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Meet Jenner & Block's Newest Partners of Color

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Diversity Expo Empowers Through Learning, Networking Opportunities

Premier CLE Event to Feature Several Partners

Several Jenner & Block partners will share their experience and insight on cutting-edge practice issues during the Minority Corporate Counsel Association CLE Expo in Chicago March 15-17. The Firm continues to serve as a Premier Sponsor of the increasingly popular diversity event.

During one panel discussion, Partner Patricia A. Bronte will address "The Evolution of e-Discovery," while Partner Philip L. Harris will offer attorneys "Practical Tips and Strategies for Litigation Avoidance."

And Partner S. Tony Ling will explore the hottest issues facing non-qualified deferred compensation benefits at a session entitled, "Executive Compensation: What's Changed in Light of Corporate Scandals?"

MCCA Executive Director Veta T. Richardson said that one of the keys to the Expo's growing success among minority attorneys is its history of providing valuable learning experiences as well as networking opportunities for attendees. The lawyers who have been tapped to speak at the Expo, she explained, are "at the top" of their profession and "address the cutting-edge issues that in-house counsel want to hear about."

This year's event will kick off on March 15 with the annual MCCA Diversity Dinner before attendees embark on two days of plenary sessions at the Chicago Marriott Downtown.

Ms. Bronte, a veteran Expo panelist, said her chosen topic on the latest "e-discovery" trends "has a lot of fear and hype" around it because new issues keep emerging and the law is evolving so fast in its attempt to keep up. Her goal this year, she said, "is to offer people a practical perspective and concrete tips on how to get through e-discovery



Partner Philip L. Harris spoke at the 2005 MCCA CLE Expo and is a returning panelist to this year's event.

without becoming overwhelmed by the technical jargon."

Expo speakers say they often learn valuable lessons themselves.

"I'm delighted to be back," explained Mr. Harris, who is also making his second speaking appearance at the diversity event. "I'm able to exchange ideas with highly knowledgeable corporate counsel more at this event than any other large conference."

First-time participant Mr. Ling said he's especially excited to be a part of a diversity conference that "reflects the importance corporations and law firms are putting on diversity."

The Expo's activities will again include the popular Casino Night networking reception as the conference leaders strive to provide attendees with a well-rounded experience again this year.

"I still remember what a thrill it was for us to have a firm of Jenner & Block's caliber sign on to be the first supporter of this event," said Ms. Richardson. Since then, she added, attendees have come to expect that each year the Expo will be bigger and more valuable to their careers.

Practice Profile: Jorge M. Leon

Pension Plans are a Shifting Landscape



Even companies with well-funded, solvent plans are freezing or eliminating pension systems, noted Jenner & Block Partner Jorge M. Leon, a member of the Firm's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice.

Freezing a pension plan, he explained, can help companies better compete by, among other things, locking in benefit levels, reducing the number of participants that would receive benefits over generally longer life expectancies and reducing Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) premiums.

Indeed, according to the most recent statistics compiled by the PBGC, 9.4%

of the more than 30,000 defined-benefit plans still in existence have been frozen.

Increasing life spans, generous benefits, and global competition are also pushing many companies' employee pension plans to the brink of insolvency. These are some of the major factors causing a "long-term shift" away from the traditional, employer-run, pension plans with defined benefits, Mr. Leon said.

"Companies recognize that some of their foreign and domestic competitors have lower benefit costs, younger workforces, less generous benefits or are not subject to the financial

uncertainties of the funding requirements applicable to most pension plans," said Mr. Leon.

Mr. Leon counsels clients on a wide range of issues relating to employee benefits and executive compensation, including the benefit aspects of corporate transactions, executive and equity compensation and qualified and non-qualified retirement plan issues. Recently, he has consulted on ERISA litigation issues, ESOPs, qualified plan mergers, administrative blackouts under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the impact of Internal Revenue Code Section 409A on non-qualified plan design.

Court Victory May Clarify Jury Bias Rules

The constitutional rights of Jenner & Block pro bono client Wayne Stephens may have been violated when federal prosecutors peremptorily struck minorities of different ethnic backgrounds from the pool of potential jurors in a 2003 criminal wire fraud trial, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit recently ruled.

The closely watched case, argued by Jenner & Block Associate Irina Y. Dmitrieva, may further clarify long-established procedures to prevent prosecutors from rejecting jurors solely on the basis of race.

The prosecutors had exercised every peremptory strike to remove six out of eight minorities present on Mr. Stephens's venire, including two African Americans, three Hispanic Americans and one Asian American. The prosecutors did not strike a single Caucasian juror, even though Caucasian jurors comprised 75% of the potential jurors to be empanelled. As a result, Mr. Stephens was tried and convicted by a jury of 11 Caucasians and one Hispanic American.

Under the supervision of Partner Barry Levenstam, Ms. Dmitrieva argued in 2004 before the Seventh Circuit that,

for purposes of establishing a prima facie case of discrimination under the Equal Protection Clause of the federal constitution, a court could "aggregate" minorities of different ethnic groups. The appeals court agreed that the eliminated jurors did not need to be of

7th Circuit: The use of challenges to stack the jury with one race is no more constitutional than the use to eliminate one race.

the same race to raise an inference of discrimination, and that the government's pattern of challenges were exercised "in a grossly disproportionate manner."

Explained the court: "The use of challenges to stack the jury with one race is no more constitutional than the use to eliminate one race." It remanded the case to the trial court to determine whether the government had "legitimate non-discriminatory reasons" for striking the minority jurors. That court is expected to rule soon.

Ms. Dmitrieva's argument helped the Firm's pro bono client with the first step in a three-part Equal Protection test formed 20 years ago in the bedrock U.S. Supreme Court case *Batson v. Kentucky*. That 1986 decision held that parties may establish a prima facie case of purposeful discrimination in jury selection based solely on evidence concerning the exercise of peremptory challenges at trial.

Partners Barry Sullivan, Richard P. Steinken and Michael T. Brody had filed an influential amicus brief in *Batson* on behalf of The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The brief was closely followed by several Justices on the *Batson* court (see: *Equal Time – Focus on Diversity*, Summer 2003.)

Last year, Mr. Sullivan and Partner Margaret J. Simpson, again representing The Lawyers' Committee, contributed to an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Johnson v. California*, challenging the state's requirement that a defendant prove a "strong likelihood" of discrimination during a *Batson* challenge. The High Court overturned the state's standard in June.

Hill Named One of *Chicago Lawyer's* "10 Taking Off After 30"

Partner Reginald J. Hill was recently named as one of *Chicago Lawyer's* "10 Taking Off After 30" in an engaging series of profiles detailing how ten of the city's top attorneys launched their successful legal careers later in life...and after budding business careers.

The Intellectual Property litigator told the magazine his earlier jobs as an electrical engineer for two corporate giants have been an asset for his clients as well as the Firm: "I was in a great position to understand the clients' technological issues."

Those unique experiences earlier in life — Mr. Hill is a co-inventor on two patents — also gave him an advantage over many of his colleagues who chose a more traditional career path. "Most days, I'm glad my life has not been shaped entirely by being a lawyer because my diverse experience has led to a broader perspective on life and work," he explained.

After graduating from Tuskegee Institute with a bachelors degree in electrical engineering in 1984, Mr. Hill took a job with AT & T Bell Laboratories in Naperville, Illinois. During the 1984-1985 school year, he attended Georgia Tech full time to earn a masters degree.

At Bell Labs, Mr. Hill designed chips and circuit boards for multiprocessing computers. He also worked in a similar capacity at Motorola.

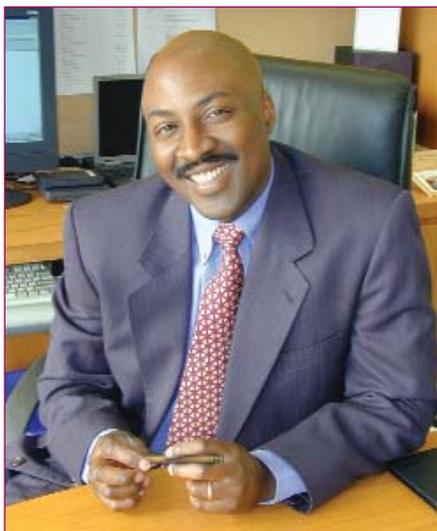
In the Fall of 1990 he started to go to Chicago's John Marshall Law School in the evenings.

"I saw the legal profession as a more tangible way to have an effect on people's lives," said Mr. Hill. "I also saw the law as a measure of professional independence...knowledge of the law is empowering, after all."

The law also promised a greater degree of security for Mr. Hill and his wife. The entrepreneurial couple had

run a postal business in the city's Hyde Park district during the late-1980's and they knew first-hand the natural ups and downs of any small business endeavor. Mr. Hill also had witnessed corporate lay-offs that had derailed other careers. "I decided I didn't want to be forced into that game in my later years."

After obtaining his J.D. *cum laude* in 1994, Mr. Hill joined Jenner & Block. In 1998 he left and formed R.J. Hill & Associates, Ltd. He returned to Jenner & Block in 2002 and made Partner shortly thereafter.



Mr. Hill's practice now focuses on intellectual property disputes involving patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, right of publicity and unfair competition. He's handled complex cases concerning a wide range of emerging or rapidly evolving technologies, including computer software, semiconductor memories, photography, battery equalizers, smoke detectors, modems, liquid crystal displays, radio frequency identification systems and computer-telephony integration.

Most recently, Mr. Hill helped a Jenner & Block litigation team obtain a

\$23.4 million arbitrator's award on behalf of famed inventor Ole K. Nilssen. The high stakes victory came in light of an earlier district court ruling that had found violations of several of the client's patents for electronic lighting ballasts used to power fluorescent lamps.

Mr. Hill also maintains an active pro bono practice.

One of Mr. Hill's most notable pro bono victories involved a copyright infringement case against rock star Liz Phair and a leading recording label. Through Lawyers for Creative Arts, he represented a photographer whose work was included in Ms. Phair's *Whip-Smart* album without permission.

He also serves as pro bono general counsel to the Chicago Recovery Alliance, a non-profit that directly supports, educates, and advocates with others to reduce harmful drug-related effects, specifically the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Hill conceded that, while his earlier engineering experience continues to enhance his legal career, he does have to continually deal with being compared to some of his older peers and their more advanced careers.

As time passes though, the disparity diminishes, as evidenced by the *Chicago Lawyer's* "10 After 30" recognition. In May 2003, Mr. Hill was heralded by *Diversity & the Bar* as one of the nation's "top lawyers of color" in intellectual property law. His clients have included General Electric, Motorola and Ford Motor Company.

"My past career has made me not only a better litigator and a more effective businessman, but a happier person," he concluded.

Mr. Hill can be reached at rhill@jenner.com.

Sharing the Keys to Career Advancement

Jenner & Block attorneys often participate in career management seminars hosted by leading organizations that advance diversity in the profession.

Black Women Lawyers' Association Roundtable

Mentorship, continuous self evaluation, a positive attitude and ownership of one's work are four keys to success in a young lawyer's career, according to a recent Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago luncheon roundtable discussion hosted by Jenner & Block entitled, "Career Benchmarks – Is your career on track?"

Pictured, from left, are panelists Associate Michelle Speller-Thurman, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenyanna M. Scott, then-Cook County Circuit Court Judge Patricia B. Holmes, and Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Dorothy Capers.



North American South Asian Law Student Association Seminar

Jenner & Block Associate Shehla F. Syed was a panelist at a recent NASALSA seminar for law students on career management best practices. Among other things, Ms. Syed emphasized the importance of exceptional client service in advancing one's career.

Pictured at the discussion, from left, are panelists Maria Kuriakos Ciesil, Assistant Chief of the Criminal Prosecutions and Trials Assistance Bureau in the Office of the Attorney General of Illinois; Hon. Rena Van Tine, Associate Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County; and Ms. Syed.

MCCA Career Development Workshop

Attorneys learned how to actively manage their careers by taking stock of their goals and by taking credit for their accomplishments at an interactive workshop recently presented by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and hosted by Jenner & Block. The attendees participated in several networking exercises led by moderators Heather Bradley and Miriam Bamberger Grogan, co-authors of *Judge For Yourself: Clarity, Choice & Action in Your Legal Career*, published by the MCCA and the American Bar Association.

Pictured at the event, from left, Partner Richard J. Gray; Partner Linda L. Listrom; MCCA Executive Director Veta T. Richardson; and Partner Jorge M. Leon. Also pictured (inset), from left, Venu Gupta, Executive Director of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms; Marcela Sanchez, Associate at Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw, and Partner Reginald J. Hill.



Firm Boosts Support of ABA Diversity Efforts

Jenner & Block has increased its support of several American Bar Association initiatives that further their mutual diversity goal of promoting “full and equal participation in the legal profession by minorities, women and persons with disabilities.”

The Firm’s amplified support is focused on two ABA initiatives targeting law students of color – the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program (JIOP) and the Legal Opportunity Scholarship.

“These are two key programs that support increased diversity in the profession by helping law students acquire the skills and experience to become successful attorneys,” said Partner Richard J. Gray, who has marshalled the Firm’s involvement in both programs. Mr. Gray also just completed his three-year term on the ABA President’s Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Profession.

Internship Opportunities

The JIOP, now in its sixth year, places minority and financially disadvantaged students with federal and state judges for summer internships. Its success is evident in the growth of the program’s size and scope – last year more than 110 interns were placed with judges in Illinois, Texas, and Florida, up from approximately 30 placements in the program’s first year.

The Firm supports the JIOP program by interviewing candidates on behalf of the ABA as well as by having its partners participate in the program’s orientation session for students before they embark on their internships. Mr. Gray

also recently served as Co-Chair of the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

The JIOP interview process is a rewarding experience for both the students and the Firm’s attorneys. “Their interest in learning about the practice of law from the perspective of the judiciary was inspiring,” said Partner Julie M. Mandanas, who interviewed candidates from the University of Illinois last March. “It reminded me that one of the things I like best about the practice of law is that there is always something new to learn.”

Scholarship Opportunities

The Firm also initiated an effort to increase financial support to the ABA’s Legal Opportunity Scholarship, which has awarded thousands of dollars in law school tuition scholarships to students of color and those with limited financial means since 2000. Mr. Gray, who serves on the ABA Legal Opportunity

Scholarship Committee, suggested last August that the Reserves Committee of the ABA Section of Litigation and the Section Council approve a \$100,000 donation toward continued scholarship grants. The Section approved the request and issued its “Lead Gift Challenge” during the ABA’s Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Under the challenge, the Section of Litigation has offered to increase its gift to as much as \$250,000 to match the largest gift, exceeding \$100,000, made by any other section. Over \$400,000 in additional contributions have been raised to date.

These two ABA programs
help law students
“acquire the skills and
experience to become
successful attorneys.”

– Partner Richard J. Gray

ABA Spirit of Excellence Award

Jenner & Block was a lead sponsor of the Spirit of Excellence luncheon held in February at the ABA’s Midyear Meeting. The ABA’s Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession presents the Spirit of Excellence Award to lawyers who excel in their professional settings, personify excellence, and demonstrate a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession.

The Spirit of Excellence award recipients included:
Paula E. Boggs, Executive Vice President, General

Counsel and Secretary for Starbucks Coffee Company; Harry Gee, Jr., Principal of the Law Office of Harry Gee, Jr.; Michael D. Marin, Partner at Vinson & Elkins, LLP; Roderick A. Palmore, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for Sara Lee Corporation; Rachel Patrick, Staff Director of the ABA Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice; and The Honorable Ann Claire Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Meet our Newest Partners of Color

Kali N. Bracey

Kali joined Jenner & Block after four years at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. She regularly conducts training programs for new lawyers at the Public Defender Service.



Kali N. Bracey is a partner in Jenner & Block's Washington, DC office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Entertainment and New Media, Insurance Litigation and Counseling, and White Collar Criminal Defense and Counseling Practices.

Ms. Bracey has been working on a wide variety of litigation matters in state and federal courts throughout the country representing clients in redistricting, copyright, telecommunications, insurance coverage and product liability cases. She has also represented MCI before the Federal Communications Commission. Ms. Bracey has an active white collar criminal defense practice that includes representing clients in internal investigations and *qui tam* matters.

Ms. Bracey has represented members of the Recording Industry Association of America as amicus curiae in an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth

Circuit that challenged the district court's construction of one of the safe harbors of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. She also represented members of the video game industry in a case involving copyright infringement.

Ms. Bracey also works on behalf of policyholders in insurance coverage disputes related to coverage for complex construction matters, mold, and lead paint. She serves as one of the co-chairs of the American Bar Association's Subcommittee on Commercial General Liability.

Her pro bono work includes the drafting of a brief amicus curiae on behalf of a coalition of advocates for the poor and homeless as well as the representation of a criminal defendant facing felony charges in District of Columbia Superior Court.

In 2004, Ms. Bracey became one of the co-chairs of the Young Litigators Committee of the Litigation Section of the DC Bar.

Ms. Bracey received her B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Spelman College and J.D. from Yale Law School. After graduation, Ms. Bracey clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Jorge M. Leon

In 1999, Jorge was a member on the Host Committee for the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights.



Jorge M. Leon is a partner in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. He is a member of the Firm's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice.

Mr. Leon counsels clients on a wide range of issues relating to employee benefits and executive compensation, including the benefit aspects of corporate transactions, executive and equity compensation and qualified and non-qualified retirement plan issues. Recently, he has consulted on ERISA litigation issues, ESOPs, qualified plan mergers, administrative blackouts under the Sarbanes-Oxley

Act and the impact of Internal Revenue Code Section 409A on non-qualified plan design. In addition to his recent work, he counsels clients on a variety of Internal Revenue Code/ERISA compliance issues including fiduciary duties, correction of administrative errors, and reducing/restructuring benefits and complying with the related notice requirements.

Mr. Leon is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Mr. Leon graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1995 and obtained his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1998. Mr. Leon served as a notes and comments editor for the *University of Illinois Law Review*.

Some of Our Other Attorneys of Color

Partners

Kevin B. Duckworth
Philip L. Harris
Reginald J. Hill
Daniel J. Hurtado
S. Tony Ling
Robert Z. Slaughter

Associates

Joseph F. Arias
Ana R. Bugan
Martez M. Clark
Damien P. Delaney
Wendy L. Fritz
Ami J. Galani

Bobby J. Hollis, II
Darrick J. Hooker
Fazal R. Khan
Jayne Laiprasert
Robin M. Meriweather
Damon D. Perry
Gayle A. Rana

Joseph Saltiel
Raymond D. Sinnappan
Michelle Speller-Thurman
Shehla F. Syed
Shyni R. Varghese
Gregory M. Wu

Lisa T. Scruggs

Lisa T. Scruggs is a partner in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.



Ms. Scruggs practices primarily in the area of civil and commercial litigation, including matters in the context of land use, constitutional, municipal and school law. Ms. Scruggs has participated in a variety of litigation matters involving a wide range of issues including commercial, bankruptcy, unfair competition, antitrust and constitutional law. In addition to her litigation practice, Ms. Scruggs has experience counseling non-profit organizations and schools on a variety of education policy governance issues.

As part of an innovative "executive loan" arrangement, Ms. Scruggs served for two years as Senior Policy Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Public Schools.

Ms. Scruggs provided legal and policy advice to Arne Duncan, the school system's CEO. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Scruggs worked on a variety of education law and policy issues in positions at Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, the Consortium on Chicago School Research and the Chicago Public Schools Office of Accountability.

Ms. Scruggs graduated *cum laude* from Georgetown University in 1993, received her masters degree in education policy from the University of Chicago in 1994 and obtained her J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1998. Ms. Scruggs received the Beale Prize for Legal Writing and the Watson Barber Award for Service from the law school. During the 1997-1998 academic year, Ms. Scruggs was the articles editor for the *University of Chicago Roundtable*, an interdisciplinary law journal. From 1998-2000, Ms. Scruggs served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ann C. Williams on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Lisa is Vice President of the Board of Directors and a founding board member of the Young Women's Leadership Charter School, an innovative college preparatory school focused on math, science and technology.

Everett Ward Joins Real Estate Practice

Everett S. Ward joined Jenner & Block as a partner in the Firm's Real Estate Practice in February after a 20-year career handling both complex and sophisticated transactions.

"Everett is a great complement to our full service real estate practice and provides the Firm with the kind of impeccable credentials and in-depth experience needed to serve our growing list of corporate and commercial clients," said Donald I. Resnick, Chair of the Firm's Real Estate Practice.

Mr. Ward has practiced law in the area of commercial real estate and financing since 1986. He has worked on matters for clients on an international, national and local basis and he has significant experience with complex and sophisticated transactions, as well as day to day client counseling. He has represented corporate, commercial and not-for-profit clients concerning the acquisition, disposition, development, financing and leasing of commercial, industrial and residential real property, including hotels, industrial properties, manufactured housing developments, multi-family developments, office buildings and shopping centers. Mr. Ward has also represented clients in the formation and financing of real estate joint ventures.

Mr. Ward's clients have included corporate clients, such as Equity Residential, an S&P 500 real estate investment trust and the largest publicly-traded owner, operator and developer of multi-family housing in the United States, as well as not-for-profit clients, such as Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago and Thresholds. Mr. Ward has also counseled pension and governmental plan sponsors and plan advisors on a variety of real estate transactions, including the formation of joint ventures for the acquisition and development of "urban infill" sites.



Mr. Ward is a member of the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law and is a past Vice Chair of the Real Estate Investment Trust Committee. He is also a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and the Real Estate Executives Council, as well as a past associate member of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT) and a past member of the Pension Real Estate Association (PREA). He is a frequent speaker at professional seminars and gatherings, including those of the American Bar Association. In addition, Mr. Ward has authored a number of articles on real estate law and related topics, including publications in various American

Bar Association program materials, the *American College of Real Estate Lawyers Newsletter* and *The Real Estate Finance Journal*. Most recently, Mr. Ward authored a chapter on owner's title insurance policies in the 2005 Edition of *The Attorney's Guide to Title Insurance* published by the Illinois Institute on Continuing Legal Education.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Ward has also been active in the community. He is currently a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and serves on the Board of Directors of Heartland Alliance For Human Needs & Human Rights. In addition, he has served on the Executive Committee of the Alumni Council of Princeton University and has participated for a number of years in the "Princeton in Chicago Schools" program at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Chicago.

Mr. Ward graduated from Princeton University in 1983, earning an A.B. in Economics. He obtained his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1986, where he was a member of the Board of Student Advisors.

Everett serves on the Board of Directors of Thresholds, one of the nation's largest non-profit providers of mental health services.

Meet Some of our Newest Associates of Color

Omar clerked for the Hon. Donald P. Lay, of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.



OMAR R. AKBAR is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago Office. He is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice. Mr. Akbar graduated *cum laude* with a B.A. in History from Luther College in 2000 and obtained his J.D. with high distinction, Order of the Coif, from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2004, where he was a Merit Fellow Scholar, received the Dean's Achievement Award, and served as Note and Comment Editor of the *Iowa Law Review*.

Before joining the Firm, Ginger served as a law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court.



GINGER D. ANDERS is an associate in Jenner & Block's Washington, DC office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution. Ginger participates in litigation matters before federal district and appellate courts, representing clients in copyright and commercial cases.

Ms. Anders graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in East Asian Studies in 1999. She received her J.D. in 2002 from Columbia Law School, where she was a Kent Scholar and an articles editor on the *Columbia Law Review*.

Shannon was a post-graduate legal Fellow for the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, where she litigated complex civil rights cases.



SHANNON P. BARTLETT is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice. Ms. Bartlett graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 1998 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Biology. She earned her J.D. in 2003 from the DePaul University College of Law where she graduated *summa cum laude* and Order of the Coif.

MERCEDES M. DAVIS is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Corporate Practice.



Ms. Davis graduated *summa cum laude* from The Ohio State University in 2002, earning a B.S. in Business Administration with a focus in finance. She obtained her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2005, where she served as a student attorney for the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project and as an executive board member of the Black Law Students Association.

While in law school, Mercedes served as the executive director and as a student attorney of Harvard Legal Aid Bureau.

CHRIS-TIA E. DONALDSON is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Corporate Practice.



She has represented clients including IMC Global Inc., Tellabs, Inc., Wachovia Securities and TDS Telecommunications, Inc. She has also advised public companies on various corporate governance matters and federal securities law issues.

Chris-Tia is a founder and the current president of the Harvard Black Alumni Society.

Ms. Donaldson graduated from Harvard Law School in 2003. She received an A.B. in Economics from Harvard College, *cum laude*, in 2000.

REENA R. GOKANI is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.



Ms. Gokani graduated, *cum laude*, from the University of Michigan Law School in 2005, where she was an active member of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, including serving as Vice-President in the 2003-2004 academic year and founding the Origins Cultural Festival and Origins Scholarship to help fund law students working in the public interest sector in 2005. Ms. Gokani also received a

Reena completed a graduate fellowship with the Public Interest Law Initiative at the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the American Civil Liberties Union's Illinois Chapter.

Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 2001, where she was on the executive board and a competing member of the UIUC Mock Trial Team.

SHAHID U. HAQUE is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. He is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Arbitration: Domestic and International Practices.



Mr. Haque graduated from the University of Southern Indiana in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration & Sociology. In 2005, Mr. Haque graduated with high honors from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Mr. Haque received

Shahid served as an extern with the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center, where he successfully represented four indigent refugees seeking asylum in the United States.

the West Publishing Award for attaining the highest grade point average in his class during the 2002-2003 academic year. He also served as a notes and comments editor for the *Chicago-Kent Law Review*. Upon graduating, Mr. Haque received the school's Bar & Gavel Award for outstanding service to the community. He will be inducted into the Order of the Coif in 2006.

SEAN C. HERRING is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office.



He is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Commercial Law and Uniform Commercial Code Practices.

Mr. Herring graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in both Psychology and English in 2001. In 2005, he earned his J.D. from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law where he served as managing editor for the *Loyola Consumer Law Review*. He was a member of the American Bar Association's National Moot Court Team.

CARLETTA F. HIGGINSON is an associate in Jenner & Block's New York



office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Entertainment and New Media and Intellectual Property Practices.

Ms. Higginson focuses her practice on intellectual property disputes in music, music publishing and artist/management disputes. Prior to joining Jenner & Block, Ms. Higginson was an associate at Pryor Cashman Sherman & Flynn LLP, where she has worked on matters involving intellectual property disputes in music and film, music publishing and artist/management disputes, as well as general commercial litigation matters.

Ms. Higginson received a B.A. from New York University in 1999 and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law in 2003.

JANICE H. LAM is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.



Ms. Lam obtained her J.D., with honors, from The George Washington University Law School, where she was an editor of the *George Washington International Law Review*. She graduated from Yale University in 2000.

Janice authored "The Rise of the NGO in Bangladesh: Lessons on Improving Access to Justice for Women and Religious Minorities," for The George Washington International Law Review.

MEGAN R. LEGER is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago Office. She is a member of the Firm's Real Estate and Real Estate Securities Practice Groups.



Ms. Leger graduated from the University of Virginia in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs. She received her law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 2005.

In law school, Megan was a member of the Executive Board of the Black Law Students Association.

Ms. Leger is a recipient of the Black Women Lawyers Association Book Scholarship Award. Ms. Leger competed in the Julius H. Miner Moot Court Competition and went on to co-chair the Judges Committee. During law school Ms. Leger also worked on a variety of real property matters in the Civil Litigation Clinic.

Ms. Leger expects to be admitted into the Illinois Bar in May 2006.

RODNEY L. LEWIS is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office.



He is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.

Mr. Lewis was a Presidential Award Scholar while attending the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign for his undergraduate studies. Mr. Lewis received his B.A. in Business Administration in 1992. Mr. Lewis was a resident playwright in the University

of Illinois Theatre Department and a walk-on member of the Men's Varsity Basketball Team.

While in law school, Rodney worked as an Extern for The Honorable Judge Ann Claire Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Mr. Lewis graduated with honors from the

DePaul University College of Law, earning his J.D. in 2005. Mr. Lewis was a Herzog Scholar and Hinshaw Scholar during his law school career.

Mr. Lewis expects to be admitted into the Illinois Bar in May 2006.

DANIEL I. MORALES is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. He is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.



Mr. Morales graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Williams College in 2002 and obtained his J.D. from the Yale Law School in 2005.

While at Yale, Daniel served as an immigration clinic supervisor.

Complete attorney biographies and prior issues of Equal Time can be found at www.jenner.com

Sean completed a graduate fellowship with the Public Interest Law Initiative at the Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing where he represented low-income tenants in eviction proceedings.

While in law school, Carletta served as Submissions Editor of the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law.

While at New York University School of Law, Maya worked as an advocate in the Immigrant Rights Clinic.



MAYA D. NATH is an associate at Jenner & Block and is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.

Ms. Nath obtained her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2004, where she served as a staff editor for the *Journal of International Law and Politics*. Prior to law school, Ms. Nath attended Columbia University. She completed her undergraduate degree *cum laude* and also earned departmental honors in Political Science. Ms. Nath is a licensed member of the New York Bar as well as the Massachusetts Bar.

also served as Student Body President and Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Intellectual Property*. During her tenure as editor-in-chief, *The Journal of Intellectual Property* received the Outstanding Student Organization of the Year Award.

STEPHANIE L. REINHART is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.



Ms. Reinhart graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a B.A. in political science in 2002. She received her J.D., *summa cum laude*, in 2005 from the University of

Stephanie was a Celia M. Howard Fellow for the Chief Justice Mary Ann McMorrow Scholarship.

Illinois College of Law, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif. During law school, Ms. Reinhart served as an articles editor for the *University of Illinois Law Review* and received the Rickert Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement and the Rickert Award for Excellence in Legal Publications.

JOSE RAMON RIVERA is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. He is a member of the Firm's Real Estate Securities, Tax and Tax Controversy Practices. Mr. Rivera's areas of focus include real estate syndication and



like-kind exchanges, advising clients on tax issues related to real estate investment trusts, business acquisition and divestiture transactions, corporate tax matters, and procuring tax-exempt status for clients.

Mr. Rivera graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996, earning a bachelor's degree in finance. Mr. Rivera obtained his J.D. degree from

the University of Southern California Law School in 1999. Mr. Rivera also obtained an LL.M. degree from Northwestern University Law School with honors in 2005.

CAROLINE LEWIS WOLVERTON is an associate in Jenner & Block's



Washington, DC office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Entertainment and New Media Practices. Ms. Wolverton joined Jenner & Block after litigating on behalf of the United States government for seven years at the U.S. Department of Justice. As a trial attorney in the Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch of the U.S. Department of Justice, Ms. Wolverton litigated cases of national

Caroline received the U.S. Department of Justice Meritorious Award and the Civil Division Commendation Award.

significance on behalf of multiple federal agencies. Ms. Wolverton graduated from Harvard College in 1991 and obtained her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1995. While at Harvard Law School, Ms. Wolverton was a Board Member of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. From 1995 to 1997, Ms. Wolverton served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edward W. Nottingham, United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

ELTON Y. WONG is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago Office. He is a member of the Firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice.



Mr. Wong graduated from Iowa State University in 2002, with a B.S. in Genetics and Philosophy. He obtained his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law, with distinction, in 2005. Following graduation, Mr. Wong joined Jenner & Block in 2005.

Before law school, Elton was a Production Scientist at Integrated DNA Technologies.

In law school, Sejal served as an executive editor for the Michigan Journal of Race & Law.



SEJAL P. PARIKH is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice.

Ms. Parikh obtained her J.D. in 2004 from the University of Michigan Law School. Ms. Parikh received her bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 2001.

ELAYNA T. PHAM is an associate in Jenner & Block's Chicago office. She is a member of the Firm's Intellectual Property, Trade Secrets and Unfair Competition and Entertainment and New Media Practices. Ms. Pham focuses her practice on the litigation of trademark, trade dress, copyright, patent and trade secret cases on behalf of corporations and individuals.



Ms. Pham received her B.A. in Journalism (minor in Justice, Law & Society) from The American University in 1996 and her J.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1999 where she received her Intellectual Property certification, a CALI Award for Intellectual Property Legal Drafting and the Bar & Gavel Award. Ms. Pham

Elayna has served on the Associate Board for Literacy Chicago, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the literacy skills of adults and children.

News & Notes

Some of the Recent Achievements in the Courtroom and Boardroom by the Firm's Attorneys of Color

Itronix Acquisition

Partner S. Tony Ling and Associate Bobby J. Hollis II were part of the Firm's team that served as counsel to General Dynamics in its acquisition of Itronix Corp., a Spokane, Washington-based company that produces specialty computers used by the military and other government organizations.

Influential ABA Brief

The U.S. Supreme Court in June overturned the death sentence of Death Row inmate Ronald Rompilla, saying that his trial lawyer's failure to investigate readily available court records for evidence that could have convinced the jury to spare his life in 1988 was an unconstitutional violation of his civil rights. In addition, the Court ruled that the death sentence ignored the American Bar Association guidelines regarding adequate representation in capital cases. Associate Jayne Laiprasert was part of the Firm's team that had filed an amicus brief in the case on behalf of the ABA that had asked the Justices to consider its *Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Counsel in Death Penalty Cases* as evidence of prevailing professional norms when the Court reviewed Mr. Rompilla's case.

"Friendly Foreclosure" Deal

Partner S. Tony Ling and Associates Mercedes M. Davis and Megan R. Leger were part of the Jenner & Block team that facilitated a \$20 million acquisition by Monomoy Capital Partners, LLC of Firm client Barjan Products, LLC, the largest distributor of general merchandise to truck stops and travel centers across America. The deal employed a creative strategy known as a "friendly foreclosure," which is not presided over by a bankruptcy court, whereby Barjan's creditors agreed in advance to foreclose on the company's encumbered assets, and then sell those assets directly to Monomoy.

Colombian Attorney Gains Asylum

A Chicago Immigration Court in May granted political asylum to a

Jenner & Block client who had been persecuted by Colombian paramilitaries for offering legal representation to those in impoverished communities who have been displaced by violence in that country. Associate Gayle A. Rana successfully represented the Firm's client at his merits hearing.

Amerihost Bankruptcy

Associates Chris-Tia E. Donaldson and Jayne Laiprasert were members of the Jenner & Block team that helped Arlington Hospitality, Inc., creator of the AmeriHost Inn brand name, to complete the \$28.1 million sale of its assets in January to Sunburst Hotel Holdings, Inc. and SJB Equities, Inc., thereby moving Arlington one step closer to ending its Chapter 11 proceedings.

95-5 Transactions Challenged

Partner Kali N. Bracey last year filed an amicus brief in the DC Court of Appeals on behalf of several local community organizations challenging so-called "95-5 transactions." These real estate deals involve only a partial transfer of control over a property and are allegedly used by landlords to evade DC's Rental Housing Conversion and Sale Act's rules requiring owners to give tenants the opportunity to purchase the building before it is put for sale on the market.

Anteon Deal

General Dynamics announced in December that it had reached an agreement to buy Anteon International Corporation, a defense and intelligence technology services company. Partner S. Tony Ling and Associate Ami J. Galani were part of the Firm's team representing General Dynamics in the deal, which is valued at approximately \$2.2 billion and is expected to close in the second quarter of 2006.

Trial Win For GM

Partner Philip L. Harris last year successfully represented General Motors in a number of matters, including a case filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County by a plaintiff

whose van caught fire in 1999. The plaintiff alleged that there was a defect in the vehicle's fuel management system, and he sought damages of over \$10 million. GM argued that the plaintiff failed to prove any defect in the van and that the plaintiff's own conduct – including his intoxication – was the sole proximate cause of his injuries. After a three-week trial and six hours of deliberations, the jury returned a complete defense verdict for GM.

Drug Safety Communication

Associate Fazal R. Khan spoke at a Center for Business Intelligence conference where he co-led a panel discussion on the current regulatory environment for risk/benefit communication by pharmaceutical companies about their drug related products.

DC Circuit Victory

Associate Robin M. Meriweather secured a pro bono victory in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit for Gwendolyn Smith, who filed a disability discrimination and retaliation claim against her former employer. The court overturned a lower court's grant of summary judgment against Ms. Smith, allowing her to proceed to trial with her claims of disability discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Free Speech Victory

Partner Daniel J. Hurtado was part of the Firm's team that persuaded a federal judge in September to issue a preliminary injunction that ordered the New York State Consumer Protection Board to stop coercing cable or broadcast stations to pull or refuse to carry infomercials for author Kevin Trudeau's controversial best-selling book, *Natural Cures "They" Don't Want You to Know About*. The court held that the Consumer Protection Board had violated Mr. Trudeau's First Amendment right to free speech by sending letters to broadcasters suggesting that the infomercials are misleading and "inviting" broadcasters to drop the infomercials.

Advice for the Next Generation of Lawyers

Associate Michelle Speller-Thurman recently spoke at Northwestern University School of Law's inaugural "Diverse Admit Day 2006 - A Celebration of Diversity" as part of a panel of law school alums offering career advice to new law students.

Among the advice Ms. Speller-Thurman offered the students was that they should apply a "cross-training" approach to course selection in law school and that they should not forget the importance of community work, which she said "yields a deeper understanding of the law."

Pictured, from left: Terry Thomas, associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; Monica Llorente, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the Children's Law Pro Bono Project at Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic; and Ms. Speller-Thurman. Other panelists not pictured were Trevor Jefferson, an attorney with the Department of Justice; Gail Kim associate at Katten Muchin Rosenman; and Andrew Stroth, Senior Vice President of Talent Marketing at CSMG Sports.



In its recently released 2006 rankings, Vault ranked Jenner & Block among the top twenty law firms in the country for overall diversity.

Equal Time – Focus on Diversity is produced by Jenner & Block. For additional information or copies, please contact EqualTime@jenner.com. *Equal Time* includes stories about the accomplishments of Jenner & Block's diverse attorneys; legal viewpoints from diverse attorneys and/or clients; the pro bono community service the Firm may be providing on matters relating to women, minorities or LGBT communities; and other issues of interest. *Equal Time* issues include *Focus on Diversity* (attorneys of color); *Women in Focus* (women attorneys); and *LGBT Community Service* (openly gay attorneys).

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