

FOCUS ON DIVERSITY 2013

FIRM CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

On June 11, 1963, President John Kennedy gave a landmark speech that many consider a watershed moment in the history of the civil rights movement in the United States, addressing the fight over court-ordered integration of the University of Alabama. This summer, diversity-themed events across the firm are recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the movement.

On June 4, 2013, the New York members of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and its Associate Board hosted a presentation by the former head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Columbia Law Professor Ted Shaw. Speaking to an audience of approximately 40 people, including the firm’s summer associates, Professor Shaw discussed major civil rights cases considered during the Supreme Court’s 2012 term, including *Fisher v. University of Texas* (affirmative action), *Shelby County* (voting rights) and *Windsor and Perry* (same-sex marriage). He also commented on the handling of civil rights issues, generally, by the Obama administration.

One summer associate commented, “I did not expect a law firm – even one with a reputation for strong pro bono work – to create that kind of space or opportunity to discuss social change with one of the leading advocates of our time.”

On June 13, 2013, approximately 120 attorneys, summer associates, diversity scholars and staff gathered in Chicago to hear civil rights icon Ruby Bridges, the keynote speaker at the firm’s 12th Annual Diversity Dinner. As a 6-year-old first-grader in 1960, Ms. Bridges was the first black child to attend



Diversity Dinner guest speaker Ruby Bridges, center, meets the firm’s 2013 Diversity Scholars: (from left) Kara Ingelhart, Bide Akande, Kara Trowell and Mikael Rojas.

a previously all-white elementary school in her New Orleans neighborhood, ending segregation in the city’s public schools.

In an “Oprah Winfrey-type” interview setting with questions posed by Partner Reginald J. Hill, Ms. Bridges described her first days at her new grammar school, where, escorted by federal marshals, she passed crowds of screaming white people who did not favor integration.

Calling the Diversity Dinner “one of my favorite events of the summer,” one summer associate noted the event “exemplifies what makes Jenner & Block such a special firm ... Ruby Bridges was an incredible speaker and hearing her story in an intimate, conversational setting was extremely moving.”

On July 24, 2013, Partner Jessica Ring Amunson led a lunchtime discussion for summer associates in the D.C. office, focusing on the Supreme Court’s recent *Shelby County* decision and the future of the Voting Rights Act. Jessie, who has worked on numerous election law and redistricting cases, was co-author of an amicus brief submitted by the firm, on behalf of the NYU School of Law’s Brennan Center for Justice, in *Shelby County*. ■■

JENNER & BLOCK AWARDS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2013

For eight years, Jenner & Block has provided **Diversity Scholarships** to minority first-year law students who have demonstrated strong academic achievement and a commitment to community service. These scholarships enhance the diverse talent pipeline, promoting diversity in the legal industry.

The 2013 scholarship recipients* are students from Northwestern University School of Law, Stanford Law School, University of Chicago Law School, University of Illinois College of Law and University of Michigan Law School.

In 2012, the firm established the **Grant R. Folland Memorial Scholarship**, in memory of a Jenner & Block associate and University of Chicago Law School graduate who died in 2010. The scholarship is awarded to a rising second- or third-year

*For a full list of the scholars, see the back page.

University of Chicago law student who embodies an ongoing commitment to LGBT civil rights.

The recently named inaugural Grant Folland Scholar demonstrates her commitment through her work with an advocacy group for LGBT persons and persons with HIV, as well as working as a community educator and diversity advocate in her college’s residential hall.

Collectively, the firm’s Diversity Scholars work with the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Teach for America, Lambda Legal, Hope Village Initiative and other nonprofits. They also continue to make valuable contributions, for example, by mentoring a young woman formerly in the foster care system, coordinating efforts to build wells in rural Nigeria and assisting new immigrants with legal documents. ■■

MERCEDES HILL NAMED TO LAWYERS OF COLOR INAUGURAL “HOT LIST”



Partner Mercedes M. Hill was named to Lawyers of Color’s inaugural “Hot List” of minority attorneys under 40 who are excelling in the profession. She was profiled in a Lawyers of Color *Hot List Special Issue* in late July.

Mercedes is a member of the firm’s Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity/Investment Funds and Corporate Finance Practices. She has been involved in a number of important transactions, including the firm’s work on the historic General Motors IPO, the preceding “Section 363” sale of GM assets in connection with its Chapter 11 reorganization and the post-IPO \$5.5 billion share repurchase transaction last winter.

She has also represented General Dynamics, KPS Capital Partners and Honeywell.

Mercedes is a member of the firm’s Hiring Committee, the chair of the African American Affinity Group and a former member of the Associate Board of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. In addition, she serves as pro bono legal counsel to Ladies of Virtue, a Chicago-based nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of young women, ages 10 to 18, in underserved communities.

Lawyers of Color was founded as a news and resource center named “On Being A Black Lawyer” in 2008 and has expanded to include lawyers of South Asian, Hispanic, Native American and other heritages. It now has the largest national social media presence of any minority legal organization. ■■

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ON LEGAL DIVERSITY SELECTS BAJOWALA FOR 2013 FELLOWS PROGRAM



Partner Reena R. Bajowala is one of a select group of 160 young attorneys who will participate in a year-long professional development program through the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD). The fellows are emerging leaders who have distinguished themselves within their firms or corporations.

Formed in May 2009, LCLD comprises more than 200 corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners whose vision is to create a truly diverse legal profession. Its goal is to help its member organizations find, hire, retain, promote and engage the best talent.

The Fellows Program focuses on relationship-building and leadership skills and offers participants an opportunity to network with and learn from top leaders in the legal profession.

Reena has long been an advocate for greater diversity and inclusiveness in the legal profession, from establishing a public interest fellowship while at the University of Michigan Law School to being a leader in the North American South Asian Bar Association. ■■

FUENTES WINS PRESTIGIOUS BURTON AWARD FOR LEGAL WRITING



Partner Gabriel A. Fuentes was named a “2013 Distinguished Legal Writing Award” winner by the Burton Awards for Legal Achievement. The honor is given to only 30 authors from entries submitted by the nation’s 1,000 largest law firms. Gabe

was recognized for his article titled “Toward a More Critical Application of Daubert in Criminal Cases: Fingerprint Opinion Testimony After the National Academy of Sciences Report,” which was published in the October 2012 *Bloomberg BNA Expert Evidence Report*.

The Burton Awards, a unique national awards program established in 1999 and patterned after the Pulitzers, is run in association with the Library of Congress and rewards great achievements in law with an emphasis on writing and reform. ■■

PARK ON TEAM THAT HELPED FREE WRONGLY CONVICTED WOMAN



Associate Elin I. Park was on a firm team that achieved an extraordinary victory for client Nicole Harris. Due to diligent work by the team and Northwestern University’s Center on Wrongful Convictions, Ms. Harris, who was imprisoned on a 30-year

sentence for the first-degree murder of her 4-year-old son, was released from custody on February 25, 2013, and, on June 17, all charges were dropped.

Ms. Harris’ conviction was largely based on a video-recorded confession extracted from her after a 27-hour police interrogation. The trial also featured serious errors by the judge, including the exclusion of eyewitness testimony from Ms. Harris’ 5-year-old son that his brother had wrapped the string around his own neck while playing “Spiderman.”

Brought in after trial, the firm unsuccessfully sought post-conviction relief in the state courts and federal habeas relief in the Northern District of Illinois.

However, in October 2012, the Seventh Circuit, reversing the denial of the habeas petition, ordered Ms. Harris released from prison unless the state elected to retry her within 120 days. The state asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the case and filed additional pleadings with the Seventh Circuit, seeking more time to determine whether to retry Ms. Harris.

On June 3, 2013, the Supreme Court denied the state’s petition and, on June 17, the State of Illinois dismissed the case. ■■

FIRM AND GE PARTNER WITH DIVERSITY PIPELINE TO HOST CONFERENCE FOR WHITNEY YOUNG MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Eighteen Jenner & Block attorneys participated in a conference for 62 students from Chicago's Whitney Young Magnet High School. Sponsored by the firm, client General Electric and Street Law, the event featured workshops on three areas of law: intellectual property, harassment and alternative energy. The students practiced their negotiation skills, arguing both sides of mock cases. They also learned about the career paths and work of corporate attorneys.

The March 7, 2013, event was part of Street Law's Legal Diversity Pipeline Program, which pairs corporate legal departments and law firms with high school law classes to educate students about law, democracy and human rights,

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and to increase their knowledge and interest in legal careers. Jenner & Block, which hosted the conference, has partnered with GE on this initiative for Whitney Young High School since 2007.

By focusing on strategies that encourage young people to enter the legal profession, including providing them with role models, connections with legal professionals and the opportunity to experience the types of work lawyers do, the



From left: Donald E. Goff, Kellie R. Bylica, Mercedes M. Hill, Joshua A. Pasquesi, Christopher J. Karacic, David P. Saunders, E. Lynn Grayson, Ethan E. Kent, Katherine A. Neville and Allison A. Torrence.

program seeks to increase diversity in the legal profession.

Partner E. Lynn Grayson, who leads the firm's participation, said, "Promoting diversity and inclusion within our firm, the profession, the community and society is a core value at Jenner & Block. Street Law's innovative program broadens the experiences and opportunities for diverse students. We are thrilled to host and participate in this important program with our valued client GE."

The participating attorneys included Partners Benjamin J. Bradford, E. Lynn Grayson, Mercedes M. Hill, Megan B. Poetzel, Steven M. Siros and Barbara S. Steiner; Associates Yusuf Esat, Peter H. Hanna, Christopher J. Karacic, Ethan E. Kent, Jamie K. Lord, Edward T. Mansell, Joshua A. Pasquesi, David P. Saunders and Allison A. Torrence; and Staff Attorney Kellie R. Bylica. ■■

HARRIS PARTICIPATES IN CHICAGO COMMITTEE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Partner Philip L. Harris participated in a program celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Chicago Committee, a nonprofit whose mission is to advance racial and ethnic diversity in large Chicago law firms. Phil, who has been a member of the organization's Board of

Directors since 2007, served on the planning committee for the celebration and played a key role in the program, which took place on March 7, 2013, in the James Parsons Memorial Courtroom in Chicago. Phil presented an oral argument on the topic "2002-2012 – The Lost Decade of Diversity?" before a hearing panel consisting of U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Kendall; Aurora Abella Austriaco, Chicago Bar Association President; and Gail D. Hasbrouk, General Counsel, Advocate Health Care. He argued that it was a lost decade because minority lawyers are still underrepresented in firms. Opposing him was Jones Day partner José Isasi, who argued that minorities have made strides in law firms over the last 10 years, notwithstanding declining law school graduation rates. Associate A. Samad Pardesi, who serves on the Committee's Associate Board, assisted in supporting the event. ■■

FIRM WINS DEFENSE VICTORY FOR WOLTERS KLUWER N.V.



Partners Christopher C. Chiou (far left) and Kenneth K. Lee provided assistance with several key pre-trial motions in the firm's successful defense of Wolters Kluwer N.V. and several of its U.S. subsidiaries and business executives.

The plaintiffs, Daniel DeSario and National Bar Review LLC, claimed damages of approximately \$25 million based on an alleged acquisition of a bar review company and a series of ancillary employment contracts and licensing agreements. The plaintiffs also pled allegations of fraud, negligent misrepresentation, emotional distress, breach of fiduciary duty and trade secret misappropriation, among others. Many of the plaintiffs' claims were dismissed under Rule 12 and via summary judgment. Then, during a two-week trial, the firm trial team persuaded the district court that there was no acquisition agreement and that Mr. DeSario was an at-will employee. All of the plaintiffs' claims, which were based on alleged oral promises and agreements, were denied by the district court ■■

Illinois Super Lawyers recognized the following attorneys in the 2013 guide to the “top 5 percent of attorneys” in the state:

Gabriel A. Fuentes [Criminal Defense: White Collar](#)

Reginald J. Hill [Intellectual Property](#)

Philip L. Harris [Personal Injury Defense: Products](#)

The following were named “Rising Stars,” the top 2.5 percent of attorneys who are 40 years old or younger or who have been practicing for 10 or fewer years:

Reena R. Bajowala [General Litigation](#)

Joseph A. Saltiel [Intellectual Property](#)



In Vault's most recent survey, Jenner & Block ranked among the top 20 law firms, nationally, in the following categories:

- Overall Diversity **Top 5**
- Diversity – Women **Top 10**
- Diversity – LGBT **Top 5**
- Diversity – Minorities **Top 20**
- Diversity for Individuals with Disabilities **Top 20**



The American Lawyer A-List – 2013

The AmLaw A-List recognizes the 20 most elite law firms across the country for outstanding performance in areas including diversity representation. The firm's selection in 2013 marked the fifth time it was named to the A-List since the ranking was instituted 10 years ago.

Jenner & Block Scholarships

Diversity Scholars

Bide Akande, University of Illinois College of Law

Omid Bañuelos, Northwestern University School of Law

Priyah Kaul, University of Michigan Law School

Mikael Rojas, Stanford Law School

Kara Trowell, The University of Chicago Law School

Grant Folland Scholar

Kara Ingelhart, The University of Chicago Law School

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