice that encompassed helping business owners address the multiple regulatory and legal issues affecting their businesses.

As a lawyer for a well known local real estate developer and later for Troutman Sanders LLP, Ms. Perez began to get more and more involved in the intricate decisions of how a business is run. In 2002, Ms. Perez became Associate General Counsel and VP of Real Estate for Mariner Health Care, at the time one of top five elder care companies in the U.S. In that position, she was charged with the operations and management of approximately \$1 billion of real estate, including acute care hospitals, assisted living and nursing home facilities.

As legal counsel for Kemira, the challenges of a multinational chemical company always present interesting opportunities for problem solving. Ms. Perez reports to the President, Mr. Hannu Melarti, who is also the head for all North American operations. She provides guidance relating to the Company's global chemical business, including matters affecting sales, marketing, product liability, regulatory compliance, human resources, etc. Ms. Perez is also a member of the North American operations senior management team working closely with her business counterparts in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Latin America.

Ms. Perez and her husband Daniel adopted their daughter Carly in 2003 and their son Nicolas in August of 2008 and live in Atlanta, Georgia. The Perez's are fervent supporters of children's charities and support Catholic Charities' Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Program.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Clarissa A. Peterson
- SPHR, GPHR
Chief People Officer - US
DLA Piper US LLP
Baltimore, MD

Since March 2005, **Clarissa Peterson** has been the Chief People Officer-US for DLA Piper. In her role she is responsible for human resources strategy and operations. Specific areas include talent management, employee relations, staff and paralegal compensation, benefits, retirement plans, organizational development and compliance. Clarissa is based in Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC.

Clarissa Peterson joined DLA Piper from Abt Associates, where she was Vice President of Global Human Resources for one of the largest government and business research and consulting firms in the world. She directed domestic and international human resources strategy and operations in the United States and 30 countries.

Peterson earned a B.S. in Business Management and Finance from the University of Maryland, University College and conducted graduate study in Financial Management in the Masters of General Administration Program at the same university. She is a member of the University of Maryland, University College Board of Directors. She is an active member of World at Work and the Society of Human Resources Management, where she has achieved the designations of Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and Global Professional in Human Resources (GPHR).



Valencia Porter, Esq.
Vice President
Waffle House, Inc.
Norcross, GA

Valencia Porter was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. She attended the University of South Florida and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1986. Upon graduation, she went to work in a manufacturing plant for Procter & Gamble in Albany, Georgia.

In 1989, she was accepted into the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and graduated from law school in 1992. Valencia's legal career began at the State of Georgia Attorney General's Office as an employment law litigator. Her next position was as Director of Legal Services for Stone Mountain Park.

In 1998, Valencia was hired into the position of Employment Counsel with Waffle House, Inc. and in 2000 became a Vice President for the company. Waffle House employs about 18,000 employees. Valencia's main responsibilities include advising management on employment law and HR issues, developing and conducting employment law training, and management and resolution of EEOC Charges and all internal discrimination, harassment and wage & hour complaints. Valencia is married and has two children.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Patricia Hayling Price
Exceednow LLC
New York, NY

Patricia Hayling Price is the Founder and President of EXCEEDNOW, a talent development strategy and solutions business. She leverages over 25 years of experience in marketing, consulting, change management, coaching and communication. Patricia develops individuals and teams to distinguish their value proposition by exploiting their strengths to raise performance, presentation and perception. She harnesses her early stage, television and modeling career to maintain a keen eye and ear towards shaping communication effectiveness and fine tuning style.

While at IBM for over twenty years, Patricia served in various executive roles in addition to leading a global initiative, coaching 200 top tier professionals moving from middle management to senior leadership. Her passion and skill garnered the Executive Circle of Honor Award for coaching effectiveness. Patricia has served as moderator for The Executive Leadership Council's Black Women on Wall Street Symposium, been a guest speaker for Dun and Bradstreet's International Sales Meetings (Hungary and Portugal) and conducted leadership, succession and brand workshops for a number of institutes, universities and corporations. With clients from an array of businesses (i.e. Mellon Bank, Bank of America, Harlem Children's Zone) and industries (i.e. government, law, education, pharma, executive search, oil and gas) Patricia is focused on enhancing the brand and value of professionals across the business spectrum. She is the Director of the Career Advancement Program dedicated to filling the senior leadership pipeline across the national corporate landscape with diverse (Black, Hispanic, Native American) top talent. She is building this program, set to launch in 4Q09 for MLT with support from the Yale School of Management and corporate partners.

Pro bono consulting engagements include The Red Cross of Westchester County, Boy Scouts of America and The AHA "Go Red" campaign. She has served on several boards including The Westchester County Medical Center Board, International Market Research Association Board, and The Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Board. Patricia has lived in India and Europe and worked in West Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. She is a Charles Dana Fellow, a T.J. Watson Fellow and a graduate of Colgate University. She currently resides in Westchester County New York with her husband of nearly three decades. They have two children.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Lea Ann Souza-Rasile, Esq.
Partner
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
Miami, FL

Lea Souza-Rasile focuses her practice on bankruptcy, commercial litigation and products liability litigation, with an emphasis on creditors' rights, workouts and reorganizations in state, federal and bankruptcy courts and on the defense of complex product liability litigation involving pharmaceutical, chemical and pesticide products. Within her commercial practice, she has represented both national and local companies in business tort, contract and labor disputes, commercial lease disputes, UCC financing transactions and the sale or acquisition of financially distressed companies.

Lea is a member of The Florida Bar, the American Bar Association's Business Law and Litigation Sections, the Dade County Bar Association, the Dade County Defense Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, the Pacific Asian American Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the International Women's Restructuring and Insolvency Federation, the Southern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association and The California Bar.

Lea serves on the board of directors of Legal Services of Greater Miami and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. She is also very active in the community through involvement with various organizations, including Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the Governor's Mentoring Initiative/Front Porch Florida (Education Fund) and St. Richard's Youth Ministry.



Arin N. Reeves, J.D., Ph.D.
Principal Consultant,
Diversity and Gender Dynamics
The Athens Group
Chicago, IL

Dr. Arin N. Reeves is a principal consultant, speaker, trainer and personal coach with The Athens Group in the areas of diversity and gender dynamics, effective communication and conflict resolution. Prior to joining The Athens Group, she practiced law in Illinois. Dr. Reeves is also an Adjunct Professor at Northwestern University's College of Arts & Sciences where she teaches courses on race and gender issues as they pertain to law and society. She has several years of consulting experience that include working with organizations in various industries to develop human resource strategies, policies and training programs.

Dr. Reeves is a Commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Women. She currently serves as the Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's YLS Committee on Racial & Ethnic Diversity, as well as the Chicago Bar Association's Special Commission on Diversity. She received her B.S. in Human Resource Management from De Paul University, her J. D. from the University of Southern California and her Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University where she conducted several research projects on race and gender issues in the workplace. Her doctoral research focused specifically on these issues within legal workplaces.

Dr. Reeves is married and has two children.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Alex Douglass Robinson
SVP, Head of Procurement
ING America
Atlanta, GA

As SVP of ING North America Insurance Corporation, heading up the Procurement Department **Alex Douglass Robinson** leads the shared services expense management teams including, corporate real estate services, corporate six-sigma, accounts payable, strategic sourcing and the regional operations team who manage the processes of all the expense management teams.

Currently in her 8th year of service with ING she began her career at ING as an Intellectual Property and Information Technology attorney completing the largest outsourcing engagement of the global organization while in this capacity. Soon thereafter, Alex was named Chief Counsel of IP/IT and Latin American Operations.

Prior to joining ING Alex was an associate at Troutman Sanders, LLP, The Red Hot Law Group, LLC, the USPTO, and a staff attorney at the Office of the Fulton County Public Defender. She was also Director of Network Licensing at Turner Broadcasting Systems.

Alex attended Northwestern University, Howard University School of Law, and as a Ford Fellow attended the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy. Alex is a board member at the Children's Museum, serves on the Advisory Board of Crime Stoppers, is a LEAD Mentor, enjoys her book club, long hikes, pilates classes, creative writing and time with her family.



Sandra A. Maass-Robinson, M.D.
Psychiatrist
Atlanta, GA

Sandra Maass-Robinson, M.D. is a board certified psychiatrist in private practice in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School Of Medicine and the Emory University Psychiatric Residency Programs. Her practice focuses upon Bipolar Disorder, Depression and Anxiety disorders in children, adolescents and women. She also provides psychiatric services to the Metro State Prison for women in Atlanta and the Kennesaw State University Student Health Center. She has served as an expert witness in various courts including State, Superior, Federal and military. She also provides consultant services to the legal community based upon her more than 20 years of clinical practice.

She is an Associate Clinical Professor at Morehouse School of Medicine, Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. Some of her outstanding accomplishments include Distinguished Fellowship recognition with the American Psychiatric Association in 2001, President of the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians' Association 2002-2003, 2002 Leadership Award from the Black Psychiatrists of America, and the 1997 Psychiatrist of the Year, awarded by the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians' Association. She was recently reappointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia to serve an unprecedented third term on the Georgia Supreme Court Board for Determining Bar Fitness.

Dr. Maass-Robinson is active in many professional and civic organizations. She is a frequent public speaker on topics related to psychiatric illness, the stigmas associated with these diseases and educating the public on current treatment options in this field of medicine.

She also serves as a consultant on these same topics with local TV and radio stations. Her more recent publications include articles in the *American Journal of Health Studies* and *Ethnicity and Disease* as well as the chapter on mood disorders in the soon to be published textbook *Health Care of Incarcerated Women*.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Cristina Rodriguez, Esq.
Partner
Baker Botts LLP
Houston, TX

Cristina Rodriguez is a partner in the Litigation Department of the Houston office of Baker Botts LLP. She maintains a varied trial practice that focuses primarily on professional liability, securities, commercial, and employment litigation in state and federal court. Ms. Rodriguez defends accounting firms and an insurance broker against claims of professional negligence. She also defends employers against claims of various types of discrimination and sexual harassment, including the defense of class action suits. Fluent in Spanish, Ms. Rodriguez has also represented businesses that operate in Mexico, South America, and Central America.

Following graduation from Harvard Law School, *cum laude*, in 1995, Ms. Rodriguez served as a law clerk for the Honorable James Lawrence King of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. She graduated from the University of Miami *summa cum laude* in 1992.

Ms. Rodriguez is the hiring partner for the Houston office of Baker Botts. She is also a founding member of the firm's Diversity Committee and the firm's Professional Development Committee, and is actively involved in the firm's mentoring and development initiatives. She currently co-chairs the Houston Bar Association's Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee and is a past co-chair of the Houston Bar Association's Gender Fairness Task Force.



D. Billye Sanders, Esq.
Partner
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis
Nashville, TN

D. Billye Sanders is a Partner at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis and practices in the areas of public utilities regulation, general corporate, financial institutions, mergers and acquisitions, administrative law and government relations. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Sanders served as Deputy General Counsel of the Tennessee Public Service Commission where she represented the public interest in litigation involving public utilities, managed the Legal Division and handled a variety of labor and employment matters.

Before joining the Commission, Ms. Sanders served as assistant vice president and legal counsel for United Southern Bank of Nashville. Her professional activities include: member of the Nashville, Tennessee, National and American Bar Associations; member and former board member of the Nashville Bar Foundation; member and former board member of the Napier Looby Bar Association; member of the Lawyers Association for Women; Emeritus member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court and member of the panel of commercial and employment law arbitrators for the American Arbitration Association. Ms. Sanders is also a member of and general counsel for Fisk University General Alumni Association, The Links, Inc., Leadership Nashville Alumni Association and former member of National Alumni Board of Vanderbilt University. She is past president of CABLE (a professional women's networking group).

Ms. Sanders holds a B.A. *magna cum laude* in English and Political Science from Fisk University where she graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University. She is married to Rev. Edwin Sanders and they have two children, Grace a *Phi Beta Kappa* graduate of Spelman and a Watson Fellow, and Joseph a senior at the University of Colorado.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Tacita A. Mikel Scott, Esq.
Partner
Adorno & Yoss
Atlanta, GA

Tacita A. Mikel Scott is a Partner in the Firm's Atlanta office with over 14 years trial experience. She is a member of the employment, litigation and religious institutions practice groups. Tacita's expansive business litigation practice focuses on claims for breach of contract and business torts, particularly among vendors.

As part of her employment practice, Tacita assists management throughout the United States in all areas of employment law, including such issues as: Harassment and discrimination claims, Overtime and other wage and hour claims (including collective actions), (iii) Family and Medical Leave Act claims, (Restrictive covenant and trade secrets claims, Whistleblower claims, and ERISA claims (including union withdrawal assessments). Tacita also routinely advises employers on the avoidance of employee-related problems and finding creative solutions to workplace issues. She often trains and speaks to, management, lawyers, and human resources professionals on employment issues.

Tacita's religious institutions practice focuses on providing religious institutions with litigation and employment legal services, as well as overseeing the legal services provided by other Adorno & Yoss attorneys in a variety of legal areas including intellectual property, real estate and corporate/non-profit entities.

Tacita has litigated a wide array of cases in Federal and State courts, governmental agencies and arbitration tribunals for companies and governmental entities of all sizes and she has extensive experience negotiating complex settlements. As both a pragmatic counselor and a skilled advocate, Tacita is well equipped to temper the urge to litigate with the need to negotiate, which enables her to support the process that best fits her clients' goals.

Atlanta Woman magazine named Tacita one of "Atlanta's 25 Power Woman to Watch of 2006." She has also been repeatedly recognized by *Atlanta Magazine* as a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star, ranking her in the top 2.5 percent in the state, and is frequently included in *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*, a publication that celebrates black achievement.



Maceo S. Sloan, Jr.
Financial Advisor
Smith Barney
Atlanta, GA

Maceo Sloan, Jr. believes that helping clients achieve their financial goals begins with completely understanding their needs. Only then does he provide the comprehensive guidance to help them grow and manage their wealth. His clients have a financial partner who shares their vision, earns their trust and works diligently to help them address their aspirations and create a legacy for future generations.

Building on his own legacy, he has continued his family's history of five generations in financial services. He is a descendant of the founders of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, an investment management legacy established in 1898.

Maceo earned his degree at Morehouse College. In 2004, he joined Citi Smith Barney as a Financial Advisor. He is a member of the Board of Directors at the Economic Empowerment Initiative, Inc. and CSA Foundation. He also mentors Morehouse College freshmen students through a Citi/UNCF Fellows program, as well as local high school seniors via the Youth Entrepreneurs of Atlanta, sponsored by Citi Smith Barney and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

He enjoys family, church, civic activities and sports.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Noni Ellison Southall, Esq.
Senior Counsel
Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Noni Ellison Southall serves as senior counsel for Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (TBS, Inc.) and heads the TBS, Inc. music group. In this capacity, she manages all substantive and administrative matters, including the licensing and reporting of music utilized by Turner and CNN networks, both domestic and international. Southall oversees the administration of the Turner/CNN music publishing companies and negotiates music-related agreements, such as performance rights society agreements, composer agreements, publishing agreements, music video license agreements and mechanical, synchronization and master-use license agreements. She also negotiates production, marketing and new technology deals. Southall is based in Atlanta, GA.

Prior to her current role, Southall was director of legal affairs for Scripps Networks, Inc. In that role, she advised the affiliate sales, ad sales, finance and new media departments and negotiated affiliation agreements for the distribution of Scripps Networks' cable television programming services with cable operators. Earlier in her career, Southall was a corporate associate with Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP and was a corporate finance and securities associate at Vinson & Elkins LLP.

Southall earned a bachelor of arts degree from Howard University, *magna cum laude* and a doctor of law and MBA from the University of Chicago, where she also earned her certification in health administration and policy.

Southall is a board member of the Atlanta Urban League, the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (BELSA), Blackfilm.com, the Ovie Mughelli Foundation, and Corporate Counsel Women of Color. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, District of Columbia Bar, State Bar of Georgia, NAMIC, WICT and a founding member of the Black Professionals at Turner Business Resource Group. Southall is also a recipient of the NCNW "Tribute to Black Women Community Leaders" Award and the Trumpet Awards Foundation's "High Heels in High Places" Award.



Marilyn E. Sutton
Dean of Admissions &
Financial Aid
Mercer University School
of Law
Macon, GA

Marilyn E. Sutton is the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Mercer University School of Law. Dean Sutton received her BBA and JD degrees from Mercer University. She began her career at Mercer University School of Law as Director of Financial Aid and became Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid in June 1999. Dean Sutton has been a panelist and presenter at numerous professional conferences, including Law School Admission Council forums and annual meetings, and has conducted several workshops on admissions and financial aid. Dean Sutton currently serves on the Law School Admission Council Misconduct and Irregularities in the Admission Process Subcommittee.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Maureen Hernandez Sutton, Esq.
Senior Counsel,
Cingular Wireless
Atlanta, GA

Maureen Hernandez Sutton is Senior Counsel – Labor and Employment for Cingular Wireless and is based at the Company's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Sutton provides advice and counsel on regional employee matters and company-wide employee policies.

Prior to Cingular, Ms. Sutton practiced with Fisher & Phillips LLP. She earned her J.D. with honors from Florida State University and her B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in addition to a B.A. in Diplomatic History from the University of Pennsylvania's College of Arts and Sciences.

Since 2003, Ms Sutton has served on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Bar Association Labor and Employment Law Section. Ms. Sutton has been a speaker/panelist for the Society of Human Resources Management, Defense Research Institute Labor and Employment Seminar, American Conference Institute Wage and Hour Forum and the Atlanta Bar Association.



Anita Wallace Thomas, Esq.
Partner
Nelson Mullins Riley &
Scarborough LLP
Atlanta, GA

Anita Wallace Thomas is a partner with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP where she practices in litigation involving commercial litigation, toxic tort, employment law and product liability. Prior to joining Nelson Mullins, Ms. Thomas was affiliated with another leading Atlanta firm and served as an assistant district attorney, prosecuting felonies for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Thomas has successfully defended clients against charges of employment discrimination, harassment and wrongful discharge, and represents employers in all aspects of hiring, employing and firing employees. Ms. Thomas has argued cases before the Georgia Court of Appeals and has served as lead counsel in more than 50 jury trials held in the superior and state courts of Georgia. She has also tried employment cases in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Ms. Thomas is a member of the American Bar Association (Labor and Employment Section), the National Bar Association, the Atlanta Bar Association and the Gate City Bar Association. She is a member of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and its executive board, having served as association president in 2000. She also served on the board for the National Association of Women Lawyers (2005-2006). Ms. Thomas is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Atlanta YMCA and the Atlanta Women's Alliance. Additionally, she serves on the advisory board of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

Ms. Thomas earned her J.D. from Mercer University and her B.A. in English from Spelman College. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Leslie T. Thornton, Esq.
Dickstein Shapiro LLP
Washington, DC

Leslie T. Thornton joined Dickstein Shapiro in 2004 with more than 20 years of legal and executive branch experience. Ms. Thornton focuses her practice on counseling and defending large corporations in sensitive and complex internal corporate investigations, federal agency and Congressional investigations, regulatory matters before federal government agencies, and state attorneys general investigations.

Ms. Thornton currently conducts complicated and sensitive internal investigation matters for a *Fortune 500* company and has been involved for the past year in a highly publicized stock option backdating investigation.

Prior to joining Dickstein Shapiro, Ms. Thornton was a partner with Patton Boggs, LLP, where she focused her practice on public policy, litigation, federal agency regulatory and administrative law, homeland security, and international security issues. She was founder and director of the Educational Equity Institute, a \$1 million dollar institute to further education equity for disadvantaged elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students through legal means. She also was the founder, president, and director of the Capital Education Fund, a \$500,000 grant-making nonprofit fund. Ms. Thornton was Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education from 1997 to 2000. Holding a Top Secret clearance, Ms. Thornton was the agency representative to the White House on the Continuity of Government Operations Plan. Previously, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Secretary of Education from 1993 to 1996, Deputy Advisor to President Clinton for the 1996 Presidential Debates, and Associate Counsel in the Office of the 1992 Presidential and Vice Presidential Transition. Ms. Thornton began her legal career as a staff attorney for the D.C. Public Defender Service where she gained significant criminal trial experience.



The Honorable Gail S. Tusan
Superior Court of Fulton County
Atlanta Judicial District
Atlanta, GA

Judge Gail Tusan has almost twenty-five years of judicial service, including serving as a guest justice on the Georgia Supreme Court. She is the first African American female to preside in the Family Division of the Superior Court of Fulton County. Previously, she served on the State Court of Fulton County, the City Court of Atlanta, as a municipal administrative law judge and a county magistrate. She has lectured nationally and taught foreign judges in Russia and the Philippines. This spring, Judge Tusan will present *Misjudged* at the Council of State Court Judges' Annual Immersion in Humanities seminar. In July, she will be returning to the campus of the National Judicial College to teach trial techniques to judges gathering from across the country. Additionally, Judge Tusan is a much sought after motivational speaker at professional conferences and by churches and civic groups.

Her numerous awards include: the Peace and Justice Service Award which she received from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, being recognized as one of Georgia's Most Influential Women (Top 50), induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame of John Muir High School, the YWCA of Greater Atlanta Academy of Women Achievers and Classes of Leadership Atlanta and Outstanding Atlantans. At the beginning of her impressive career, *Ebony Magazine* recognized her as one of its 30 Future Leaders Under 30.

She and her husband, Carl V. Washington, MD, live in Atlanta. They enjoy spending time with their four grown children. Gail also is very involved with her church, as the Chair of its Building Renovation Committee and a faithful member of the First Church Handbell Ensemble.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Simone S. Whitmore, M.D.
OB/GYN
North Perimeter OB/GYN
Duluth, GA

Simone S. Whitmore, MD was born and raised in Nashville, TN. She obtained her Bachelor of Science at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA in 1989 then went on to complete a Doctrine of Medicine at the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tenn. State University, Johnson City, TN in 1993. Ms. Whitmore was drawn to Boston where she finished an Internship and Residency at the Boston Medical Center/ Boston University in 1997 in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Ms. Whitmore is married to Cecil Whitmore and have 2 handsome boys, Miles (10 years) and Michael (6 years). She has been in private practice in Atlanta/Duluth since 1999 and started her solo practice, North Perimeter OBGYN in 2004.



Sally Williamson
Sally Williamson & Associates, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Sally Williamson is both a business development coach and a speech coach. She has over twenty years experience in the development of effective sales communication strategies and business presentations. Ms. Williamson specializes in executive coaching and developing custom workshops that blend personal development with bottom-line business results. Her combined experience in sales and communication provides a unique perspective in helping people understand the needs of their clients and present their services to solve those needs.

Ms. Williamson's accomplishments include: developing a script and coaching delivery for over 25 IPOs; developing a script for a variety of product introductions in both domestic and international markets; and evaluating and revising content of sales materials and presentations for over 15 major sales forces. Ms. Williamson has coached delivery skills and personal image for over 50 CEOs, developed an account planning course and coaching sales strategies for establishing new relationships for over 10 firms, and coached over 200 individuals in content organization and personal delivery skills.

Ms. Williamson has expertise in presentation organization and design; media/Q&A coaching, visual image personal style critique, sales skills and account planning.

MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND PRESENTERS



Pamela Samuels-Young, Esq.
Managing Counsel,
Labor & Employment Law
Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.
Torrance, CA

As Managing Counsel for Labor and Employment Law for Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Inc. (“TMS”), **Pamela Samuels Young** manages litigation and provides advice and counsel on labor and employment law matters. Headquartered in Torrance, California, TMS is the marketing, sales and distribution arm for Toyota, Lexus and Scion vehicles in the U.S.

When Pamela is not practicing law, you can usually find her penning her next legal thriller. She is the Essence best-selling author of four novels, *Every Reasonable Doubt*, *In Firm Pursuit*, *Murder on the Down Low*, and the forthcoming, *Buying Time*. Her short story *Setup* is featured in the Sisters in Crime Anthology, *LAndmarked for Murder*.

Described by one reviewer as “John Grisham with a sister’s twist,” Pamela’s desire to see more diversity in legal fiction motivated her to start writing despite a demanding legal career. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America and is a featured fiction writing expert for BizyMoms.com.

Prior to joining Toyota, Pamela served as Employment Law Counsel for Raytheon Company and spent several years at the law firm of O’Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles. A former journalist, Pamela previously worked as a news writer and associate producer at KCBS-TV in Los Angeles and as a news writer at WXYZ-TV in Detroit.

A former Coro Foundation Fellow, Pamela has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from USC and a master’s degree in broadcasting from Northwestern University. She received her law degree from UC Berkeley’s Boalt Hall School of Law. A native of Compton, Pamela is frequent speaker on the topics of employment law, fiction writing and pursuing your passion.

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Each year, our firm grows stronger with the experience of an increasingly diverse team. We believe that diversity among our lawyers and staff results in the best service to our clients, and we promote diversity through recruitment, retention and employee development programs.

Baker Botts is proud to support the Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys Annual Conference.

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	1.3	Session #3 - THE SUPERJUGGLERS: WRITING A BOOK, PRACTICING LAW AND JUGGLING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
	1.3	Session #4 - CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGES AND EMBRACING THE TRANSITION OF MOVING FROM GOVERNMENT TO PRIVATE PRACTICE
		WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
	1.3	THE VISIBLE, INVISIBILITY REPORT: OUR PROGRESS, OUR CHALLENGES, OUR FUTURE (Including 1.0 Professionalism Credit*)
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	1.3	Session #1 - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO RAINMAKING AND THE KEY TO PARTNERSHIP STATUS
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	1.3	Session #3 - MAXIMIZING YOUR LAW DEGREE IN NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS
		CONCURRENT THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1 - 3 (Check One Session)
	1.3	Session #1 - RECOGNIZING AND MANAGING THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF PRACTICING LAW: GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN OF COLOR
	1.3	Session #2 - BUILDING AND SUSTAINING PERSONAL BRAND VALUE
	1.3	Session #3 - WHEN YOU HAVE TO SAY WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR AND . . . BENEFITING FROM THE FEEDBACK YOU'D PREFER NOT TO GET
		THURSDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
	1.8	CONVERSATION WITH CATHY HAMPTON
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