

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Ida Abbott**

President, Ida Abbott Consulting

*Ida Abbott is a retirement strategist who helps individuals design creative, happy and purposeful retirements, and helps law firms design respectful and effective succession and retirement processes. She is an internationally recognized expert on talent and career development, especially mentoring, advancing women, and her current focus, retirement. Before shifting to retirement issues, Ida practiced law for 20 years and then advised lawyers and firms on legal talent and retention for more than two decades. In recognition of her lifetime contributions to the legal profession, she was elected a Fellow of both the American Bar Foundation and the College of Law Practice Management. She is an advisor, coach, speaker, and author of several seminal books, including Retirement by Design, named one of the best retirement books of 2020 by The Wall Street Journal. More information about Ida and her practice can be found on her website, [www.IdaAbbott.com](http://www.IdaAbbott.com).*

## **Gavin Alexander**

Wellness Director, Jackson Lewis LLP

*Gavin Alexander is an experienced and passionate advocate and thought leader in the areas of mental health, well-being, and diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal profession. He is a licensed attorney and Certified Corporate Wellness Specialist, and he currently serves as the Wellness Director of Jackson Lewis P.C., a law firm with over 950 attorneys and over 60 offices across the United States. Gavin graduated from Harvard Law School magna cum laude in 2012. After law school, Gavin clerked for Justice Ralph Gants at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC). From 2013-2020, Gavin practiced as an associate in the corporate department of Ropes & Gray LLP's Boston office. Before joining Jackson Lewis, Gavin served as the first-ever Fellow of the Massachusetts SJC Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being, and he remains an active member of that Committee. Gavin was named one of the Best LGBT Attorneys Under 40 by the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association in 2017, selected as one of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's 25 "Up & Coming Lawyers" for 2019, featured on the Massachusetts Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list for 2018-2020, and inducted as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation in 2020. Gavin has served as a Co-Chair of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association and as a board member of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Commission, and on the DEI Committees of the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, the Institute for Well-Being in Law, and the Boston Bar Association.*

## **Gina Alexandris**

Career Coach, Gina Alexandris, Coaching and Consulting

*Gina Alexandris is on a mission to help individuals and organizations lead and perform at their peak, in a respectful, engaged and authentic manner. As a trained and certified Coach, Gina supports clients to see past their barriers, explore possibilities and move beyond what they know to design and achieve the career they want and deserve. Yes, the process can get messy and uncomfortable...but that is exactly where transformation occurs! A wide variety of experiences have shaped Gina in her current role of Career Coach & Professional Development Consultant. Her beliefs and values have been shaped by her professional and academic experiences, and her experience as the daughter of Greek Canadian immigrants. Past "formal" roles include: · Senior Director, Law Practice Program at TMU; · Special Advisor for the development and launch of the Lincoln Alexander School of Law (where I continue to teach Emotional and Cultural Intelligence and support its Admissions process); · Director of the Strategic Planning Unit with the Legal Services Division at the Ministry of the Attorney General; · Director of the Internationally Trained Lawyers Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law; · Assistant Dean (Student Services) and Founder and Director of Career Services at Osgoode Hall Law School; · Associate in a Civil Litigation*

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*and Family Law practice Gina is passionate about personal and professional success and development; leadership; equity, diversity and inclusion. And as the Founder and Chief Enthusiasm Officer of her company, she enjoys celebrating clients' achievements, however small or large!*

## **Nicholas Alexiou**

Director, LL.M. and Alumni Advising, Associate Director, Career Services, Vanderbilt Law School

*Nicholas Alexiou is the Director of LL.M. and Alumni Advising as well as the Associate Director of Career Services at Vanderbilt Law School. In this capacity, he provides career advice and guidance to both J.D. and LL.M. students as well as Vanderbilt Law alumni. Nick also writes a column on the world of legal employment/recruiting for the popular legal blog Above the Law. Prior to joining Vanderbilt's staff, Nick worked at the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy in Washington, DC, first as the Assistant Director for Lawyer Chapters and, more recently, as the Associate Director of Network Communications. He has previously worked in the Washington, DC office of Sidley Austin LLP and, upon graduating law school, served as a law clerk to the Honorable Margaret B. Seymour, U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina. Nick earned a J.D. from New York University School of Law, an M.A. in Security Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and a B.A., magna cum laude, in Political Science from George Washington University.*

## **Jojo Annobil**

Executive Director, Immigration Justice Corps

*Jojo Annobil is the Executive Director of Immigrant Justice Corps. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Annobil, was the Attorney-in-Charge of The Legal Aid Society's Immigration Law Unit, a city-wide leader in the provision of high quality immigration legal services. Mr. Annobil is an adjunct professor at New York University School of Law where he co-teaches the Immigrant Defense Clinic. He also serves as Special Counsel to the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division First Department's Disciplinary Committee on Immigration matters and is co-chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Immigration Representation. Mr. Annobil graduated from Fordham Law School in 1990 and worked at The Legal Aid Society as a staff attorney in the Criminal Appeals Bureau and as a Criminal/Immigration Specialist and Supervising Attorney in the Immigration Law Unit. Mr. Annobil is the recipient of the Asian Americans for Equality Agent of Change Award, the Fordham Law School Louis J. Lefkowitz Public Service Award, a New York City Council Proclamation for Outstanding Service to the City of New York and the New York City Bar, Legal Services Award.*

## **Carly Appel**

Associate Director of Attorney Recruiting, Skadden

*Carly Appel is the Associate Director of Attorney Recruiting at Skadden. She leads the firm's efforts in all things attorney recruiting. Carly has been at Skadden for her entire career, starting as a Coordinator in 2013. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Vanderbilt University in Human & Organizational Development & Corporate Strategy.*

## **Betsy Armour**

Dean of Career Services (Retired), USC Gould School of Law

*Elizabeth (Betsy) Armour has extensive experience in both the career services and legal recruitment arenas, having worked for law schools and private law firms on both coasts for four decades. To round out her work experience she did a stint in a legal consulting firm as well. Finding her preferred work home on the law school side, Betsy served*

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*as Dean of Career Services at USC Gould School of Law from 2014 until early 2022, was the Director of Employer Relations at Suffolk University Law School, and for over a decade was the leader of Boston University School of Law's Career Development Office. Betsy is a past president of NALP; twice served on its board of directors; has chaired and served on numerous NALP committees, task forces and work groups; has done conference planning and served on the Nominating Committee; and is a frequent speaker at the NALP Annual Education Conference. New this year, Betsy serves as the Vice-Chair (along with Tom Schoenherr, formerly of Fordham Law School) of the Retirement Advising and Affiliate Membership Work Group under NALP's Experienced Professionals Section. Betsy holds an A.B. in Italian and Art History from Smith College and is a self-declared NALP nerd.*

## **Alison Ashe-Card**

Associate Dean for DEI, Duke University School of Law

*Alison Ashe-Card serves as the Associate Dean of DEI in the Office of Career at Duke University School of Law. In this role, she leads the development and implementation of the office's educational programs as well as developing and guiding schoolwide diversity and inclusion initiatives. Alison is an active member of NALP. She currently chairs the First Year Diversity Recruiting Task Force. She previously served on the 2021-2023 NALP Board of Directors and chaired the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Section. Alison has written and presented extensively on diversity, equity and inclusion matters, including dismantling racism in the legal profession. Alison received her JD from American University – Washington College of Law. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Spelman College where she earned a BA in Political Science.*

## **Debbie Atlas**

Senior Director of Attorney Recruiting, Ice Miller LLP

*Debbie Atlas is the Senior Director of Attorney Talent at Ice Miller LLP where she oversees all of the Firm's attorney recruiting and professional development efforts. She joined Ice Miller in 2018 after 4 years in Career Services at Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Debbie started her legal career as a litigation associate at Goodwin Procter in D.C. before moving into professional development for the next 7 years. Under expert mentorship, Goodwin is where she developed her passion for attorney talent management and helping others find their best selves in the legal industry.*

## **Joanna Auchetti**

Assistant Director & Advisor, Office of Career and Professional Development, University of Florida Levin College of Law

*Joanna Auchetti is the Assistant Director & Advisor in the Office of Career and Professional Development at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Joanna earned her JD from California Western School of Law and joined the University of Florida Levin College of Law from private law practice in 2021. She is the treasurer for the Florida Association of Legal Recruitment Administrators and is excited for the opportunity to present at NALP for the first time.*

## **Sandra Bang**

Founder & Principal, Sable Group

*Sandra is a consultant and certified executive coach. She helps people and organizations gain clarity and achieve their goals. With her candid and pragmatic approach, Sandra facilitates outcomes for clients that are impactful and beneficial, particularly in the areas of inclusive leadership, team management and motivation, navigating*

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*complex organizations, leveling up and getting promotion ready, self empowerment, and leadership pivots. Sandra brings to her coaching and advisory work 25 plus years of experience in professional services. Most recently she served as the Chief Diversity & Talent Strategy Officer at Shearman & Sterling LLP.*

### **Dyana Barninger**

Senior Director of Legal Recruiting, Faegre Drinker

*Dyana Barninger utilizes her knowledge of the legal industry to find top talent in all levels of experience — from law students to lateral partners. She leverages over two decades of experience in lawyer talent management to implement effective and innovative strategies that attract top legal talent across the firm's practice groups. Dyana partners with key stakeholders to advise and strategically forecast talent acquisition needs, in furtherance of the firm's goals and values. Dyana has led the lawyer recruitment and professional development functions at three AmLaw 50 firms before joining Faegre Drinker. In those roles, in addition to talent acquisition, she oversaw the administration of associate development programs, associate work allocation, performance evaluations and pro bono initiatives. Dyana is a former NALP Board member and has been an active NALP volunteer leader in various other roles, including serving on the Nominating Committee, Conference Planning Committees for Toronto, San Juan, and Vancouver, as the Recruiting Section Chair, and the Chair of the Innovating Talent Acquisition Task Force. She is a frequent speaker and contributor on legal industry topics including lateral hiring best practices, entry-level recruitment, career development and management.*

### **Leslie Becker Wilson**

Director of Legal Career Services and Alumni Relations, University of Massachusetts School of Law-Dartmouth

*As Director of the Career Services Office at the University of Massachusetts School of Law, I help students and graduates make informed decisions about career paths and develop personal strategies to obtain career goals by providing guidance, information and support. Towards this end, under my direction the Career Services Office provides a wide range of services to students and graduates, including individual career counseling to discuss career goals and options, assistance in securing school-year internships and permanent employment, and discussion of bar examination options and preparation as part of a plan for attaining overall professional goals. I work with students and graduates to help them effectively write resumes and cover letters, improve networking and informational interviewing skills, and prepare for job interviews; additionally I develop numerous handouts on career-related topics including legal career options such as judicial clerkships, small firm practice and working for the government, as well as provide online resources for job searching, professional development and pro bono opportunities. In my role as Director, I oversee the Career Services Office's programming which includes panels, workshops and other events, continuously work to expand its recruiting and employer outreach efforts, and administer the law school's Pro Bono Program as well as the Public Interest Summer Stipend Program.*

### **Miriam Benor**

Director of Attorney Coaching, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

*Miriam Benor is the Director of Attorney Coaching at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. Miriam provides individualized coaching, facilitates group forums, and delivers original presentations on a wide variety of professional development and legal industry topics. She began her career as a complex commercial litigator and later became the Associate Director of Career Development at Pepperdine University School of Law, before joining Pillsbury in 2017 as the Manager of Talent Development. In her first role at Pillsbury, Miriam oversaw the firm's litigation training, ran the mentorship program, conducted new hire orientations, planned firmwide conferences, and assisted with the annual attorney review process. She received her coaching training and certification from the*

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*Coaches Training Institute, and earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A., summa cum laude, in Psychology from Columbia University.*

### **Melissa Berry**

Director of Attorney Development, Perkins Coie

*Melissa Berry returned to Perkins Coie as Director of Attorney Development in February 2023. Now directing the firm's lawyer professional development strategies and performance evaluation processes, Melissa started her legal career as an associate at Perkins and Latham & Watkins. Melissa then turned her focus to law student learning and development as a faculty member and senior administrator for 15 years. During that time, she led career services at two schools, serving as Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services and Affiliate Instructor at the University of Washington School of Law and Assistant Dean of Career Services and Associate Professor at Chapman University Fowler School of Law. Seeking to continue to support students and lawyers throughout their careers, Melissa shifted to the employer side in 2019 as Director of Professional Development and Diversity at Lane Powell PC in Seattle. Melissa has been involved with advancing professional identity formation through her service as Co-Vice Chair of the Professional Identity Formation Work Groups in NALP's Lawyer and Law Student Professional Development Sections, and she is a member of NALP's Neurodiversity in the Legal Profession Task Force. Melissa earned her JD, cum laude, from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and her BA, cum laude, from Tulane University.*

### **Emily Berttucci**

Chief Legal Recruiting Officer, Thompson Coburn LLP

*Emily Berttucci is the Director of Legal Recruitment for Clark Hill PLC. In her role, she is responsible for Clark Hill's law student, attorney, and paralegal recruitment efforts across all practice groups and for all offices. She works directly with firm leadership to implement the firm's recruiting and hiring initiatives. Emily has served in several positions on the Board of the Chicago Association of Legal Personnel Administrators. Before moving into recruiting, she worked as a practicing attorney in New York.*

### **Dan Binstock**

Partner, Garrison & Sisson

*Dan Binstock is a partner with Garrison & Sisson, a legal search firm based in Washington, DC. He places partners, high-level government attorneys, and practice groups with top law firms. Dan is the founder and editor of lateralpartners.com, a detailed guide on lateral partner recruiting and authored "The Attorney's Guide to Using (or Not Using) Legal Recruiters: Answers to Important Questions Most Attorneys Don't Know to Ask ... But Should" (2015). He is past president of NALSC and is a current member of its Board of Directors, serving as Chair of its Ethics Committee. Dan is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and his commentary and/or articles on the legal market have appeared in publications including the Wall Street Journal, American Lawyer, National Law Journal, Law360, ABA Journal, Fortune, Washington Post, and Washington Business Journal. LawDragon has named Dan one of the Top 100 Legal Consultants and Strategists for the past six consecutive years. Before becoming a legal recruiter in 2004, Dan practiced intellectual property law with Finnegan Henderson. He earned his J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law, and received his undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Maryland. Dan also is a professional pianist and hosts Virtual Piano Party ([www.virtualpianoparty.com](http://www.virtualpianoparty.com)).*

### **Pascale Bishop**

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Manager of Attorney Integration, Ice Miller LLP

*Pascale Bishop joined Ice Miller LLP as Manager of Attorney Integration in April 2022. Prior to that she spent 15 years in law school career advising, most of that time at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. Before her change to law school career advising, Pascale practiced litigation for 5 years at two different national law firms. Her own lateral move after three years of practice sparked her interest in assisting with attorney transitions and integration. She has been a NALP member since 2006. Pascale received her J.D. from University of Michigan Law School, her M.F.A. from Northwestern University, and her B.A. from the University of Missouri-Columbia.*

## **Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby**

Chief Judge, DC Court of Appeals, DC Court of Appeals

*Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby is interested in this session, but I don't yet have a confirmation as to these dates. I should have it shortly. The Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby was sworn in as Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals on March 17, 2017. As Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby chairs the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration for the District of Columbia. Prior to being designated Chief Judge, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was nominated by President George W. Bush in August 2006 to serve as an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Before that, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby, nominated by President William Jefferson Clinton, served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 2000-2006, and served as a Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1995-2000. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby chairs the District of Columbia Courts' Standing Committee on Fairness and Access, and serves on the District of Columbia's Access to Justice Commission. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby is the Chair and Moderator of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and is the Past President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) for the 2013-2014 term. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has taught Trial Advocacy at the Harvard Law School and teaches Professional Responsibility as an Adjunct Professor at the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia. She has also taught Continuing Legal Education courses for the District of Columbia Bar. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and received the Duke University Presidential Leadership Award. Following graduation from Duke University, she was selected to be one of twelve Public Affairs Fellows of the Coro Foundation in San Francisco, California. She earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law, graduating in the top five percent of her class.*

## **B. Foster Blair**

Principal, Foster Blair Consulting, LLC

*Foster Blair is a highly accomplished executive coach and organizational development consultant, bringing nearly two decades of experience to his clients. With expertise in leadership development, business growth, diversity and inclusion, strategic planning, and career transition coaching, Foster has established a strong track record of guiding leaders and teams towards reaching their maximum potential. As a credentialed coach by the International Coach Federation (ICF), Foster is dedicated to helping leaders find meaning in their personal and professional lives, fostering employee engagement, customer loyalty, and overall organizational success. Throughout his career, Foster has collaborated with startups, federal agencies, Global 100 law firms, and Fortune 100 & 500 companies. His guidance and mentorship have benefited individuals and organizations in the legal and financial services sectors. Foster also serves on the faculty of MentorCoach, an ICF accredited approved coach training program where he teaches Professional Responsibility and Ethics. Foster holds a bachelor's from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and a juris doctorate degree from Seton Hall University, School of Law.*

## **Stacey Blakeman**

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Assistant Dean of Career Services, University of Kansas School of Law

*Stacey Blakeman (she/her) is the Assistant Dean of Career Services at the University of Kansas School of Law. Stacey is a KU Law alum and practiced family-based immigration law before transitioning to career services in 2019.*

## **Tiffany Blakey**

Fair Employment Practices Officer, Administrative Office of the United States Courts

*Tiffany Blakey has served as the Fair Employment Practices (FEP) Officer in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) since August 2019. As the FEP Officer, Mrs. Blakey manages the AO's FEP complaint process, reasonable accommodations program, and special emphasis programs. She serves as the principal advisor to the AO Deputy Director and Director on issues of fair employment practices and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and oversees the staffing of the Committee on Judicial Resources, Subcommittee on Diversity's DEI Roundtable. She is also responsible for providing advisory services to the courts as they address requests for accommodations and explore/launch initiatives to further the Judiciary's DEI strategic goals. Prior to this appointment, Mrs. Blakey served in several leadership positions within the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), both in the Office of Human Resources and Equal Opportunity & Diversity Office. Over the course of her career, Mrs. Blakey has developed and facilitated training on the topics of implicit bias, fostering inclusion in the workplace, effective outreach and recruitment strategies for DEI, disability etiquette, workplace harassment, and countless employee-management relations topics. She has completed numerous professional training programs in the HR and EO fields of practice and is a certified mediator, DEI expert, and training facilitator. Mrs. Blakey holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Lafayette College.*

## **Rachael Bosch**

CEO & Founder, Fringe Professional Development

*Rachael Bosch is an advocate for innovative and organizational professional development. After spending more than a decade in legal talent management at some of the world's leading law firms, Rachael founded Fringe Professional Development with the goal of helping people communicate better at work. Rachael works within a variety of professional services firms and startup companies, coaching and training their top talent with her research-backed and neuroscience-based learning techniques. She has developed a unique approach to customized and progressive programming that helps ambitious, high-achieving professionals excel in their careers through improved communication skills. Rachael is certified to evaluate and train teams on the DISC behavioral assessment and the EQi 2.0 emotional intelligence index. She holds a brain-based coaching certification through the NeuroLeadership Institute as well as certificates of Women in Leadership from Cornell University and Mediating Disputes from Harvard Law School, respectively. Rachael is an active member of the Forbes Coaches Council*

## **Kiley Bostick**

Chief Talent Officer, Selendy Gay Elsberg

*Kiley Bostick is Selendy Gay Elsberg's Chief Talent Officer. As CTO, she leads a team of professionals overseeing Recruiting, Human Resources, and Professional Development. Additionally, she and her team also lead the Firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Well-Being initiatives. Prior to joining Selendy Gay Elsberg, Kiley worked in talent and recruiting roles at several other leading law firms, including Katten Muchin Rosenman, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer, and Mayer Brown. Kiley is a graduate of the University of Georgia.*

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## **Joi Bourgeois**

Global Director, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Kirkland & Ellis

*Joi Bourgeois serves as the Global Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Kirkland & Ellis, leading the Firm's efforts to recruit, retain, and promote diverse and women attorneys internally. After graduating from New York University School of Law, Joi began her career as a corporate associate at Rogers & Wells (now part of Clifford Chance), moving on to spend 17 years as a partner and professional coach with Greiner Consulting Group, and later serving as the Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Now, drawing upon over 30 years in the industry, Joi brings to Kirkland & Ellis her exceptional skills in connection, counseling, and strategy. She works closely with senior Firm leaders and clients who share the Firm's commitment to inclusion, making space for more diverse attorneys through recruitment and sponsorship efforts. Additionally, she collaborates with the leaders of Kirkland's vast network of D&I-focused committees, subcommittees, and affinity groups to introduce innovative programming to the Firm which highlights the importance of diversity and fosters a sense of belonging among the Firm's diverse and women attorneys. A proven leader and invaluable member of the Firm, Joi extends her talents to Kirkland and its clients to mold future leaders in an increasingly diverse legal profession. She is sought after as a speaker by law schools and professional organizations, including as a driver of diversity initiatives and programming at the New York City Bar Association.*

## **Lindsey Boyle**

Senior Program Manager, Diversity & Recruiting Programs, Amazon

*Lindsey has spent nearly 20 years in the legal recruiting and diversity space. After starting her career as a recruiter in large global firm, Lindsey went to law school and practiced as a lawyer, later returning to law firm recruiting and development, then going on to run the OnRamp Fellowship, and now leading diversity recruiting efforts for lawyers at Amazon. Lindsey works with a variety of pipeline organizations to ensure Amazon has broad access to a diverse candidate pool.*

## **Larissa Brewster**

Assistant Director for Government and Public Interest, Boston University School of Law

*Larissa Brewster serves as Assistant Director for Government and Public Interest at Boston University School of Law where she helps students navigate their legal career paths from when they start law school through graduation and beyond. Prior to joining BU, Larissa worked as Associate Director of Career Services at New England Law | Boston for five years, leading the school's Recruitment Program and building relationships with employers as well as advising students in every sector of the legal field. Prior to her work as a career advisor, Larissa worked as a recruiter at Robert Half Legal matching talented lawyers and legal professionals with legal employers across New England. She is a current Northeast Regional Representative for the Northeast Region of NALP and President of the Massachusetts Law School Consortium. A magna cum laude graduate of Bentley University with a BS in Marketing and an MBA in Management, Larissa pursued a law degree at Suffolk University to combine her business knowledge with her love of the law.*

## **Karen Britton**

Vice Dean, Admissions and Career & Professional Development, University of South Carolina School Law

*Karen Reagan Britton has been with the University of South Carolina School of Law since May 2016 and she is currently the Vice Dean for Admissions and Career & Professional Development. Before joining USC Law, Britton was the senior administrator for student recruitment, admissions, strategic enrollment planning, diversity recruitment, scholarships, financial aid, employment services, and student career development at the University of*

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*Tennessee College of Law. During this time, Britton completed her doctorate and served in various volunteer roles with the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) and with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), culminating in her service as NALP President. Prior to her work in legal education, Britton spent a decade at a large Nashville law firm, where her responsibilities included law student recruitment, attorney hiring and client development. She is a frequent speaker at professional conferences on topics at the intersection of admissions and career issues for prospective law students. Britton earned doctoral, master's, and bachelor's degrees from the University of Tennessee. Her dissertation explored factors influencing first job choice of private practice among graduates of public law schools in the southeastern United States.*

## **Alexis Brown**

Director of Attorney Recruiting & Development, Kecker, Van Nest & Peters LLP

*Lexi Brown serves as the Director of Attorney Recruiting & Professional Development at Kecker, Van Nest & Peters. To meet the firm's strategic growth objectives, she works closely with the firm's Hiring and Diversity Committees and firm management to design and implement Kecker's recruiting and retention initiatives. Lexi is responsible for the firmwide recruiting and hiring of lateral, entry-level and summer associates as well as patent litigation attorneys. Prior to joining the firm, Lexi served in recruiting roles at multiple Am Law 100 law firms. In addition to her talent development responsibilities, Lexi is heavily involved in the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and multiple affinity group networks. She not only works to integrate DEI initiatives into recruitment of top talent, but also strives to continue building an even stronger network of attorneys and staff within the organization to promote and foster DEI. Lexi earned her BA from the University of Oregon and is an active member of the Bay Area Legal Recruitment Association. In her free time, Lexi enjoys cooking, taking her dog to the park, family time, and traveling.*

## **Sharon Buckingham**

Associate Director of Career Strategy, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

*Sharon Buckingham is Associate Director of Career Strategy at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. Sharon works with students interested in all areas of practice, and has a particular focus on judicial clerkship and public interest/public service advising. A Villanova Law graduate, Sharon practiced as a litigation attorney for six years with Pepper Hamilton & Scheetz (now Troutman Pepper), where she chaired the Summer Associates Committee and was very involved in the firm's recruiting efforts. Her interaction with law students led her to leave practice to teach Legal Writing at Villanova Law. She returned to Pepper Hamilton as the firm-wide Director of Recruitment and Professional Programs and later became the firm's first Director of Associate Development. Sharon joined Villanova Law's Office of Career Strategy & Advancement in 2014. She served as Chair of NALP's Public Service Section in 2021-2022 and, since 2022, has served on NALP's Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Council.*

## **Beth Burkstrand-Reid**

JD, MSW, LICSW, Brite Counseling

*Beth Burkstrand Reid is a lawyer and Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. She owns Brite Counseling LLC, in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she provides mental health services for "changemakers" including law students and lawyers, activists, educators, and health care providers. She is proud to serve members of marginalized and historically oppressed communities. Beth also offers consultation and speaking for organizations on numerous issues including the creation and sustaining of mentally healthy workplaces and student/employee stress reduction. Prior to her time as a Clinical Social Worker, Beth had a diverse legal practice including torts litigation at a multinational firm; reproductive health litigation at a national non-profit; and work as a pro bono guardian ad*

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*litem for children. Most recently, Beth was a professor of torts, family law, and Sex-Based Discrimination at the University of Nebraska College of Law. She has also taught law at the University of Illinois and American University Washington College of Law. Beth left legal practice to pursue her Master of Social Work after witnessing firsthand the unmet mental health needs of lawyers and law students. She began her counseling career as a therapist for low-income individuals with severe mental health and substance misuse. During that time, she also co-responded to crisis situations with the local police department. Beth is a suicide loss survivor. She works with other survivors in group and individual sessions. She is trained in numerous suicide prevention modalities.*

## **Wendy Butler Curtis**

Chief Innovation Officer, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

*Named the "Most Innovative Lawyer of the Year" by Financial Times in 2018, Wendy is celebrated by clients for her "fresh thinking, legal nuance and practical understanding of the courts." FT editors noted that "rarely have our panel of judges so quickly homed in on a top candidate for innovative individual." As Orrick's Chief Innovation Officer, Wendy leads Orrick's efforts to operationalize innovation through novel products, streamlined processes, technology and client consulting on tailored solutions. These efforts have contributed to Orrick being named the Most Innovative Law Firm in North America by the Financial Times from 2016-2018 and seven consecutive years being in the top 3. In 2018, The American Lawyer also honored Orrick with its first-ever Legal Services Innovation Award. Wendy leads an innovation team of lawyers, technologists, developers, project managers and business professionals. FT notes that Wendy "understand[s] the diversity of roles that make a team great" and has "introduce[ed] many new technologies and delivery models that have transformed the way the firm operates and works with clients." She is also recognized by Chambers as a leading individual, nationally, in the area of eDiscovery. Wendy is the chair of Orrick's eDiscovery and Information Governance Group. She has been engaged by Fortune 100 companies and major financial institutions to create and deploy eDiscovery and records management programs. Wendy has substantial experience in pharmaceutical, product liability and class action litigation. Her litigation experience includes multiple trials, supervision of regional and local counsel, management of complex discovery and meet-and-confer negotiations.*

## **Anna-Lesa Calvert**

Manager of Professional Development and Diversity, Hodgson Russ LLP

*Anna-Lesa Calvert started her career working in non-profits. After a few years with national non-profits, Calvert began working at Algonquin Sports for Kids (ASK), an organization that uses sports to connect under-resourced students with mentors and athletic opportunities. During her twelve years at ASK, where she became the Executive Director, her passion for training and diversity grew as she learned from the families, staff, organizations, and communities she served. After obtaining her Master's in Strategic Leadership from St. Bonaventure University in 2019, Calvert moved to Hodgson Russ LLP to serve as the Manager of Professional Development and Diversity — a move that allowed her to mix her passion for helping others to grow with her desire to make a meaningful impact on the firm's diversity and inclusion. A TedxBuffalo speaker, ATHENA Young Professional Award Finalist, and a Leadership Buffalo graduate, Calvert loves working on creative and strategic efforts to grow and build the people around her.*

## **Patrick Campbell**

Partner, Milbank

*Patrick S. Campbell is a partner in the Washington, DC office of Milbank LLP and a member of the firm's Transportation and Space Group. Mr. Campbell's practice focuses on transactional, corporate and regulatory*

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*matters. He has worked extensively on such matters on behalf of numerous domestic and foreign telecommunications, satellite, media and Internet companies. Patrick is a graduate of Stanford Law School.*

### **Koriambanya (Kori) Carew**

Chief Catalyst Officer/Founder, Bridge 68 LLC

*Kori S. Carew, Esq. is an attorney, TedX speaker, and community builder who generates awareness and understanding of critical human issues by creating the space and climate for open dialogue that is meaningful, and enables people to expand their perspective and drive positive change. She is a people inclusion strategist, advocate, speaker, coach, writer, attorney, status quo disruptor, truth teller, wife, and mother of two curly-haired, wise, energetic, fierce, spitfire daughters. Her family is multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-religious, and spans multiple nationalities. She brings a fierce love of community and belonging that transcends differences to her work, ministry, and life. She loves to sing, cook, entertain, dance in the hallways at work, and read when she is not equipping leaders to be inclusive, interrupt bias, and disrupt the status quo or helping individuals live their best and fiercest lives. At her day job she focuses on developing and implementing strategies for individual career and diversity and inclusion success, helps organizations build bridges across differences and improve inclusion, coaches, trains on people, leadership, and talent development as well as diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging topics. Kori is a Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator, a certified Gallup CliftonStrengths® Coach and an IDi Qualified Administrator. She also is an Enneagram 1 (improver) and Conscious Reformer on the Insight Profiles Discovery wheel (blue). Her top 5 CliftonStrengths® are: connectedness, achiever, learner, responsibility, and context. Kori took up painting during the pandemic and is energized by helping people live their best lives. When she is not "working" she focuses her voice and talent on issues of gender equity and rights, inclusion, and human and civil rights, serving in her church and community, entertaining in her home, and cherishing her phenomenal tribe and community. Kori is the Chief Catalyst Officer and Founder of the consulting firm Bridge 68 LLC focused on empowering individuals and organizations to be their best through people and leadership development and cultivating belonging, inclusion, diversity and equity. She brings 22 years of experience leading, advocating and counseling in law firms including leading Inclusion and Diversity strategies and programs in AmLaw 100 law firms. She was most recently the Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer at international law firm Seyfarth Shaw where she rolled out several talent and inclusion initiatives including The Belonging Project.*

### **Brenda Carr**

Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Arnold & Porter

*Brenda Carr is a self-described "curvy girl," D&I innovator, strategist, and the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Arnold & Porter. She works closely with the firm's Chair, Managing Partners, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Practice Group Leaders, her fellow Chiefs, and many other internal and external stakeholders to ensure that the firm manifests its core values and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Through alignment with the firm's business goals, Brenda oversees effective implementation of the firm's diversity and inclusion objectives and strategies including talent acquisition, retention, advancement, client service, and engagement within and outside Arnold & Porter. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Carr was on the Diversity & Inclusion team at DLA Piper, based in its Chicago office. She also spent a number of years in practice at Ropes & Gray where her practice focused on complex business litigation and labor & employment. Before her legal career Ms. Carr worked in higher education administration at Tufts University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and earned a Master's degree in Educational Studies. She was also a Fulbright Scholar in Madrid, Spain.*

### **Amber Carter**

Director of Inclusion Innovations, Diversity Lab

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*Amber Carter is the Director of Inclusion Innovations at Diversity Lab where she runs the OnRamp Fellowship. She began her career as a Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at Vinson & Elkins LLP, where she focused on diversity and inclusion, women's initiative, and related activities for lawyers, including professional development, community involvement, business development sponsorships, networking, and conference opportunities for women, diverse, and LGBTQ+ attorneys in all domestic and international offices. Most recently, she worked as an Attorney Recruiting Coordinator at McGuireWoods LLP, where she managed entry level recruiting and assisted in lateral recruiting for all Texas and California offices. Amber received a B.A. in Sociology from Louisiana State University, where she was captain of the Louisiana State University Swimming and Diving team.*

## **Rodina Cave-Parnall**

Executive Director, American Indian Law Center

*Rodina Cave Parnall (Quechua) became the Executive Director of the American Indian Law Center, Inc. in July 2022 after serving five years as the Director of the Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Rodina served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. Before that, she practiced law in New Mexico and Arizona representing Indian tribes and tribal entities in legal and administrative proceedings and on several large breach-of-trust cases in federal courts. In addition to her Indian law practice, she is experienced in complex litigation and appeals in federal and state courts. Rodina has been an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law and an Associate Judge on the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals (SWITCA). In 2014, she received the New Mexico State Bar Indian Law Section Outstanding Achievement Award. She graduated in 2001 from the Arizona State University College of Law with a Certificate in Indian Law and the Outstanding Law Graduate Award for 2001. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Rodina clerked for the Honorable William C. Canby, Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit*

## **Ann Chang**

Associate Director of Career Development, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law

*Ann Chang is an Associate Director in the Career Development Office at Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law and a Pepperdine Law alum. While Ann advises students interested pursuing careers in various practice areas, she also serves as the judicial clerkship advisor in the office. Before joining the career services world in November 2021, Ann practiced with a firm that specializes in insolvency, collection, and general commercial litigation and with subspecialties in representation of bankruptcy trustees and in bankruptcy litigation. Before joining the firm, she clerked for the Honorable Barry Russell, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California. Prior to her clerkship, Ann represented clients in various litigation and transactional matters.*

## **Elizabeth Claps**

Global Director of Alumni Relations and Career Services, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

*Elizabeth Claps is the Global Director of Alumni Relations and Career Services for Cleary Gottlieb. She has a Diploma in Coaching from New York University, a Master's Degree in Social and Public Policy from Georgetown University and 18 years of experience in law school and law firm alumni relations. In her current role, Elizabeth speaks with associates and alumni interested in making career transitions and serves as a resource for candidates throughout the job seeking and hiring process. Prior to joining Cleary Gottlieb, Elizabeth spent ten years at Georgetown University Law Center.*

## **Grover Cleveland**

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Principal, Lessons for Sharks LLC

*Grover Cleveland is a former law firm partner and the author of *Swimming Lessons for Baby Sharks: The Essential Guide to Thriving as a New Lawyer*, now in its Third Edition. He is the founder of Lessons for Sharks LLC and delivers engaging programs that empower summer associates and associates to start strong, tame time, and build business. He also coaches high-performing senior associates who are candidates for partnership. While in private practice, he represented the late Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen, and many of his companies, including the Seattle Seahawks. A recognized expert on law career success, Grover has been inducted as a fellow in the College of Law Practice Management and has been quoted in leading publications, including the Ms. JD blog, The American Lawyer, Law Practice Today and other ABA publications, Law 360, and The Wall Street Journal. He is also the author of *Taming Time*, the time management chapter in *An Associate's First Year: A Guide to Thriving at a Law Firm*, published by PLI. And he is the author of the chapter on delegating in *Stepping It Up*, a book from PLI for mid-level and senior associates. Grover is the NALP liaison to the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and was a nominee for Ms. JD's TIM (The Incredible Man) award. He is not related to the 22nd and 24th President of the United States.*

## **Tiffane Cochran**

Vice President, Research, AccessLex

*Tiffane Cochran is the Vice President of Research at AccessLex Institute. In this role, she leads research, evaluation and data initiatives for the AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence, conceptualizing, guiding and implementing projects that advance access, affordability and the value of legal education. With the support of her team, she leverages research and data to illustrate inequities in law school applicant and student outcomes and, more importantly, promote empirically-informed solutions to address barriers and gaps that impede diversity and equity goals. She also manages the development and production of the Center's data tools and resources, such as Analytix and the Legal Education Data Deck. Tiffane's legal education expertise and research experience spans a breadth of topics, including law school admission, financial aid and debt, attrition and academic success, rankings, and bar passage. Prior to joining AccessLex in 2014, Tiffane served as an institutional researcher at the University of Maryland, College Park and as a management consultant at the Monitor Group (now Monitor Deloitte). Tiffane holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Northwestern University and a master's degree in Education Leadership and Policy Studies with a concentration in higher education from the University of Maryland, College Park.*

## **Sherry Marcus Cohen**

Chief, recruitment, Bronx District Attorney's Office

*Sherry Marcus Cohen oversees all recruitment at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office as well as the clinical and internship programs. Prior to joining the Bronx DA, Chief Cohen was the Assistant Commissioner for Prosecution at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, the Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Taxi and Limousine Commission, a Senior Attorney for the NYC Commission to Combat Police Corruption and an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn. She is a graduate of Brandeis University and Fordham Law School.*

## **Jordana Confino**

Assistant Dean of Professionalism; Founder, Fordham Law School; JC Coaching & Consulting

*Jordana A. Confino is the Assistant Dean of Professionalism and an Adjunct Professor at Fordham Law School, where she leads initiatives designed to promote student wellness, mentorship, and professional identity formation, and teaches courses on "Positive Lawyering" and "Peer Mentoring & Leadership." Jordana is also the founder of JC*

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*Coaching & Consulting, a company that strives to advance the well-being of the legal profession by supporting lawyers through coaching and helping law firms and other organizations build positive institutional cultures in which all employees feel valued, stimulated, and supported. She is a member of the Institute for Well-Being in Law's Research & Scholarship Committee, the General Programming Committee of the American Association of Law Schools Section on Balance & Well-Being in Legal Education, the Law School Assistance Committee of the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, and the NYC Bar Association Mindfulness & Well-Being in Law Committee. She is also the Co-Founder of the New York City Area Law Schools Wellness Consortium. Jordana holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, a B.A. in Psychology from Yale University, and Certifications in Coaching and Applied Positive Psychology.*

## **Joanna Craig**

Director of Private Sector Recruiting, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

*Joanna Craig serves as the Director of Private Sector Recruiting at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, overseeing law firm employer relations and student private sector career development programs and strategies. Joanna earned her B.A. in Political Science from Queens College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School before practicing securities law in WilmerHale's Washington, D.C. office. Joanna is passionate about career counseling and facilitating connections between employers and students. She has worked in law school career services in both the D.C. and Philadelphia areas and currently volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and Educational Decision Maker for children with special needs in the Philadelphia foster care system.*

## **Amber Crosby**

Sr. Manager - Inclusion, Equity & Diversity, Littler Medelson

*Ms. Crosby is an attorney and leads inclusion, equity, and diversity initiatives for Littler Mendelson, P.C.'s U.S., Canada, and Mexico offices. She earned a Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Amber is licensed to practice law in Texas, Missouri, and Kansas. Prior to joining Littler, Amber specialized in employment law with firms in both Texas and Kansas. Professionally, Amber is active in the NALP DEI Section, the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals, and Region V of the National Bar Association. In the community, Amber sits on the board of the American Theatre Guild and is a member of The Links, Incorporated, Jack and Jill of America, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Kansas City Museum Women's Auxiliary.*

## **Nita Cumello**

Director of Well-Being and Global Business Director of Large Law Firms, Thomson Reuters

*Nita Cumello is a dynamic and motivated executive with a career-long record of award-winning achievement in client strategy and relationship management. Nita is a Global Client Director and the Director of Well-Being for Global Large Law Firm segment of Thomson Reuters – Legal Professionals, bringing 19 years of experience with Thomson Reuters in the legal industry. As a Global Client Director, Nita oversees the holistic strategic relationship between global and large law firms and Thomson Reuters. She cultivates long-term, executive relationships and enables top-notch performing collaboration within cross-functional teams to execute successful strategies for global, strategic large law firms. At the core of her effectiveness is her passion for and commitment to health and well-being. As the Director of Well-Being, Nita is responsible for creating the well-being strategy and maintaining enterprise-wide culture by working with C-suite, management, and employees to integrate holistic well-being and development into the larger business strategy. Nita lives in the Washington D.C. metro area with her husband and two young boys. She is an avid runner, Pelotoner and yogi, and is always seeking adventure in new places and*

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*cultures to travel to and experience. She is also the co-host of the Practice Well(Being) podcast on legal well-being and performance."*

## **Shannon Curry**

Senior Talent Acquisition Manager, Witherworldwide

*Shannon Curry is the Senior Talent Acquisition Manager at Withersworldwide. Shannon is focused on lateral partner recruiting efforts and oversees associate, summer associate, and business services hiring across the firm's U.S. offices. Prior to joining Withers, Shannon managed all aspects of attorney recruitment, professional development & diversity programming at a large New York City law firm. She also spent eight years concentrated on associate recruiting with a national law firm in Washington, DC.*

## **Keya Dasgupta**

Head of Learning & Organizational Development, Norton Rose Fulbright

*Keya Dasgupta is a Learning & Development Leader, Speaker, Trainer and Executive Coach with experience in organizational learning strategy and implementation. Program designer, speaker, trainer and facilitator on topics relating to people management, communication and client relationship development, both in Canada and globally.*

## **Jessie DaSilva**

CEO, speaker, author, Jessie DaSilva Coaching, LLC

*Jessie DaSilva is a funny, dynamic speaker and leading expert at helping people create their richest, most fulfilling lives. She's the founder and CEO of Jessie DaSilva Coaching, where she helps unsatisfied professionals network their way to dream jobs, entrepreneurs start and scale businesses without burnout, and companies increase profits by retaining Millennial and Gen Z workers. Jessie is a popular speaker for lawyers and entrepreneurs around the country for her combination of magical mindset methods and practical strategies. She has coached hundreds of professionals and entrepreneurs to more satisfying careers and much higher pay—often doubling their salaries in three to six months. Jessie is author of the book, *The Witch's Way to Wealth*, a guide to how to use science, magic, and practical financial strategies to build wealth and keep it. Before starting her business as a speaker, author, and coach, she spent almost 10 years in the legal field, including roles as an assistant attorney general in criminal appeals and a legal reporter covering criminal justice issues for Bloomberg Law's Criminal Justice Reporter. She gained notoriety for her coverage of the post-conviction hearing for Adnan Syed, subject of the viral true crime podcast *Serial*, which earned her an invitation to the 2016 Congressional Correspondents Dinner. She's been featured in *Forbes*, *Buzzfeed*, and *Yahoo! Finance* for her unique takes on money mindset, job hunting, and retaining Millennial workers.*

## **Judy Davis**

Attorney & Alumni Engagement Manager, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

*Judy Davis is currently the Attorney & Alumni Engagement Manager at Greenberg Traurig. She is a legal marketer and alumni engagement professional with 18+ years of experience. Judy began her career in legal marketing as a Marketing Business Development Manager and honed her skills in strategic marketing and business development. She transitioned to Associate Director of Alumni Engagement at Phillips Academy, where she developed a deeper understanding of the importance of building relationships, community, and communication for alumni. At GT, she oversees the alumni engagement program and is part of the firm's integration team onboarding lateral of counsel and shareholders. Judy's experience has allowed her to cultivate strong relationships with stakeholders and across*

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*business functions. She resides in Boston, MA with her husband, two children, and their three-year-old German shorthaired pointer.*

## **Shannon Davis**

Chief Legal Recruiting and Integration Officer, Mintz

*Shannon Davis is the Chief Legal Recruiting & Integration Officer at Mintz. She leads the firm-wide legal recruiting function, overseeing partner, associate, law student, technical professional, and government relations recruitment. She is also responsible for the firm's industry-leading lateral integration program. As the primary representative of the firm to the legal community, Shannon focuses on building the firm's reputation in the market, developing strong relationships with recruiting organizations and search consultants, and attracting the best talent in all offices. She develops the firm's recruiting strategic plan and works closely with the Managing Member and firm leaders to creatively and proactively grow the firm. Shannon also works with a multidisciplinary group across the firm to run the onboarding and integration processes for new legal hires. Before joining Mintz, Shannon led the recruiting department for another AmLaw100 firm and started her career as a search consultant at Robert Half Legal. She earned her undergraduate degree in history from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Shannon is well known in the legal community for her numerous (and humorous) presentations to organizations such as NALP and NALSC. She is a member of both NALP and NALSC.*

## **Sacha de Klerk**

Head of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Norton Rose Fulbright

*Sacha de Klerk is the Head of diversity equity and inclusion for Norton Rose Fulbright in Canada and for their global initiatives. She is an International Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategist & Speaker with twenty years in Human Resources, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and leading and implementing strategies and tactics in complex global organizations. Specializing in creative, empathetic, and practical strategies to support senior leaders with their inclusion journeys to effect both institutional and individual change and achieving equity, increasing diversity & creating inclusion.*

## **Aoife Delargy Lowe**

VP, Law School Engagement and Advocacy, Equal Justice Works

*Aoife Delargy Lowe is the vice president of law school engagement & advocacy at Equal Justice Works, where she works with law school professionals, law students, and the public interest community on issues including careers in public interest law, educational debt, and Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Her department facilitates short-term student fellowship opportunities, the largest public service legal career fair in the country, and educational, leadership and networking opportunities for students. Aoife was born in New York and raised in Galway, Ireland. Barred in New York State, Aoife has a diverse background in public interest law and law school administration. Previously, she served as the Associate Director of the Office of Career and Professional Development at the Catholic University, Columbus School of Law. Before becoming Associate Director, she was the law school's Pro Bono Coordinator. Before joining the staff of Equal Justice Works, Aoife served as a law school professional member on the organization's National Advisory Committee. In 2019, she served as the Chair of the Irish Network D.C. (IN-DC). She was named one of the Irish Echo's '40 under 40' in 2016, and in 2018 she received a D.C. Legal Hacker Award for her work with the Washington Council of Lawyers' National Pro Bono Week Committee. Aoife graduated from the National University of Ireland, Galway with a B.A.I. (French & Law) and LL.B (Law) before moving to Washington, D.C. in 2011.*

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## **Neil Dennis**

Director of Professional Development, Blaney McMurtry LLP

*Neil specializes in empowering law students and attorneys in their careers. He is currently the Director, Professional Development at Blaney McMurtry LLP and was previously at University of Toronto. Prior to joining the University of Toronto Faculty, he held various positions in Washington, D.C., including the Assistant Dean of Career Services at the Howard University School of Law and the Director of Career Services at Georgetown Law Center. In both schools, he counseled students and alumni on their careers, professional development, and diversity and inclusion issues. Neil received his B.A., Honours from the University of Toronto and his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. Following law school, he practiced in the bankruptcy and general litigation groups of a mid-size, New York law firm, clerked for a federal judge on the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and then practiced in a large D.C.-based law firm where he focused predominantly on securities litigation, government enforcement, and white-collar defense. Neil has also chaired and participated on boards of several bar associations and organizations. He was most recently the Chair of the 2021-22 Nominating Committee and a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP).*

## **Laura DeRise**

Director of Attorney Recruiting, Bass, Berry & Sims

*Laura DeRise is the Director of Attorney Recruiting at Bass, Berry & Sims. In this role, Laura is responsible for leading the firm-wide lateral partner, lateral associate and entry-level attorney recruiting across all offices nationally. Serving as a consultant to firm management, the executive committee and practice group chairs, she provides leadership and strategic vision in the development of the attorney recruiting strategy and process for the firm. Drawing upon her prior experience as an attorney search consultant and as a practicing attorney, Laura actively identifies and recruits potential lateral and entry-level attorneys from across the country. She serves as the firm's primary point of contact for prospective lateral attorneys and for outside search firms interested in partnering with the firm in its recruitment efforts. Prior to joining Bass, Berry & Sims, Laura was an attorney search consultant for two prominent international search firms and previously practiced as general counsel to a super-regional restaurant franchisor. She currently serves as the lateral recruiting section co-chair of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) and has been a speaker and author on topics such as leadership, talent acquisition strategy, career development, attorney wellness and business development negotiations. Laura earned her bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. from Ave Maria School of Law.*

## **Chris Desantis**

Principal, C.P. DeSantis LLC

*Chris De Santis is a speaker, author, consultant, and most recently podcaster specializing in Management and Organizational Development issues and interventions. He specializes in assisting individuals or groups in identifying and overcoming obstacles to effectiveness. He brings with him thirty-eight years of experience in training and development. He has an undergraduate degree in business from the University of Notre Dame, a graduate degree in Organizational Development from Loyola University in Chicago, an MBA from the University of Denver, and previous work experience in manufacturing, professional services, and not-for-profit environments. His book "Why I Find you Irritating: Navigating Generational Friction at Work" will be available in February 2022 but until then you can listen to his advice podcast, "Cubicle Confidential" along with his cohost, Mary Abbajay. He resides in a quiet corner of Lincoln Park in Chicago*

## **Lisa Dickinson**

Consultant and Career Coach, Total Talent Design

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*Lisa Dickinson is currently a consultant and career coach at Total Talent Design. Lisa has over 20 years of experience coaching lawyers and law students. Most recently Lisa was the Director of Attorney Recruiting and Professional Development at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in the Bay Area. At Kirkland, Lisa led recruiting, training, diversity, equity and inclusion and attorney engagement programs. Lisa helped lawyers find satisfaction in their work or identify new opportunities to pursue their passions. Prior to joining Kirkland, Lisa was the Director of Career Development at her alma mater, the University of San Francisco School of Law. An active member of the legal community, Lisa is a past president of NALP, the association of legal career professionals, and the Bay Area Legal Recruitment Association. Lisa is also passionate about public service and served over 15 years on the Board of One Justice, a California nonprofit devoted to increasing legal services to those in need. In 2020 Lisa and her family returned home to Massachusetts where she is raising two small children. In her spare time, she enjoys running, cycling, and gardening. Lisa has completed NALP's coaching skills series, has an undergraduate degree from UMASS Amherst and law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law.*

## **Paula Dixon**

Director of Attorney Development, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

*Paula A. Dixon is the Director of Professional Development at Greenberg Traurig LLP, a global law firm with over 2600 attorneys in 45 locations. Drawing on more than 20 years of experience in attorney training and professional development, Paula strategically leads a talented team that is dedicated to supporting the ongoing professional development of all GT attorneys throughout their careers through integration and onboarding, practice group training, professional skills workshops, and on-demand learning resources. She is also responsible for designing and leading firmwide programs, and works closely on DE&I, Women's Initiative, and Wellness initiatives. Prior to supporting attorneys in their professional development, Paula began her career in attorney recruiting. She received her law degree from the DePaul University College of Law in Chicago.*

## **Kara Dodson**

Coach & Consultant, Volta

*Kara Dodson is a coach and consultant with Volta Talent Strategies and has spent her entire career in the legal community, as a practicing attorney, a leader in business services and as a coach and consultant. Having enjoyed her labor and employment practice, Kara's passion for coaching and lawyer development led her to become the Director of Recruiting and Professional Development at Young Conaway, before joining Volta. Kara has worked with hundreds of partners, associates and senior legal professionals at Am Law 100 firms. She coaches on leadership and team management, business development, time management, effective communication and well-being/stress management. Kara also works with individuals in the partnership process. Additionally, Kara designs and manages training and group coaching programs supporting women and diverse attorneys and served as a voluntary coach to the Diversity Lab and The Belonging Project. Kara also volunteers here time with the PA Lawyer Assistance Program. Kara is also an adjunct professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law, where she teaches an experiential program focused on transactional practice skills for law students. Her speaking engagements and committee work involve her in bar committee programs, the Washington Leadership Institute, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, NALP, the PDC, and Practicing Law Institute (where she also co-chaired the annual attorney well-being conference). Having graduated from the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching, Kara is credentialed as a Professional Certified Coach by the ICF and is certified to administer the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI®) and the Energy Leadership Index. Kara is also certified in Mental Health First Aid and has completed MBSR (mindfulness-based stress reduction) coursework at the University of Pennsylvania. Kara graduated from Lafayette College with a B.A. in English Literature and received her J.D. cum laude from Temple University's Beasley School of Law.*

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## **Lauren Domingo Roy\***

Staff Attorney, Mental Health Legal Advisors

*\*We have not confirmed Lauren's participation on the panel but expect that she or someone from her organization will join the panel as a mental health professional. Lauren is an attorney and social worker and we hope she will join us.*

## **Amanda Doroshow**

Program Manager, Acacia Center for Justice

*Amanda is a Program Manager for the Unaccompanied Children Program's (UCP) Attorney Recruitment Project at the Acacia Center for Justice. UCP is a national initiative to increase access to legal information and representation for unaccompanied children facing removal from the United States. Amanda originally served as a Senior Program Associate for UCP at the Vera Institute of Justice. Prior to joining Vera, Amanda was an immigration attorney at Her Justice, where she trained and mentored pro bono attorneys and represented survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking pursuing immigration relief. Amanda started her career in the immigration field as an attorney at Empire Justice Center, where she represented residents in New York's lower Hudson Valley pursuing both affirmative and defensive immigration relief. Amanda also volunteered with the Dilley Pro Bono Project on the Texas/Mexico border, assisting women and children seeking asylum. Amanda earned her JD from CUNY School of Law and her BA from the University of Delaware. She is admitted to the New York bar.*

## **Stephanie Dorssom**

Senior Manager - Digital Marketing, Alumni Relations, Husch Blackwel

*Stephanie Dorssom is Senior Manager, Digital Marketing & Alumni Relations at Husch Blackwell. Husch Blackwell is an Am Law 100 law firm with 20+ offices across the United States and 900+ lawyers. She is a seasoned marketing and communications professional that oversees and executes the production and strategy of digital communications, including social media networks, firm website, alumni network microsite, 13 blog sites, podcasts, video production, and email marketing. In addition to digital marketing and strategy, she manages Husch Blackwell's attorney alumni relations program, connecting former attorneys and keeping them informed of firm developments. Stephanie has her B.S. in Marketing Management and resides in St. Louis with her husband and Cocker Spaniel, Ricky. Outside the office, she teaches cardio boxing classes at a St. Louis-owned gym.*

## **Marilyn Drees**

Career Counselor, The University of Texas School of Law

*Marilyn Drees is an MBTI-certified career counselor with over two decades of experience working with law students, first at Yale Law School and now at The University of Texas School of Law. After receiving her B.A. from the University of Alabama and her J.D. from Stanford Law School, she served as a law clerk and worked in both the private and public sectors, as well as legal academia. She is an active NALP member, having served on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Conference Planning Team, along with several work groups. She has also served as a panelist or moderator on a variety of NALP conference programs and webinars and has contributed multiple NALP Bulletin articles.*

## **Michael Ende**

Associate Dean, Career Services, William & Mary Law Schhol

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*Michael Ende has served as William & Mary Law School's Associate Dean for Career Services since 2013. Dean Ende's portfolio of responsibilities include: management of the Law School's Office of Career Services with a focus on development and implementation of strategic initiatives related to all aspects of student and alumni career and professional development, alumni and employer outreach, and student and graduate employment; development and delivery of programming for students on career and professional development-related matters; employer and alumni outreach efforts to increase internship and post-graduate job opportunities for students and graduates, and market and grow the Law School's on- and off-campus recruitment programs; and extensive one-on-one student and alumni career advising and coaching. Before joining William & Mary, Dean Ende was a partner with the law firm of Cullen and Dykman, LLP, in Garden City, N.Y., where he specialized in bank regulatory and compliance and corporate transactional matters. After leaving practice, Dean Ende was a professional legal recruiter and then served for nearly six years as the Assistant Dean for Career Services at Hofstra Law School. From 2020-2022, Dean Ende was a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) and was a member of the Board's Finance Committee. Dean Ende currently serves as co-Chair of NALP's Future of the Legal Workplace Strategic Advisory Committee. At William & Mary, Dean Ende has chaired the Dean's Advisory Committee on Diversity & Inclusion; served on the Law School's Strategic Planning Committee, Judicial Clerkship Committee, and Ad Hoc Committee on Legal Practice Program Review; and the university-wide Career Pathways Team. Michael holds a bachelor's from the University of Albany – SUNY and a juris doctorate degree from Fordham University, School of Law.*

## **Ray English**

Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Snell & Wilmer

## **Lillian Evans**

Director of Legal Recruitment, NYC Law Department

*Lillian Evans, is a member of the Executive Team at the New York City Law Department, the largest municipal law office, where she serves as the Director of Legal Recruitment, for the 850+ attorney office. As Director of Legal Recruitment, Lilli leads the hiring and recruitment process for experienced attorneys and recent law school graduates for the attorney positions, and works with the law schools to provide opportunities for their current law students in the many legal internship positions at the Law Department. In her role, Lilli directs the Summer Honors Intern Program as well as the annual Transfer Request Program, working closely with her colleagues to ensure that the Law Department values of Diversity, Equity and inclusion are embedded in all of the Department's recruitment activities. Prior to joining the Legal Recruitment team, Lilli was a litigating Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Bronx Tort Division of the Law Department where she defended the City, its agencies and employees in personal injury and property damage suits. Lilli received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and earned her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.*

## **Tasha Everman**

Assistant Dean, Director of Career Development, University of Nebraska College of Law

*Tasha Everman is the Assistant Dean and the Director of Career Development at the University of Nebraska College of Law. She has been in this role as well as a member of NALP for the last 18 years and proudly sports a NALP NERD ribbon each April. For more than a decade she has been working with students on strengths and in 2016 she was certified as a Gallup Strengths Coach. In 2020, Tasha was tasked with moving the college forward in its goal to become a truly strengths-based organization.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Valery Federici**

Career & Life Coach / Co-Founder, Valery Federici Coaching, LLC / Level Up Legal

*Valery Federici is a career and life coach (Valery Federici Coaching, LLC), and co-founder of Level Up Legal, LLC, which focuses on raising the energy of lawyers by teaching foundational coaching concepts in an engaging online format and through connecting the legal community. Valery began her legal career at Cleary Gottlieb, where she was a paralegal and an associate, before beginning the Knowledge Management practice in the private investment funds group at the firm. As she rose into this law firm management position, she was inspired to pursue coach training and found it a fundamental positive addition to her legal education. She holds a J.D., cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School, and a B.A. in International Relations, cum laude, from Wellesley College. She is a Certified Professional Coach and completed her coach training at iPEC (the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching).*

## **Kasey Fenn**

Associate Recruitment Manager, Western Region, Hogan Lovells LLP

*Kasey Fenn is the Associate Recruitment Manager for the Western Region at Hogan Lovells US LLP. Kasey brings over 20 years of legal recruiting and professional development experience having worked at law firms in New York City and Denver. At Hogan Lovells, Kasey works with firm leadership and the US associate recruitment team to develop strategic recruiting efforts across all US offices and within all practice groups. Kasey is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University and is an active member of the Denver Area Legal Recruiting Association (DALRA). Outside of work, Kasey loves spending time with her husband, her three kids (ages 14, 11, and 9), and her pets: 1 dog, 10 chickens, 5 ducks, and one mean goose.*

## **Trisha Fillbach**

Assistant Director, Office of Attorney Recruitment and Management, U.S. Department of Justice

*Trisha A. Fillbach joined the Department in 2014 and serves as an Assistant Director in the Office of Attorney Recruitment and Management (OARM). In this role, Trisha supports the administration of DOJ recruitment programs for law students and attorneys, serves as a spokesperson at job fairs, law schools, and national conferences, and administers the Attorney Mentor and Ambassador Programs. She collaborates on employment policy matters, consults on suitability, and works on special projects. Trisha also conducts trainings on several topics, including interviewer skills, DOJ employment policy, mentoring, employee engagement, and best practices in hiring. Prior to joining OARM, Trisha spent 10 years working in career development at three law schools, leading two offices, and counseling thousands of students in their job search. Trisha has spoken at numerous events, including NALP Education Conferences and PDI. She authored the chapter "Advising Law Students and Graduates Interested in Government Service," Perspectives on Career Services, Third Edition published by NALP in 2015. Trisha started her legal career as a Judicial Law Clerk in Minnesota. Following her clerkship, Trisha joined the litigation group of a large Madison, Wisconsin law firm, practicing primarily family law. Trisha received her BA from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and her JD from Hamline University School of Law.*

## **Mindy Finnigan**

Director of Professional Development, The University of Texas School of Law

*Mindy Finnigan spent more than a decade as a litigator in private practice before shifting her career to follow her passion for working with law students and young lawyers full time. She began as a career counselor in the Office of Career Services at The University of Chicago Law School in 2016 before relocating and eventually taking on the role of the Director of Professional Development at The University of Texas School of Law. In her current role, Mindy*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies

## (this document will not be updated)

*specializes in helping students develop essential professional skills, including networking and interviewing skills, through individual coaching, workshops, and presentations.*

### **Jeremy Fogel**

Executive Director, Berkeley Judicial Institute

*Judge Jeremy Fogel is the first Executive Director of the Berkeley Judicial Institute, a center at Berkeley Law School whose mission is to build bridges between judges and academics and to promote an ethical, resilient and independent judiciary. Prior to his appointment at Berkeley, he served as Director of the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, DC (2011-2018), as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California (1998-2011), and as a judge of the Santa Clara County Superior (1986-1998) and Municipal (1981-1986) Courts. He was the founding Directing Attorney of the Mental Health Advocacy Project from 1978 to 1981. Judge Fogel has served as a faculty member for the Federal Judicial Center since 2002 and was a lecturer at Stanford Law School from 2003 until his relocation to Washington. He taught for the California Continuing Judicial Studies Program and California Judicial College from 1987 to 2010 and has served as a faculty member for legal exchanges in more than a dozen foreign countries. He received his B.A. from Stanford University in 1971 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1974. Judge Fogel has received numerous accolades, including the President's Award for Outstanding Service to the California Judiciary from the California Judges Association and the Vanguard Award for notable contributions to intellectual property law from the State Bar of California. In 2002, he received special recognition from the Santa Clara County Bar Association for exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism in the judiciary.*

### **Melissa Forshey Schwind**

Director of Attorney Recruiting, Professional Development, and Diversity & Inclusion, Ward and Smith, P.A.

*Melissa Forshey Schwind is the Director of Attorney Recruiting, Professional Development, and Diversity & Inclusion Ward and Smith, P.A., in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is an attorney talent acquisition leader, strategic business partner, workforce planner, and career coach and facilitator. Melissa has 13 years of experience in both the private and public sectors, including at Paul Hastings, Steptoe & Johnson, and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. She is co-chair of conference planning for the PDC 2023 Summer Conference. Melissa earned her J.D. at Michigan State University College of Law and her B.A. from Michigan State University. [Please note that Melissa is on parental leave and may wish to update this bio.]*

### **Ashleigh Frankel**

Co-founder, The WiseMind Co.

*ASHLEIGH FRANKEL is the co-founder of The WiseMind Co. (WMC), a consulting firm dedicated to the cultivation of Collective Well-being. Over the past decade, The WiseMind Co. has proudly partnered with courageous leaders across sectors, to produce well work cultures where people and businesses flourish. Prior to founding WMC, Ashleigh practiced law in Canada. A graduate of University of Toronto Law School, she went on to practice Health Law Litigation at a National Firm before transitioning to Securities Law, spending 7 years as In-House Counsel at a Global Asset Management Firm. Ashleigh's work is informed by her personal journey, navigating anxiety and burnout throughout her decade long legal career; and it is supported by her study and certifications in applied mindfulness, positive psychology coaching, and integrative somatic trauma therapy. As a coach and consultant, Ashleigh has made an impact helping others develop tools to thrive by making simple, science-backed skills and practices part of their daily life. Ashleigh currently serves as the co-chair of the Mindfulness In Law Society, Ontario Chapter and is the Co-founder of the All Rise Initiative, a collaborative project dedicated to raising the bar on collective well-being in law through community, connection and core skills development.*

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## **Leanne Fuith**

Professor of Law and Dean of Career and Professional Development, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

*Leanne Fuith is a Professor of Law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Leanne teaches courses in law student professional identity formation, leadership, negotiation, client counseling, and drafting, transactional deal making, and law firm management and attorney development. She also sets the strategy for the law school's Career and Professional Development Office and works one-on-one with law students as they explore their career pathways of interest. Leanne chairs NALP's Workgroup on ABA Amended Standard 303 Compliance and leads Mitchell Hamline's committee tasked with evaluating and implementing Amended Standard 303 as well as Mitchell Hamline's new learning outcome addressing racism, bias, and cultural competence in the curriculum. She has also written about and been active in efforts to reform the bar exam and attorney licensure pathways in the State of Minnesota and speaks and writes on topics related to business and law firm formation and management, leadership and lawyers, and law student and lawyer professional formation. Outside of the law school setting, Leanne advises lawyers on law firm management issues and attorney professional development. Prior to teaching, Leanne represented employees in litigation involving wrongful termination, sexual harassment, discrimination, and other civil rights violations. She also advised closely-held business on employment best practices and business start-up, formation and management.*

## **Matthew Galando**

Director of Professional Development, K&L Gates LLP

*Matt Galando is the Director of Professional Development at K&L Gates LLP where he leads a dynamic global team to drive learning and development strategy across the firm's 48 offices. Matt serves as an innovative and collaborative partner alongside firm leadership to develop impactful engagement initiatives, multi-stage experiential learning programs, continuing education, multimedia, and other resources focused on the K&L Gates PD mantra of Whole Person Development to ensure all personnel feel connected and supported at every level. Matt leads global engagement and leadership events for partners and associates, and recently led the development of the firm's new Associate Leadership Development Initiative and the Allied Excellence training series designed exclusively for the firm's Allied Professional business teams. In addition to his work at K&L Gates, Matt serves in leadership roles with nonprofits and educational institutions. Matt currently serves as a Trustee of Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. He is an Executive Committee member and Board Vice Chair of City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, PA, and previously served as the Chair of the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. Matt also serves as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Professional Development Consortium.*

## **Ashley Gardner**

Attorney Recruiting and Development Manager, O'Melveny and Myers LLP

*Ashley Gardner is a law firm professional with a background in Bay Area and New York recruitment and attorney development. Hailing from Wichita, Kansas, she moved to New York City to attend NYU where she had a brief stint in working for the Office of Career Services at New York University School of Law, prior to a summer internship at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP ("S&C") in New York. At S&C, she began her full-time career where she focused on summer associate hiring for the first several years, and eventually received an opportunity to join the Business/Client Development Group and the firm's Executive Administration team, where she specifically worked on the Intellectual Property and Real Estate Groups and on firm business management, respectively. She ultimately left the firm in Fall 2018 after rejoining the Talent Development team as a Recruiting and Diversity Manager. In Fall 2018, Ashley moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to lead recruitment and development initiatives for O'Melveny's San Francisco office. In Fall 2021, Ashley began her involvement with assisting O'Melveny's Silicon*

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*Valley office with their Talent Development initiatives. During her free time, Ashley enjoys taking her dog, Chuck, a.k.a. Charles Barkley, for walks in Fort Mason, volunteering with the SF Parks, and traveling with her husband – Maui is a favorite!*

## **Tonya Gaskins**

Senior Manager Emerging Talent, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

*Tonya Gaskins is the Senior Manager of Emerging Talent - US at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP (BCLP). Tonya is responsible for growing and managing the new department, developing a strategic plan and day-to-day operations for the growing team, and identifying opportunities to recruit and add value for diverse individuals interested in pursuing a legal career. Prior to assuming the Emerging Talent role, Tonya served as the Manager of Inclusion and Diversity - US for BCLP. Before joining BCLP, she served as the Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. Tonya also worked for 10 years in Big Law as a litigation Associate and Senior Associate before transitioning to academia. Tonya has presented on topics focused on diversity and student development several times at the NALP Annual Conference and other events, including a well-attended Boot Camp presented by the Women's Bar Association of DC. She is also the co-author of an article written about diversity initiatives in the wake of the George Floyd tragedy. Tonya received her law degree from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and bachelor's degrees in education from Bowie State University and English from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.*

## **Nikki Gershbain**

CEO, IDEA Consulting Group

*Nikki Gershbain (she/her) is founder and CEO of IDEA Consulting Group. Nikki is a lawyer with 20+ years experience in equity, diversity and corporate social responsibility as a litigator, c-suite executive, and non-profit leader. She is a thought leader in diversity and inclusion who has been invited to deliver hundreds of presentations, workshops and keynote speeches nationally and internationally. Prior to launching IDEA Consulting Group, Nikki served as Chief Inclusion Officer of one of Canada's top law firms, McCarthy Tétrault. There, she created a market-leading, multiple-award winning EDI program called "Inclusion Now". In 2021, Nikki was awarded the Canadian Bar Association's LGBTQ Hero Award in recognition of her ground-breaking work on transgender workplace inclusion.*

## **Alexandra Gharghoury**

Legal Recruitment Manager, Brown Rudnick LLP

*Alex is the Legal Recruitment Manager at Brown Rudnick LLP, managing firmwide recruitment for students, lateral associates and counsel pipelines. Prior to joining Brown Rudnick, she was the Legal Recruitment Advisor for the global U.S. practice at Linklaters LLP and the Legal Recruiting Coordinator at Venable LLP in New York.*

## **April Giancola**

Assistant Dean of Career and Professional Development, Campbell University Law School

*April Giancola brings 21 years of legal and program management experience to her role as Assistant Dean of Career and Professional Development at Campbell University Law School. Previously, she served as the Director of Public Interest Advising for the University of North Carolina School of Law's Career Development Office. As a practicing attorney, she was the Chief Legal Program Officer for Disability Rights N.C. and a civil attorney and post-conviction managing attorney for N.C. Prisoner Legal Services Inc. Before moving to North Carolina, Giancola served as a trial attorney in the Maricopa County (Arizona) Public Defender's Office and as director of legal services for Our*

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*Place D.C. and volunteer and training coordinator for the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. Giancola earned a B.S. in speech and communications from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, prior to obtaining a paralegal certificate from Georgetown University and a J.D. from the New England School of Law. She is a member of the Massachusetts, District of Columbia and North Carolina State bars and is bar certified in the Eastern, Middle and Western District Courts of North Carolina, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Giancola is a member of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Membership Committee and the North Carolina Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession Committee and Public Sector Council.*

### **Susan Goldberg**

Circuit Executive, United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

*Susan Goldberg has a long history of service in the federal judiciary, beginning in 1989, with a one-year clerkship for the Honorable Bruce M. Selya. Ms. Goldberg, who earned her B.A. from Vassar College in 1984 and her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1989, entered private practice after completing her clerkship, and joined Arnold & Porter LLP's New York office as an associate in the litigation department and served on the firm's hiring committee. After three years with Arnold & Porter LLP, in 1993, Ms. Goldberg moved to Boston and practiced at Testa Hurwitz & Thibault's litigation department, where she litigated various types of commercial disputes. She also served as a legal writing instructor at Boston University School of Law. In 1995, Ms. Goldberg became Executive Director of the Gender and Race and Ethnic Bias Task Forces of the First Circuit. She then joined the Office of the Circuit Executive as Assistant Circuit Executive for Legal Affairs, a position she held for four years before becoming the Deputy Circuit Executive in 2001. Ms. Goldberg served as Deputy Circuit Executive, managing all aspects of judicial administration for the First Circuit until October of 2014 when she was appointed as the Circuit Executive. Since becoming Circuit Executive, Ms. Goldberg has served on many national communities and working groups.*

### **Leah Gould**

Assistant Dean for Public Service, University of Virginia School of Law

*Leah Gould leads the Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center as the Assistant Dean for Public Service at the University of Virginia School of Law. After graduating from the University of Colorado Law School, Gould clerked on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Gould then joined the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division's New York City field office through the Attorney General's Honors Program, where she investigated and prosecuted price-fixing and bid-rigging schemes in the financial services industry. Gould went on to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, where she prosecuted a variety of federal criminal cases, including cybercrime, firearms, narcotics trafficking, child exploitation, and white-collar cases. The Federal Law Enforcement Foundation named Gould 2020 Prosecutor of the Year for her work leading an international dark web narcotics and cryptocurrency laundering case. Throughout her time at the DOJ, Gould recruited law students and attorneys as a DOJ ambassador and conducted Honors Program and intern hiring. Before practicing law, Gould served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, first flying tactical jet aircraft on active duty and then serving as an intelligence officer in the reserves. As a law student, Gould was an editor on the University of Colorado Law Review, won a national championship in moot court, and founded the Military Law Society. Gould also co-founded The Brigid Alliance, a national abortion access nonprofit.*

### **Chris Graham**

Principal, TellPeople Inc. ([www.tellpeople.ca](http://www.tellpeople.ca))

*Chris Graham teaches lawyers and other professionals how to connect with their clients and teams. Since 2016, he's trained over 12,000 people at North America's leading law firms, large and small companies, government agencies,*

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*and charities. In 2022, Chris was Head of Speaker Coaching at TEDxToronto and the Storyteller-in-Residence at Manifest Climate, a global technology firm. Prior to founding TellPeople, Chris worked at one of the world's top banking law firms (Sullivan & Cromwell LLP) and one of Canada's top Indigenous rights law firms (Pape & Salter LLP). He studied at Oxford University, University of Toronto Law School, and Acadia University, and is a graduate of the stand-up comedy program at The Second City in Toronto.*

## **Adam Gratch**

Director of Employer Engagement, University of Wisconsin Law School

*Adam joined the Office of Career and Professional Development in August 2021. Prior to joining OCPD, he served as the Director of DePaul University College of Law's Career Services Office. Before making the transition to career coaching Adam ran a successful law practice in the greater Chicago area focusing on plaintiff's side labor and employment litigation. Adam graduated from DePaul University's College of Law with a Juris Doctor in 2008. While a student at DePaul. He is also a graduate of Grinnell College, a distinguished liberal arts college located in the corn fields of Iowa. In addition to his work at UW, Adam teaches courses on Torts, Contracts, and Business Organizations for DePaul University's College of Continuing and Professional Studies.*

## **Georgia Gray**

Director of Lateral Partner Recruiting, Venable

*Georgia Emery Gray is currently the Director of Lateral Partner Recruiting at Venable. There her work focuses on the recruitment of partner and counsel candidates, as well as, leading the strategic growth and expansion efforts of the firm. Prior to Venable, Georgia was the Director of Professional Development – US for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. At Cleary, Georgia focused her work on professional development but also spent many years leading the Washington office's associate recruiting efforts. Georgia has spent many years supporting NALP as a member of the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, President appointed work groups and, most notably, as President from 2019-2020. She also serves as member of Flo Recruit's Client Advisory Board, a board member for the ABA's Career Center and an advisor to Thine.*

## **Jarrett Green**

Well-Being, Stress Resiliency, & Peak Performance Consultant and Lecturer-in-Law, Jarrett-Green.com and USC Law School

*Jarrett Green, Esq., M.A., is a former Skadden Arps litigator who left the practice of law years ago so he could live his passion of helping lawyers, legal professionals, and other high-stress individuals experience less stress, more happiness, greater focus, improved productivity, optimized cognition, and enhanced overall success in their work, and lives. He has a Masters in Psychology and is the co-founder of USC Gould School of Law's nationally-recognized Mindfulness, Stress Management, & Peak Performance Program. Jarrett consults to and leads programs at nearly half of the AmLaw 100, including Skadden Arps, Gibson Dunn, Sullivan & Cromwell, White & Case, and Mayer Brown, as well as many Fortune 500 companies, including U.S. Bank, NBC-Universal, Hyundai Motor Company, Salesforce, and Allstate Insurance Company. Along with his wife Rebecca Green, Jarrett is the co-author of the book, "Happiness and Peak Performance in Law School," and is currently working on his next book, "Happiness and Peak Performance in the Law." Jarrett blends science, humor, storytelling and easy-to-apply techniques to maximally impact audiences. Learn more at Jarrett-Green.com.*

## **Jennifer Greiner**

President & Founder, Greiner Consulting Group

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*Jennifer is a market leader in legal career management, having built one of the premier consultancies in her field. With over 25 years' experience advising law firms and their attorneys, she has established a preeminent reputation for an innovative and individualized approach to coaching, career counseling and transition planning. She works extensively with partners at all levels of seniority including those stepping into leadership roles within their firms and those transitioning out of senior management positions. As a testimony to her success, many of Jennifer's long-standing clients continue to rely on her for advice concerning a wide range of partner and associate development matters. Jennifer presents frequently on professional development topics and has made important contributions to the legal community at large, leading workshops and seminars for bar and professional associations and area law schools. In addition, Jennifer volunteers with the Public Service Network of the New York City Bar Association and Volunteers for Careers.*

## **Brad Grimes**

Assistant Director, West Virginia University College of Law, Meredith Center for Career Services and Professional Development

*Brad Grimes, Esq., is the Assistant Director for West Virginia University's College of Law, Meredith Center for Career Services and Professional Development. Prior to this role, Brad served as the Program Coordinator for West Virginia University's LGBTQ+ Center where, in addition to planning and implementing student, faculty and staff programming, he was an active speaker, presenting more than a hundred LGBTQ+ Safe Zone and Transgender Safe Zone Trainings and other presentations on WVU's campuses and in the broader community. As a native West Virginian, and as a gay attorney living and working in West Virginia, Brad is passionate about his advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community. In addition to his work for the WVU LGBTQ+ Center, Brad also teaches a course, LGBTQ+ Rights and the Law, for WVU's Honors College. As more and more states pass anti-LGBTQ legislation, Brad's work in support of sexual and gender minorities is increasingly relevant and important, and he believes that it is vital for legal professionals to be knowledgeable about LGBTQ+ issues and concerns.*

## **Kara Hardin**

Founder & CEO, The Practice Lab

*Kara Hardin (she/her), Founder and CEO of The Practice Lab, is a mental health educator, Registered Psychotherapist, and former practicing corporate and securities lawyer, who works at the intersection of mental health and performance. She specializes in the complicated ways that mental health drives performance and how it shows up at work. She holds a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) and a Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. Kara's core values are learning and kindness.*

## **Lauren Hartley**

Portfolio Manager, Equal Justice Works

*Lauren Hartley is a portfolio manager at Equal Justice Works, where she supports Fellows working across the country, though concentrated in the Northeast. Prior to joining Equal Justice Works, Lauren worked in law school career development, with international graduate students, and in immigration law. Previously, Lauren was on staff at Penn State Dickinson Law, where she led public interest and pro bono programming as Assistant Director of the Miller Center for Public Interest Advocacy & the Law. Among other projects, she coordinated the summer IOLTA Fellowship program, the 1L community interviewing program, and established the Public Interest Scholars program. Lauren led global recruitment and engagement for international graduate students at a New York area law school, working with students and partners around the globe. She is an adjunct professor of law, teaching*

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*professional skills to both LL.M. & J.D. students. She is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania. She is an active pro bono attorney, primarily in immigration & family law.*

## **Timothy Henderson**

Chief Legal Talent Officer, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner

*Timothy Henderson has served as the Chief Legal Talent Officer at Finnegan since 2011, where he oversees the attorney and student talent management functions for the global IP law firm. Prior to Finnegan, Tim was Holland & Hart's Director of Recruitment & Professional Development (and for a period time, Interim Director of Marketing). In addition to working as an administrator in AmLaw 200 law firms, Tim served as Assistant Dean of the Career Development Center at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. He earned his law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law and practiced law for several years in Kansas and Missouri.*

## **Bruce Hendricks**

U.S. District Judge and Chair of the Diversity Subcommittee of the Federal Judiciary's Judicial Resources Committee, U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

*Judge Bruce H. Hendricks serves on the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. In addition to her judgeship, Judge Hendricks is a member of the federal judiciary's Committee on Judicial Resources (JRC) and serves as the Chair of the JRC's Diversity Subcommittee. She joined the court in 2014 after a nomination from President Barack Obama. Prior to her nomination, Judge Hendricks served as a magistrate judge from 2002 to 2014. From 1991 to 2002, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Judge Hendricks earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston and her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law.*

## **Jessica Hernandez**

Principal, JLH Coaching and Consulting

*Jessica L. Hernandez is a certified executive coach and former attorney who partners with clients to move beyond obstacles to a more fulfilling place in their lives. Jessica is also a co-author, with Jessica R. Natkin, of "Let's Coach All the Lawyers: An Essential Primer for Professionals Developing Legal Talent." Written for supervisors and managers in the legal industry, this book shares the coaching practices the authors have found to be most effective in developmental conversations. She is also the Co-Founder, with Jessica Natkin, of Law Career Center, a unique resource for attorneys working through career transitions. After graduating from George Washington Law School in 1997, Jessica practiced corporate law for 11 years in New York City - at an AmLaw 100 firm, a smaller firm, and as in-house counsel at a hedge fund. As Jessica became a seasoned corporate attorney, she realized the areas that energized her most were those that focused on relationships and connecting. In 2008, Jessica found a way to capitalize upon these strengths by transitioning into attorney professional development, allowing her to support lawyers through the rigors of the profession. She first served as a career advisor at Georgetown Law, and then moved to an attorney development position in-house at a major law firm in 2010, before starting her own business in 2019. Jessica's goal as a coach is to help her clients find clarity on decisions, tap into their unrealized potential for growth, or take their next personal or professional step with confidence.*

## **Laura Higgins**

Director of Alumni and Client Relations, Haynes and Boone, LLP

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*Laura Higgins is the Director of Alumni and Client Relations at Haynes Boone. She is tasked with overseeing the global alumni program, an initiative dedicated to serving the almost 2,000 alums of the firm. She is charged with building an engaging and meaningful alumni community, tracking efforts and reporting results to firm management. Laura has more than 15 years of experience providing innovative marketing and recruiting solutions to law firms, including targeted alumni outreach. Laura applies her passion for connecting people and servant leadership as she directs the firm's alumni efforts.*

### **Danielle Hirsch**

Managing Director, National Center for State Courts

*Danielle Hirsch is Managing Director of the Court Consulting Division at the National Center for State Courts. In that capacity, Danielle is working to develop, guide and implement policies and procedures of court consulting operations to ensure success, high-quality work. In addition, Danielle has a professional focus on access to justice initiatives. She leads several large national access to justice projects for NCSC and serves as lead staff for the new \$11M Eviction Diversion Initiative, and the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators' Access and Fairness Committee, the Post-Pandemic Planning Technology Supergroup, and the Blueprint for Racial Justice's Improving Diversity of the Bench, Bar and Workforce Working Group. In addition, Danielle is the co-creator and a co-host of Tiny Chats. Before joining NCSC, Danielle was the Assistant Director of Civil Justice Division of the Administrative Office of Illinois, where Danielle was responsible for leading and managing the judicial branch's work to promote, facilitate and enhance access to justice in Illinois with a particular emphasis on efforts to remove barriers and increase the ease of interacting with courts by persons who cannot afford lawyers to represent their interests and needs. Before joining the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, Danielle served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice and the Director of Advocacy at The Chicago Bar Foundation. Among many highlights of her work, Danielle developed and managed an innovative new program, Illinois JusticeCorps, which places college and law students in courthouses to provide procedural assistance to people without lawyers. At the beginning of her career, Danielle clerked for the Honorable William Wayne Justice of the US District Court for the Western District of Texas and Justice ZM Yacoob of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Danielle brings a broad range of relevant experience to the NCSC. Danielle has authored numerous articles in law reviews, bar journals and other publications and frequently is called upon to speak at legal, academic, and nonprofit meetings and events.*

### **Tina Hooks**

Deputy-in-Charge Recruitment Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

*Tina Hooks received her B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and her J.D. degree from Southwestern University School of Law where she attended as an evening student while working full-time as a paralegal in a civil litigation firm. Ms. Hooks joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney where she worked in a variety of assignments and tried multiple cases including domestic violence and gang crimes. In 2009, Ms. Hooks was assigned to the Elder Abuse Section where she handled cases involving homicides, neglect and financial abuse committed against senior citizens and dependent adults – which represents one of LA County's most vulnerable populations. Due to her level of expertise in this complex area of the law, Ms. Hooks was frequently asked to train law enforcement personnel and social workers, conduct numerous seminars and consult on a task force with the LA County Coroner's Office to identify cases of elder abuse that might have been overlooked during the initial investigation. Ms. Hooks has been consistently recognized for her hard work for vulnerable elder and dependent adults. Specifically, in April 2012, she received a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Commendation during Victim's Rights Week and honored at the Victim's Rights Symposium National Victim's Rights Week Recognition Ceremony. She has also received the "Deputy DA of the Month" award from ADDA in July 2009 and October 2017. In 2017, Ms. Hooks was selected to join the Conviction Review Unit where she was responsible for reviewing claims of actual innocence based upon new evidence and presently serves*

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*as a consultant for the unit. In 2019, she was appointed to serve as the Office's first Deputy-in-Charge of the newly created Recruitment Unit to lead the Office's recruitment efforts recognizing the importance of attracting and hiring diverse talent to ensure that the prosecutors representing the office reflect the population of Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is the largest local prosecutorial office in the United States. The District Attorney's Office prosecutes cases in a large geographical area covering 4,083 square miles. Its jurisdiction stretches from the Antelope Valley to Long Beach and from Pomona to Malibu. Los Angeles County, with more than 10 million residents, is the nation's most populous county.*

### **Skip Horne**

Vice President for Engagement, The NALP Foundation

*Skip Horne is Vice President for Engagement at the NALP Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, Skip served as the Senior Assistant Dean for External Relations at Santa Clara University School of Law, as well as working at Latham & Watkins LLP, the University of San Diego School of Law, the University of Texas School of Law, and the University of Melbourne in Australia where he completed a strategic engagement as a Careers Consultant with Trinity College. Skip served as the President of NALP (2002-03) and the President of the National LGBT Bar Foundation (2010-12) and has been active with a number of associations including the ABA, AALS, LSAC, BALRA, and SDLRA. He currently serves on the Board of the American Bar Association's Career Center. Skip received his MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia and his BSFS cum laude from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.*

### **Nakia Humphrey**

Sr. Director of Attorney Development, Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, LLP

*Nakia Humphrey is the Senior Director of Attorney Development at Gunderson Dettmer. In her role, she leads the firm's professional development initiatives, working closely with firm leadership and attorneys on all aspects of learning and development with a strategic focus on performance management, executive coaching, curriculum design, and mentoring. Nakia has spent most of her career in legal professional development. Before joining Gunderson Dettmer, she served in various roles at major law firms including Perkins Coie, where she was the Director of Professional Development. At Perkins, she led the firm's training, mentoring, coaching and CLE functions. She was also a member of the firmwide Attorney Development Committee, as well as the Staff Diversity & Inclusion and Well-Being Taskforces. Nakia received her BA in Political Science from Rider University and holds an MBA and a Master's Degree in Organization Management from St. Joseph's College. She is an active member of the Professional Development Consortium (PDC) and currently serves on the Richard Pearson Award Committee and the planning team for the Winter Certification Program. Nakia also previously co-chaired the PDC Programming Committee.*

### **Charleen Hutson**

Program Manager, Equal Justice Works

*Charleen Hutson is the program manager in the Law School Engagement and Advocacy unit at Equal Justice Works where she works to communicate the full range of public interest opportunities offered by the organization to law students and law schools, and to expand the organization's law student and law school membership through engagement initiatives and relationship building. Charleen brings more than ten years of community-informed advocacy experience working on issues such as housing, reentry, employment, family reunification, and healthcare in Washington, D.C., and Michigan. Charleen has a B.A. in Communications & Culture with a Legal Communications concentration from Howard University and received her J.D. from The Catholic University of America.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Sunita Iyer**

Senior Associate Director, Office of Graduate Careers and Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown Law School

*Sunita joined Georgetown Law after enjoying a varied career in both the private and public sector. She serves as Senior Associate Director in the Office of Graduate Careers and as an Adjunct Professor of Law. Sunita obtained her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center where she served as a Research Assistant to Professor Heathcote (Pete) Wales and participated in the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. After receiving her J.D., Sunita spent three years as a litigation associate at a New York law firm, worked at a public interest law firm representing Immigrant Battered Women, founded a domestic violence non-profit organization, had a private immigration practice for 18 years, and worked in J.D. Admissions. Sunita received her B.A. in Psychology from Smith College, and is admitted to practice law in New York and the District of Columbia. Sunita currently teaches the J.D. Externship I Seminar and is also certified as an Executive Leadership Coach from Georgetown School of Continuing Studies.*

## **Sylvia James**

Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Winston & Strawn

*Sylvia F. James serves as Winston & Strawn's Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer. In this role, Sylvia collaborates with key stakeholders to develop and implement the firm's diversity and inclusion strategy and initiatives; works with the talent management team to enhance the hiring, advancement, retention, and promotion of diverse lawyers; serves as a liaison to clients and external organizations dedicated to fostering diversity in the legal profession; conducts diversity training; and advises on internal and external diversity-related communications. Prior to joining Winston, Sylvia served as the diversity lead for a national law firm. In addition, she practiced law as a labor and employment attorney for over a decade. Sylvia is a member of the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals (ALFDP) and currently serves as the Historian. She is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession (IILP), and a former commissioner on the American Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion 360 Commission.*

## **Kari Jensen Thomas**

Senior Manager of Business Development & Alumni Engagement, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

*Kari Jensen Thomas is the Senior Manager of Business Development Training and Alumni Engagement at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. She leads the firm's business development training programs, provides individual coaching, and fosters connections between Faegre Drinker and its alumni. She develops and executes the business development curriculum for lawyers and consultants and creates opportunities for colleagues who have moved on from Faegre Drinker to reconnect with the firm and benefit from its legal capabilities and community connections. Kari directs communication initiatives and events to keep alumni in touch and updated on important firm information. Before joining Faegre Drinker, Kari led firm-wide attorney and law student talent acquisition strategies, internal and external diversity and inclusion initiatives, and professional development programming and coaching at another large Minneapolis law firm. She also served as the Associate Director of Career Services at Mitchell Hamline Law School and the Director of Marketing and Operations at a legal placement company. In 2007-2008, Kari served as the President of Minnesota Women Lawyers. Kari has presented at NALP AEC and the Professional Development Institute. She received her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law (n.k.a. Mitchell Hamline) and received her B.A. in Government and International Affairs from Augustana University. In her free time, Kari enjoys empty nesting, traveling with her in-house lawyer husband Kyle, volunteering for a domestic violence organization and spending time with her mini goldendoodle Riley.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Paul Johnson**

Associate Director of Career Services, University of Illinois Chicago School of Law

*Paul E. Johnson is an Associate Director of Career Services at University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, where he oversees and manages Recruiting Programs and assists with the development and implementation of law student professional development classes. Before joining the UIC Law Career Services Office, Paul worked as a recruiter with Robert Half Executive Search and as a recruiter and project fulfillment manager with Robert Half Legal's consulting solutions practice. Prior to his career with Robert Half, Paul served as Business Development Manager and Assistant Legal Counsel at Lakeshore Interactive LLC in Chicago. Paul is active in the NALP Regional Leadership Council and Neurodiversity Task Force; the American Bar Association SOGI Commission and Commission on Disability Rights; and volunteers on the boards of the Chicago Composers Orchestra and the Mizzou Alumni Association's Chicago chapter.*

## **Amy Johnston**

Clinical Director, Urban Wellness

*Amy Johnston is a licensed clinical social worker with extensive experience working in mental health, trauma and burnout. She is dedicated to supporting a culture of thriving, even in the hardest of jobs. She works with leaders to cultivate an atmosphere of growth and authenticity. Amy is the Clinical Director at Urban Wellness, a mental health organization in Chicago dedicated to making mental health a down to earth practice. Amy earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Northwestern University and University of Chicago, before moving to Dublin, Ireland to start her career in social work. Amy worked as a child protection worker in the Irish legal system for several years and then moved into a role as Senior Social Worker in an Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital. Upon returning to the US, Amy worked as a Clinical Coordinator at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago for 6 years, supporting staff and families in the Intensive Care Unit dealing with grief and trauma. Amy accepted her current Role at Urban Wellness in 2009 where she has built a workplace mental health program from the ground up.*

## **Kimberly Jones**

Lawyer Recruiting Manager, Stoel Rives LLP

*Kimberly Dunn Jones is the Lawyer Recruiting Manager at Stoel Rives LLP. She started her legal recruitment career in 2007 and has worked in several law firms of varying sizes, now covering markets across the U.S. from DC to Anchorage. Kim holds a M.S. degree in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Strategic Innovation and Change Management from Colorado State University. Based in Seattle, WA, she recently held leadership positions with the Seattle Area Legal Recruiting Administrators (SALRA) city group. When she is not dreaming up process improvements for her organization, you can find her enjoying the beauty of the Pacific Northwest with her two girls and husband.*

## **Rosemary Jones**

Senior Manager of Attorney Recruitment, Latham & Watkins

*Rosemary Jones is a Senior Manager of Attorney Recruitment at Latham & Watkins. Rosemary started her career in legal recruiting in 2008 at Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto, where she worked for seven years. She then moved to Cravath, as a Recruiting Coordinator and over the next seven years, worked her way to Senior Manager of Legal Recruiting. Rosemary started at Latham in 2022 and has helped further establish Latham's successful attorney recruiting program. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Pace University in Criminal Justice.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies

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### **Mina Jones Jefferson**

Chief Culture & Engagement Officer, Bricker Graydon LLP

*Mina Jones Jefferson is an attorney and human capital strategist, chief culture and engagement people officer at Bricker Graydon LLP. She received a B.A. in Public Administration from Miami University and her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law (Cincinnati Law). Mina is a frequent speaker on the topic of professional formation and career development. She is known for thought leadership in the legal talent space. Mina previously practiced law as a commercial litigator for a National Law Journal Top 250 law firm in Cincinnati and directed professional development at the Cincinnati Law. She engages in board service including volunteer leadership roles in NALP.*

### **Jennifer Kasmin**

Consultant, Volta Talent Strategies

*Jennifer draws on her experience as a lawyer and a consultant to help law firms in designing and implementing initiatives focused on the recruitment, integration, and development of lawyers at all levels. Jennifer advises law firms on their approaches to both lateral and entry-level hiring and shows them how to optimize their processes and enhance their interviewing to create a more focused candidate-centric experience. Jennifer played a key role in the development of Thine's assessments, having helped to develop frameworks that identify behaviors and skills that differentiate successful lawyers and the resources that law firms can use to accelerate lawyer success and well being. Jennifer started her legal career at Paul Weiss and then joined King & Spalding before leaving practice to become a legal recruiter and ultimately to lead a leading NYC-based recruiting firm as its Managing Partner. She joined Volta's sister company Thine Solutions in 2020, as law firms began to see the value of incorporating technology and assessments into their legal talent life cycle. Jennifer graduated magna cum laude from Boston University School of Law, having obtained her B.S. from Cornell University. She is a Certified Lawyer Coach, having completed Volta's ICF-accredited coach training program. As a Founding Board Member and Secretary, Jennifer is particularly proud of the work she has done launching Impact 100 NYC, a volunteer-led women's organization focused on uniting women across the five boroughs of NYC to fund transformative change that helps the people and communities of NYC overcome adversity and thrive.*

### **Sonja Kehnt**

Senior Manager, Talent Acquisition and Human Resources, Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett

*Sonja Kehnt is a seasoned Talent Acquisition Leader with over 24 years of experience. She has been responsible for creation, development, and execution of recruiting strategies, recruiting initiatives, footprint expansion, process improvement and brand attraction strategies for some of the world's largest corporations like JP Morgan Chase, Prudential Financial, Experian and Pricewaterhousecoopers (pwc). She is currently DEI Certified and is a regularly requested guest speaker at Biola University to graduate level students. She is a self-proclaimed People Geek and functional storyteller. In her current role she oversees the Legal Recruiting, Associate Life and HR functions for Simpson Thacher's Los Angeles office.*

### **Adrienne Kelly**

Global Director of Alumni Relations, McDermott, Will & Emery

*Adrienne Kelly is the Global Director of Alumni Relations at McDermott Will & Emery LLP. She has over a decade of experience working in alumni relations across multiple industries – beginning at Emory University where she served as the Director of Alumni Relations for the Goizueta Business School. Adrienne made the leap to professional services with EY as the Americas Alumni Relations Manager where she covered more than 66 offices and nearly*

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*200,000 alumni. Prior to joining McDermott Will & Emery Adrienne lead the Kirkland & Ellis alumni program where she got her start in the legal industry. Adrienne's experience across multiple industries with vastly different alumni populations has given her a unique appreciation for the growing field in professional services. Adrienne is based in Chicago, IL and has a B.A. and M.S. from the University of Florida.*

### **Hannah Kelly**

Sr. Manager of Employer Sales, Flo Recruit

*Hannah Kelly specializes in the BigLaw market at Flo Recruit as Senior Manager of Employer Sales. She works closely with employer recruitment teams to tackle their challenges in both law student and lateral recruiting with Flo's technology solutions. Hannah is passionate about empowering recruiters to be strategic change-makers at their organizations by automating administrative work and increasing access to reports in user-friendly systems.*

### **James Keshavarz**

Chief Wellness Officer, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP

*James is the Chief Wellness Officer for Gibson Dunn, and is a Doctor of Psychology candidate, has his MBA in Health Care Management and a MS in Exercise Science and Health Promotion. James is also an appointed American Bar Association Well-Being Pledge Committee member and the former Chair of the Institute for Well-Being in Law Awards Committee. As a student of psychology, James specializes in intrinsic motivation, transformational leadership, and emotional intelligence. Prior to working for Gibson Dunn James was a practicing Exercise Physiologist specializing in injury prevention and performance enhancement. James was also an adjunct instructor of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at Glendale Community College and was awarded the Distinguished Professor Award in 2019. Serving in the United States Air Force Reserves, James was awarded the Airman of the Year award in 2018 for the work he did to improve resiliency for the 452nd Air Mobility Wing. He was also awarded the Air Force Humanitarian Medal in 2022 for the work he did in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with Global Wellness Manager Melissa de Carvalho, James has a passion for improving work-life synergy for the legal professionals at Gibson Dunn by implementing benefits and programs that improve mental health and overall well-being.*

### **Stacy Kielbasa**

Chief Talent Officer, Chapman and Cutler

*Stacey Kielbasa is the Chief Talent Officer at Chapman and Cutler in Chicago. She has spent her entire career at Chapman, starting as a summer associate and then continuing as an associate in the firm's Public Finance department before taking on her current leadership position. Under Stacey's guidance, Chapman has raised its American Lawyer Summer Associate Survey and Midlevel Associate Survey rankings from near the bottom of the list to one the Top 10 firms in the nation. She also worked to create Chapman Leadership Academy, a training and development curriculum designed to prepare senior associates for partnership, the first such program of its kind at the firm. Stacey has also worked to expand the internal CLE training for all attorneys, as well as developed Chapman's Core Curriculum program for junior associates, to focus on cross-training and legal issues important to firm clients. She works with the firm's diversity committee to recruit, retain, and advance women, LGBTQ, and ethnically diverse lawyers -- efforts that have resulted in national recognition for the firm as one of the 50 Best Law Firms for Women by Working Mother magazine (Chapman has been regularly ranked since 2007). Chapman has also received a perfect score of 100% on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Corporate Equality Index every year since 2008. Stacey served as the President and a Board member for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). Stacey received her BA magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame, her MED from the*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

*University of Illinois College of Education, and her JD magna cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law.*

## **Amy Killoran**

Alumni Career Advisor, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

*Amy Killoran is the career advisor for alumni at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. In that role, she helps lawyers at inflection points in their careers through coaching, advising, and facilitating programs. She has been working for law schools in career services and other roles since 2008, including more than seven years at Georgetown University Law Center. Amy graduated from Cornell University, magna cum laude, and earned her J.D. at Duke University School of Law. After law school, she clerked for the late Judge William C. O'Kelley in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia and practiced labor and employment law at a large Atlanta firm. Amy has served in leadership roles at NALP and is a graduate of an ICF-certified leadership coaching program. She feels fortunate to be at the AEC interacting in-person with her colleagues, as she usually works remotely from North Carolina.*

## **Amy Kimmel**

Asst. Dean - Career Development Office, Univ. of California Law San Francisco

*Amy coaches students for careers in all sectors and settings of the legal profession through individual counseling, workshops, presentations. She also cultivates and strengthens relationships with employers and alums. After her graduation from UC Law SF in 2001, Amy was a partner in a small firm in Oakland with a diverse civil litigation practice. She returned to UC Law SF as the Director for Employer Relations in 2016 and became Assistant Dean in 2019. A very proud Duck, Amy received her B.A. in Journalism from University of Oregon. Amy believes in engaging with the community both on and off-campus and is active in the Bay Area Legal Recruitment Association and sits on the board for the non-profit Center for Elders' Independence.*

## **Willow King-Locke**

Assistant Dean of Professional Development, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law

*Willow King Locke leads the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law Office of Professional Development, bringing with her a wealth of professional experience in career development. During the past 17 years, she has served in various roles, including assistant director of the Career Center at Ball State University, director of Pre-Professional and Career Advising in the IUPUI School of Science and, executive director of Academic Advising and Career Services for the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology. She has also served as chair of the IUPUI Career Services Council.*

## **Lisa Kirby**

Chief Inclusion & Equity Officer, Diversity Lab

*Lisa Kirby joined Diversity Lab in 2016, and brings nearly 25 years of experience in the legal profession to her role. She has served as a practicing attorney, talent management professional, and law firm consultant. After beginning her career as a litigator at two large law firms, Lisa then spent several years in professional development and diversity at Goodwin Procter and worked at a law firm consultancy. At Diversity Lab, Lisa has led the creation and implementation of the needle-moving Mansfield Rule, as well as the current iteration of the OnRamp Fellowship, OnRamp 200. She is a sought-after speaker who has been featured as a keynote speaker, presenter, and panelist on a variety of topics related to diversity & inclusion in the legal profession. Lisa also is a member of the Law360 Data*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

*Insights Editorial Advisory Board and is a prolific author, having contributed articles on innovative ideas in diversity and professional development to publications like The American Lawyer, Law Practice, and Professional Development Quarterly.*

## **Cleo Kirkland**

Managing Partner, Head of North American Legal Center of Expertise, Korn Ferry

*Cleo Kirkland is the managing partner of Korn Ferry's Toronto office and is the head of the North American Legal Center of Expertise. Ms. Kirkland has led hundreds of general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary searches. Much of her time is spent advising leading law firms on succession planning, expansion and targeted lateral partner recruitment. She also has deep experience identifying functional leaders in operations, marketing, finance, IT, and talent for law and other professional services firms. As part of her broader financial services practice, Ms. Kirkland brings diverse experience in Insurance working with a broad range of clients, and spans an array of functional areas and titles, e.g., CEO, President, CFO, COO, CMO, CRO and GM, as well as leaders in Finance, Underwriting, Product, Actuarial, Sales, Marketing, Distribution, Claims, Operations, etc. Ms. Kirkland is actively involved in broader firm-building initiatives. She chairs the firm's North American Promotions Committee (Senior Associate to Principal), has acted as faculty for new partner training and leads development sessions for consultants across lines of business. Externally, she serves as faculty for the Women General Counsel Canada GC University and advisor to the selection committee of the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Kirkland is a lawyer and before starting her career in search, she practiced commercial litigation. She was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 2004.*

## **Mia Kontnik**

Career Consultant, University of Denver - Sturm College of Law

*Mia Kontnik is a Career Consultant with the Sturm College of Law's Office of Career Development (CDO), where she advises students and graduates on careers in the public and private sectors. Mia brings her experience as a child welfare attorney, pro bono coordinator, and work in JD advantage jobs to help students explore and navigate their own career paths. Prior to joining the CDO Mia clerked at Denver District Court learning the ins and outs of a trial level criminal courtroom. After clerking, she represented parents in dependency and neglect proceedings. Mia went on to leverage her JD in nontraditional ways working in mental health policy and the child welfare system. Mia also worked for the Colorado Bar Association developing and running pro bono clinics serving Coloradans from across the state. Mia has experience with juvenile law, disability rights, and employment discrimination.*

## **Andrea Korphage**

Manager, Partner Growth and Integration, Quarles & Brady, LLP

*Andrea Korphage is the Manager of Partner Growth and Integration at Quarles & Brady LLP, a full-service Am Law 200 firm of more than 520 attorneys nationally. Andrea works closely with firm leadership on strategic talent acquisition for partner, counsel, and group growth and is a champion of the firm's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. One of Andrea's passions is customizing pre-hire integration for new hires and their clients – providing a white-glove welcome. A former attorney turned legal recruiter, Andrea has over 20 years of legal industry experience including senior positions at other law firms where she led professional development, mentor programs, DEI initiatives, wellness programs, as well as managed business development and human resource functions. Andrea is based in the Washington, D.C. office and enjoys the benefit of working remotely from her home in Maryland. In addition to her NALP family, Andrea is an active member of the National Association of Legal Search Consultants (NALSC) and enjoys her Mentor role in the Washington Area Legal Recruitment Administrators Association (WALRAA).*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

**Rudhir Krishtel**  
CEO, Krishtel LLC

*Rudhir Krishtel is an executive coach and consultant focusing on workplace wellness and intensity. Prior to becoming an executive coach and consultant, Rudhir practiced law for 15 years as a Federal Clerk, Patent Litigation Partner at Fish & Richardson, and then as Senior Patent Counsel at Apple. His lawyer days led him to train as a teacher for yoga (Baptist Institute) mindfulness meditation (Warrior One), as a professional Co-Active coach and leadership instructor (Coaches Training Institute), as well as in DEI principles, to serve as a much-needed support for the legal community. Rudhir and his team specialize in creating the space for having difficult conversations and growth at the intersection of Leadership, Well-Being and DEI issues. He focuses on corporate healing and provides tools for those affected by the most challenging aspects of work. Through work with groups and individuals, Rudhir leads his team to transform the workplace for busy professionals. Krishtel Coaching currently offers professional development workshops, business development circles and private 1:1 coaching.*

**Jon Krop**  
Founder and CEO, Flourish Legal Well-Being

*Jon Krop, J.D., is the founder of Flourish Legal Well-Being. He has led well-being programs at Harvard, Stanford, Yale, the Pentagon, Fortune 100 companies, public defenders' offices, and more than 70 top law firms. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 2008, Jon clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and worked as a litigator at firms in Los Angeles and New York. He founded Mindfulness for Lawyers in 2015 and expanded it into Flourish in 2022. Jon has practiced mindfulness since 2006 and has studied with teachers from around the world, including psychologists, neuroscientists, and traditional Buddhist masters. In 2014, he completed a seven-month silent meditation retreat. He continues to study under a variety of teachers and spends two months out of the year on silent retreat.*

**Alix Kupferschmidt**  
Senior Attorney Recruiting and Development Manager, Akin Gump

*Experienced Legal Recruiting and Development Sr. Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the law practice industry. Over 17 years in legal recruiting and development at large international law firms and several years prior as a practicing attorney. Skilled with a wide base of experience in all aspects of recruiting and development including recruitment in various economic cycles and navigating new recruitment practices with AI tools and pre-OCI.*

**Morolake "Lake" Laosebikan Buggs**  
Director of Inclusive Excellence for Graduate and Professional Education, Elon University

*Dr. Laosebikan-Buggs joined Elon University in 2021 and serves in the role as the inaugural Director of Inclusive Excellence for Graduate and Professional Education. Dr. Laosebikan-Buggs provides critical leadership in the University's and graduate schools' strategic commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism as well as collective institutional support of Elon's growing population of graduate and professional students. Her expertise is in working with faculty, staff, and graduate and professional students in identifying best practices to ensure graduate student success, belonging, and degree completion. A twenty-year veteran in higher education, Dr. Laosebikan-Buggs has taught on the undergraduate and graduate levels, while presenting on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She currently serves as a member of the graduate faculty at the Elon School of Law and in the*

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*School of Education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from the University of New Orleans.*

### **Paul Lazdowski**

Associate Director of Alumni Relations, Proskauer

*Paul Lazdowski is the Associate Director of Alumni Relations at Proskauer Rose and a past co-chair of NALP's Legal Employer Alumni Relations Section. He has previously authored articles for the NALP Bulletin. Prior to joining Proskauer, Paul was the Senior Manager of Alumni Relations and Business Development at Nixon Peabody. Before that, Paul worked as a Business Development Manager at McDermott, Will & Emery. Paul believes alumni programs must facilitate meaningful connections and engagement between members and the organization, and also remain important resources throughout the careers of members. This mindset—combined with his past professional experiences in academia and recruiting—has helped him seamlessly navigate the challenges of building successful law firm alumni programs. Paul holds a B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross and resides in Boston, MA with his wife, an attorney at Choate Hall & Stewart, their son, and their chocolate Labrador retriever.*

### **Claire Lee**

Associate Director of Professional Development, Boston University School of Law

*Claire Lee is the Associate Director of Professional Development at Boston University School of Law. In this role, Claire leads all aspects of professional and career development services for BU Law's LL.M programs in American Law, Intellectual Property Law, Banking and Financial Services Law and Taxation. Previously, she was the Assistant Director of LLM and International Student Advising at Northeastern University School of Law where she provided career and professional development advising to both JD and LLM students. Prior to pursuing her passion in law student professional development, Claire dedicated her legal career to employment and business immigration law, representing individual, educational, and business clients. As a managing attorney at a business immigration firm in Boston, she represented individual and corporate clients on the full spectrum of temporary work visas and employment-based permanent residency process. In that role, she advised international students, foreign athletes, artists, scholars and highly skilled professionals through the employment-based visa and immigration process and counseled U.S. corporate employers seeking to hire and sponsor foreign national students and employees. She is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts.*

### **Sang Lee**

CEO and Co-Founder, Thine and Volta Talent Strategies

*Sang brings more than two decades of experience in law practice, recruitment, training, coaching, and organizational development to her work at Volta Talent Strategies (Volta) and Thine Solutions (Thine). She is a go-to advisor on every aspect of legal talent management for AmLaw 200 firms and other sophisticated legal-sector employers. Sang was a corporate lawyer before becoming a recruiter in 1998. Her current businesses are focused on modern talent management strategies for the lawyer life cycle. VOLTA includes award-winning verticals, including Volta Coach Training, the only ICF\*-accredited coach training academy for the legal industry. Her most recent venture, Thine, is a platform that advances fully inclusive and equitable lawyer hiring and development, via assessments for hiring, integration, technical skill reviews, leadership advancement, and 360s. Sang speaks at law firm partner retreats, designs content and programming for bar committees, and is featured regularly at conferences run by industry organizations such as NALP, the Professional Development Consortium (PDC) and the Professional Development Institute (PDI). Sang's expertise spans a wide range of topics pertaining to legal practice and talent management Her book, "Owning the Awkward: Talent Management Strategies that Actually Work" will*

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*be published in 2024. Sang earned her BA from Brown University and her JD from Georgetown University Law Center. She completed coach training at New York University, is certified by the Behavioral Coaching Institute (BCI) as a master coach.*

## **Rose Liesveld**

Strengths Consultant, Liesveld Strengths

*Rose Liesveld was a Managing Partner at Gallup when she left the organization after working with schools, businesses, and nonprofits. Her focus on talent selection and development took her across the country for 32 years before starting her own consulting company, Liesveld Strengths. She was with Gallup when they were developing the Strengths Assessment and worked closely with Dr. Donald Clifton, the founder of CliftonStrengths. Rose wrote the book, "Strengths Based Teaching" and has trained thousands of strengths coaches from all over the world. For the last five years, Rose has been a strengths consultant with the University of Nebraska College of Law as they work to establish a truly strengths-based organization*

## **AJ Link**

Founder, NDLSA (National Disability Law Student Association) & NDLP (National Disabled Legal Professionals Association)

*AJ Link (he/him) is openly autistic. He received his JD from The George Washington University Law School and his LL.M in Space Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is the inaugural director of The Center for Air and Space Law Task Force on Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Aerospace and an adjunct professor of space law at Howard University School of Law. AJ works as a research director for the Jus Ad Astra project and previously served as the Communications Director for AstroAccess. He is the Space Law and Policy Chair for Black in Astro and was the founding president of the National Disabled Law Students Association. He also helped found the National Disabled Legal Professionals Association and is a commissioner on the American Bar Association Commission on Disability Rights. AJ is a policy analyst for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. He has been actively involved with disability advocacy in the Washington, DC area and nationally within the United States. He serves on several advisory boards and steering committees that focus on disability advocacy and broader social justice movements.*

## **Nicole Llorenz**

Manager - Attorney Career Services, Latham & Watkins

*Nicole Llorenz is the Manager – Attorney Career Services at Latham & Watkins LLP. In her role, Nicole provides professional coaching to support lawyers in defining and shaping the direction of their careers. Prior to starting at Latham, Nicole was Director of Student Life and Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Liaison at Georgetown Law, where she was co-founder of the RISE program for students underrepresented in the legal field. RISE is intended to help students form community with other entering students before classes begin; obtain the essential academic and professional skills that law school and the legal profession demand; and build relationships with peers, staff, and alumni across the Georgetown Law community. Nicole was also a facilitator in the Lawyers in Balance: Mindfulness for Law Students Program at Georgetown Law. Prior to her time at Georgetown, Nicole was Director of Career Services at Cornell Law School, where she was a presenter in the AOP pre-orientation program for historically underrepresented students. In NALP, Nicole served as a Vice-Chair of the DEI Section and is a current Vice-Chair of the Recruiting Section. Nicole also served on the NALP Wellness in Recruiting Task Force in 2019-2020. Nicole is a graduate of Amherst College and Cornell Law. After law school, Nicole practiced for five years as a labor and employment attorney in Los Angeles at Paul Hastings LLP & Davis Wright & Tremaine LLP.*

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## **Mary Maher**

Alumni Relations & Career Strategy Manager, Jenner & Block

*Mary Maher is the Alumni Relations & Career Strategy Manager at Jenner & Block. Mary provides career advising and coaching to Jenner's lawyers, alumni and friends of the firm. She is a Gallup certified Strengths coach. She creates career-related resources as well as individual and group programming on career-related topics. Mary also manages Alumni Relations for Jenner through alumni events, programming and support services. Mary is originally from Australia and holds an arts degree and law degree from the University of Sydney. She holds an LL.M. from the University of Chicago Law School and a Masters of Science in Higher Education from Northwestern University. Prior to her role at Jenner, Mary practiced law at a large global firm and worked for over ten years at Northwestern University in career services and alumni relations.*

## **Bendita Cynthia Malakia**

Director of Diversity & Engagement, O'Melveny & Myers LLP

*Bendita Cynthia Malakia is: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategist, Advisor, Coach & Innovator. Lawyer. Black. Bi+/Queer. Woman. Fat. Poly. Former Parent. Village Vanguard. Fantastic Friend. Terrorist Attack Survivor. Catalyst. Spa Traveler. Driven by Significance & Vitality. Down for the Folx. Know my worth. Day (and sometimes night) jobs include serving as Director of Diversity & Engagement at O'Melveny & Myers and Founder+Coach+Consultant for Malakia Group. Honored to be President of the National LGBTQ+ Bar, Advisor for Keep Company (a caregiving coaching startup) and on the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession Advisory Board. Connect with me: [www.linkedin.com/in/bendita](http://www.linkedin.com/in/bendita) & [www.benditamalakia.com](http://www.benditamalakia.com)*

## **Amy Mallow**

Consultant, Vertex Advisors

*Amy Mallow is a consultant with Vertex Advisors Group and an experienced talent management professional with deep knowledge of the legal industry who brings more than 30 years of experience in legal recruiting, legal career coaching and consulting, law student professional development, and the practice of law. Amy has served as a Senior Attorney Recruiting and Career Development Manager for an Am Law 30 firm where she oversaw recruiting for lateral partners, senior counsel, associates, and summer associates and supported attorney career development for the firm's West Coast offices. Her legal recruiting experience includes serving as Executive and Managing Director at two premier national search firms and in house for an Am Law 100 firm. In academia, she has served as the Assistant Dean of Career Services at UCLA School of Law and Assistant Director in the Office of Career Services at Georgetown University Law Center. She has also worked at a national consulting firm where she provided career coaching and consulting services for attorneys. Amy earned her J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center and B.A. magna cum laude in Psychology from Franklin and Marshall College. She has written several articles on legal talent management, is a co-author of several chapters in *The Lawyer's Career Management Handbook: Your Bridge to a Satisfying Career* and has spoken frequently at local and national organizations. She is a Certified Master Coach from the Behavioral Coaching Institute. She is qualified to administer and interpret the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the DISC assessment.*

## **Dana Mandell**

Director of Legal Recruiting & Professional Development, Covington & Burling

*Dana Mandell is the Director of Legal Recruiting & Professional Development for Covington & Burling's California and Asia offices, where she supports the hiring and integration of lateral associates. Her background includes working in the legal field for the last 25 years at three top law firms in the Los Angeles area.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Jennifer Mandery**

Vice President for Research, The NALP Foundation

*Jennifer Mandery is the NALP Foundation's Vice President for Research, providing expert leadership on the methodological, data and analytical aspects of the Foundation's research projects and transforming data into critical insights with actionable and strategic guidance. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jennifer served as a Consultant and Senior Research Analyst for Thomson Reuters where she conducted research within the legal industry and consumer markets. She has co-authored multiple research study publications and industry articles, and frequently presents on the Foundation's behalf to managing partners, hiring partners, chief talent officers, law school deans, faculty and legal administrators on a variety of legal industry topics. Jennifer received her BBA from the University of North Dakota and completed additional coursework in advanced and applied research, serving as an authority on multiple quantitative and qualitative research techniques.*

## **Rochelle McCain**

Director, Judicial Clerkships, Yale Law School

*Rochelle McCain (she/her) is the Director of Judicial Clerkships at Yale Law School. In her role, Rochelle focuses primarily on judicial clerkship but also provides comprehensive career counseling and resources to students and alumni across a broad array of employment opportunities. A graduate of the University of Houston Law Center and the University of Chicago, Rochelle is a first-generation professional. Prior to joining CDO, Rochelle served as the Executive Director of the Professional Development Office at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Co-Director of its Externship Program. In these roles, Rochelle counseled many students and alumni on all aspects of job searching and career development, focusing on examining governmental (federal, state, and local) opportunities, broader public sector careers, and judicial clerkships. In practice, Rochelle worked in consumer litigation for several years. Rochelle is an active member of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), having served in several roles within its public service and judicial clerkship sections, and as a member of its 2022-2023 conference planning committee.*

## **Kristine McKinney**

Chief Operating Officer, Fish & Richardson

*Kristine McKinney is the Chief Operating Officer for Fish & Richardson where provides strategic leadership for the firm's operations across 14 offices in the U.S., Europe, and China. A 20-year veteran of the legal industry, Kristine is known for driving organizational transformation while building a culture that inspires people at all levels of the firm, providing world-class client service and enhancing efficiency and innovation. Prior to becoming COO, Kristine served as the firm's first chief legal talent & inclusion officer, a role in which she led the professional development, legal recruiting, diversity & inclusion, and pro bono teams. During her five-year tenure, Fish was selected as a Best Law Firm for Women for four consecutive years, elevated its most diverse class of principals ever, was recognized as a Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality, and earned the Mansfield Certified Designation from Diversity Lab, among many other notable accomplishments. Previously, Kristine was in management roles at Faegre Baker Daniels and Kirkland & Ellis. With deep ties to the Big 10, she holds a BA from the University of Minnesota and an MS from Northwestern University. Kristine is a sought-after speaker and author on topics related to organizational effectiveness, change management, diversity and leadership development.*

## **Glory McLaughlin**

Assistant Dean for Public Interest Law, University of Alabama School of Law

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

*Glory McLaughlin is the Assistant Dean for Public Interest Law at the University of Alabama School of Law, where she oversees the operations of the Public Interest Institute, directs student public interest activities such as service awards and pro bono opportunities, and provides counseling on careers in public interest law. Ms. McLaughlin earned her BA from Xavier University in Ohio, an MA from the University of Cincinnati, and her JD from the University of Alabama. After law school she clerked for the Honorable Keith Watkins in the Middle District of Alabama, then worked as a staff attorney for Legal Services Alabama, where she specialized in representing victims of domestic violence in family law proceedings. She currently serves as Board President for the ACLU of Alabama and was previously a member of the National Advisory Committee for Equal Justice Works.*

## **Jennifer Mencarini**

Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Fox Rothschild LLP

*Jennifer Gibert Mencarini is a former litigator with 10-plus years of law practice and six years of law school career services experience. She now focuses on diversity, equity, access and inclusion at Fox Rothschild LLP, an AmLaw 100 firm with 29 offices nationwide. Before joining Fox, Jennifer provided holistic professional development and support services to law students and graduates at Elon University School of Law. In addition to providing 1:1 career coaching and group programming, she taught professional development in the Lawyering, Leadership & Professionalism Program, managed Elon Law's pro bono program, and co-managed the law school's DEI programming. Jennifer is an active volunteer and focuses her community service efforts on DEI in the organizations she supports, including NALP, the North Carolina Bar Association, Ms. JD, and the U.Va. IDEA Fund. She is also a member of the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals.*

## **Diana Mercer**

Director, Career Development Office, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

*Diana Mercer graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law where she was a member of the Loyola Law Review and a William Crowe Scholar. After law school, Diana worked as an Associate Attorney with two corporate law firms, and then as a Staff Attorney with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She is currently the Director of the Career Development Office at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. In addition to her work at Loyola, Diana is a Board Member of the New Orleans Federal Bar Association and of Global New Orleans. She is also a Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow, a Fellow of the American Bar Association, and a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, the Association of Women Attorneys, the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Louisiana, Cuban American Bar Association, and the National Association for Law Placement (NALP).*

## **Greg Miarecki**

Executive Assistant Dean for Career Planning and Professional Development, University of Illinois College of Law

*Greg Miarecki is the Executive Assistant Dean for Career Planning and Professional Development at the University of Illinois College of Law. Prior to arriving at the College of Law, Greg was a partner in the litigation department of Winston & Strawn LLP's Chicago office, where he tried numerous cases and developed specific expertise in leading and training associates. At the College of Law, Greg leads the Office of Career Planning and Professional Development. He also teaches a number of courses, including Advanced Trial Advocacy and Professional Responsibility, Small Firm Practice, Corporate Counsel Practicum, and Fundamentals of Legal Practice, which is the College of Law's class focused on professional identity. Finally, Greg is the founder and current director of the College of Law's Leadership Project, the College's leadership development program for students.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Seth Mills**

Director of 3LE/3L/4LE Advising, New York Law School

*Seth Mills joined the New York Law School Office of Academic Planning and Career Development in 2021 as the Director of 3L Advising. Prior to this role, Seth worked in the continuing legal education industry and insurance litigation management. In addition to their work in the CSO, Seth volunteers with the NYC CLARO project advising pro se clients on consumer debt defense. They hold a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Theatrical Lighting from Bard College at Simon's Rock, and a JD from New York Law School.*

## **Elizabeth Moeller**

Assistant Dean of Career Services, UCLA Law

*Beth Moeller is the Assistant Dean of Career Services at UCLA School of Law. Having been in career services at UCLA for 26 years, Beth has been involved with all aspects of the field, including career counseling, employer relations, recruitment and career development programming, strategic planning, and managing a team. She has been an active member of NALP for many years, including serving as President in 2020-21. She chaired the Nominating Committee during the 2017-18 term, served as the Vice President for Member Services and Education during the 2014-2016 term and chaired the 2013 Annual Education Conference in Tampa. She has also served on numerous committees and advisory groups and has spoken at several NALP events, including the Annual Education Conferences and the Newer Professionals' Forum. Beth also served as President and Vice President of the Los Angeles Area Legal Recruitment Association. Prior to joining UCLA in 1996, she practiced law for more than five years at the Offices of Graham & James and Pepper Hamilton & Scheetz in Los Angeles. Beth holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Loyola Law School.*

## **Amy Monroe - Bujnoch**

Associate Director of Recruiting-Corporate, Finance, and Investments, King & Spalding

*Amy Monroe - Bujnoch is the Associate Director of Recruitment for Corporate, Finance, and Investment Practices at King & Spalding. In her role, she is responsible for King & Spalding's law student, associate, and counsel recruitment efforts for Corporate candidates in all United States offices. Amy manages the entire recruitment process from submission to onboarding as well as leads her team on all strategic hiring initiatives. Prior to her tenure at King & Spalding, Amy worked for other top AMLaw 100 firms in recruitment and business development. Lastly, she has experience as an external recruiter as Director of Associate Recruitment with Major, Lindsey, and Africa.*

## **Manar Morales**

President & CEO, Diversity & Flexibility Alliance - 5185 MacArthur Blvd. NW #704

*Manar Morales is the Founder, President & CEO of the Diversity & Flexibility Alliance, a think tank that collaborates with organizations to transform organizational cultures. Manar is a published author, speaker and national thought leader on the future of work, workplace flexibility, women's leadership, diversity and inclusion. For the past ten years under Manar's leadership, the Alliance has provided research, practical data-based advisory services, and training workshops that increase organizational effectiveness through diversity and flexibility. Manar has advised hundreds of law firms, Fortune, and national trade associations. The Alliance is at the forefront of work on the intersection of flexibility and diversity. Manar began her career as an employment litigator representing clients in all aspects of labor relations and employment law. In addition, Manar served as an adjunct faculty member of Georgetown University where she taught classes in Labor and Employment Law and Entrepreneurship. Manar is a member of the President's Council of Cornell Women and the International Women's Forum.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Claire Morton**

Manager of Attorney Recruitment and Professional Development, Latham & Watkins LLP

*Claire Morton is the Manager of Attorney Recruitment and Professional Development at Latham & Watkins LLP's San Diego office. Before moving into the realm of recruitment and professional development, Claire practiced law for 10 years as a litigator, both in San Diego, CA and Vancouver, BC, Canada. She currently serves on the Board of the San Diego Legal Recruitment Association.*

## **Ginette Mueller**

Recruitment Manager, Baker McKenzie

*Ginette (Ginny) Mueller (she/her) is a Recruitment Manager and North America Student Recruiting Workstream Lead at Baker McKenzie in Chicago, focused on recruiting summer associates and lateral associates. She previously served as Co-Chair of the Newer Professionals Section (NPS) from 2021-2022 and as a Vice Chair for Bulletin Planning of the NPS from 2019-2021, and presented at the 2021 AEC. Ginny has been in legal recruiting since 2016 and has a background in university recruiting and higher education. She previously sat on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Association of Colleges & Employers and has presented at various conferences. Ginny holds a M.S. in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education from Concordia University Wisconsin, a B.A. in Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and certificates in DE&I in the Workplace and Recruitment Marketing.*

## **Kala Mueller**

Director of Public Interest & Pro Bono Initiatives, University of Nebraska College of Law

*Kala Mueller is the Director of Public Interest & Pro Bono Initiatives at the University of Nebraska College of Law. She is a member of the college's Pro Bono Committee, the Nebraska State Bar Association's Pro Bono Collaborative, and the Board of Directors for the Midwest Innocence Project. She received her BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she served as a senior editor for the Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society. Before joining the law college, Kala practiced law as a prosecutor and with a small civil litigation firm.*

## **Kay Nash**

Chief Talent Officer, Wiley Rein LLP

*Kay Nash is the Chief Talent Officer at Wiley where she provides leadership to the firm's human resources function and serves as a strategic business partner to firm leadership. Kay has over 25 years of experience in the areas of talent management and career development. Her experience includes the development, implementation, and alignment of people, processes, programs, and policies to drive the firm's business goals. In her role at Wiley, Kay leads the human resources, legal talent, and practice support departments and creates initiatives to attract, develop, and advance the firm's talent at all levels from professional staff to partners at the firm. Kay is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources and is a frequent speaker on legal talent and leadership topics and a dedicated member of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), having previously served on the Board of Directors and several committees and task forces for the organization. She currently serves on the Professional Development Quarterly advisory board. She is also a member of the Society for Human Resource Management, the Professional Development Consortium and the HR Alliance. Kay holds a bachelor's degree from University of Mary Washington and certifications from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate-Cornell University, edX Verified Certificate for Becoming a Successful Leader (Inclusive Leadership Training), Mental Health First Aid USA, National Council for Mental Wellbeing and SPHR, Senior Professional in Human Resources.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Michelle Nash**

Director, Learning & Development, Hogan Lovells US, LLP

*Michelle Nash is the Director of Learning and Development at Hogan Lovells, where she leads the firm's global partner and leadership development programs. She is focused on bringing innovative and impactful learning methodologies to the legal industry, including live and computer-based business simulations, hackathons, and thinking labs. Michelle has written numerous articles, contributed to several books, and co-authored Learning from Law Firm Leaders (ABA). She is a regular presenter at national conferences and teaches about leadership and innovation at several law schools. Michelle holds a master's degree in Counseling and Student Development from American University and graduate certificate in Executive Leadership from Cornell University, Bringing Innovation Into Your Organization from UCLA, and Exercising Leadership from HarvardX.*

## **Christopher Neal**

Director of Career Services, Temple University Beasley School of Law

*Christopher Neal is the Director of Career Services at Temple University Beasley School of Law. In this role, he advises students on the career planning process and coaches them on how to best navigate the application process to successfully obtain an internship or job. He uses his ten years of experience and connections in the public sector, private sector, and corporate sector to understand hiring trends and recruitment practices in the legal industry. His passion for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal market motivated him to lead several initiatives at Temple Law School that help students from diverse backgrounds obtain scholarships, fellowships, internships, and mentorships. While a member of NALP for only two years, his enthusiasm to be an impactful career counselor has allowed him to join NALP's JD Advisors Section and serve as the Vice-Chair for First-Generation College Students for 2022-2023 and present at NALP's 2023 AEC in Vancouver. Currently, Chris serves on the Standard ABA 303 Task Force for NALP and serves as the Co-Chair of the Gender Non-Binary Work Group of NALP's DEI Section Committee. Chris graduated from Penn State University - Dickinson School of Law and Morehouse College, where he received his B.A. in Political Science.*

## **Nicole Netkin-Collins**

Assistant Dean for Career Strategy & Advancement, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

*Nicole is the Assistant Dean for Career Strategy & Advancement at Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law. She joined Villanova in the summer of 2022 after serving as the Director for Law Firms at the University of Colorado Law School for nearly 5 years. A 2011 graduate of UConn Law, Nicole began her legal career at a nonprofit that provided free legal services to individuals with a chronic disease and worked at two small law firms before realizing her passion for mentoring students and transitioning into career development. Nicole is an active member of NALP – she chaired the Task Force on Supporting Gender Non-Binary Individuals in the Legal Profession (2020-2022), served on the Regional Leadership Council (2020-2022), and now serves on the organization's inaugural Diversity Standing Committee (2022-2024). She also has written and presented extensively on diversity, equity and inclusion matters, such as dismantling racism in the legal profession. Nicole has a JD, with human rights certificate, from the University of Connecticut School of Law; an LLM, masters in comparative law, from the University of Mannheim and University of Adelaide; and a BA from the University of Connecticut.*

## **Sara Neva**

Partner, Procopio

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

*Sara Neva is a commercial real estate partner at Procopio. Sara focuses on real estate purchase and sales, leases, joint ventures and financing. She continues to build her own rapidly growing client base by creatively guiding real estate developers, investors, lenders, landlords and tenants through the ever-changing economic environment. Sara became one of the youngest partners at Procopio in 2022. Sara mentors associates on their career growth and is passionate about helping women excel in law. She was honored as a Super Lawyers Rising Star (2020-2023), a San Diego Business Journal Top 50 Women of Influence in the Law (2022), and SD Metro 40 under 40 (2021). Sara graduated magna cum laude from Santa Clara University (B.S.) and magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School (J.D.).*

## **Mary Beth Nielsen**

Director, SMU Dedman School of Law

*Mary Beth Nielsen is a Director of Career Services at SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas, where she advises students on judicial internships, externships, and post-graduate judicial clerkships. Mary Beth oversees the law school's judicial clerkship programming and serves as a liaison to the judiciary. She also serves as a career counselor to JD students. Mary Beth is a co-chair of the Neurodiversity in the Legal Profession Task Force and on NALP's Nominating Committee. She served as the Chair of the JD Career Advisors Section from 2020-2021. She holds a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from The University of Mississippi and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, magna cum laude, from The University of Mississippi.*

## **Neha Nissen**

Chief Talent Officer, Fenwick & West LLP

*As Fenwick's first chief talent officer, Neha is focused on the development of the firm's most valuable resource—its people. She also ensures that firmwide professional and leadership development efforts are strategically aligned with business goals and structured to meet the demands of clients in a competitive legal marketplace. Neha is a member of Fenwick's senior leadership team; she sits on the executive committee of the firm and co-leads the firm's senior management team. She also directly oversees the departments focused on attorney recruiting, legal personnel and training, practice management, corporate social responsibility and pro bono, and diversity and inclusion—taking a holistic approach to how we engage and develop our people throughout their tenures at the firm. Neha brings to the role her previous experience as a practicing partner and practice management executive for another Am Law 100 law firm. As a lawyer, she began her legal career as a summer associate and worked her way up the ranks from litigation associate to partner. As a litigation partner, she led the 900-lawyer firm's committee on associates. She launched initiatives focused on the professional development of associates, developed innovative attorney personnel policies to support family leave and flexible schedules, and assisted in the creation and implementation of her firm's Diversity Task Force and Diversity Action Plan. Neha subsequently found her interests shift beyond the practice of law and chose to focus her full attention on creating and building her prior firm's practice management function and restructuring its approach to talent management.*

## **S. Jessica Ourk**

Manager of Global attorney Diversity & Inclusion, Latham & Watkins

*Jessica Ourk is the Manager of Global Attorney Diversity & Inclusion at Latham & Watkins LLP where she supports firmwide DEI initiatives, policies, and programs for the global attorney population. Prior to her work in DEI, she practiced as a litigation associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in San Francisco and worked as a career counselor at UC College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings College of the Law).*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Swati Parikh**

Assistant Dean, Office of Public Service and Pro Bono, New York Law School

*Swati Parikh is the Assistant Dean of the Office of Public Service and Pro Bono Initiatives at New York Law School, the central resource for NYLS students on public interest-focused academic and career advising. Swati advises students focused on careers in nonprofit and government work, liaises with public service employers, and develops relevant public service programming. She also manages the New York Law School Wilf Impact Center for Public Interest Law, the academic center focused on social justice lawyering, and the law school's pro bono initiative, connecting student volunteers with legal services providers serving low-income communities. Swati is actively involved with NALP, and served on the Annual Education Conference Planning Committee for San Diego, as well serving as a member of the Public Service Section for many years. For the past year Swati has served on the Future of the Legal Workplace Advisory Group, and is excited to continue in this role another year. Swati began her career as a tenant advocate and housing attorney and is a graduate of the American University Washington College of Law.*

## **Bryant Park**

Senior Associate Director, University of South Carolina Law School

*Bryant Park is the associate director of career and professional development where he counsels individual students and alumni on all matters related to employment and professional development. Originally from the Milwaukee area, he began his legal career in a Milwaukee boutique law firm practicing family and elder law. He then joined the State Bar of Wisconsin where he focused on diversity initiatives, law student outreach, and served as administrator for the Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. Immediately prior to joining South Carolina Law, Park served as the employer relations and diversity initiatives coordinator for the University of Wisconsin Law School. Park is an avid fan of all Wisconsin professional sports teams: the Packers, Bucks, and Brewers. In his free time Park enjoys exploring all that Columbia has to offer with his wife and their two bunnies, Leonidas and Meadow.*

## **Kaitlyn Parker**

Director of Student and Graduate Placement Success, The University of North Carolina School of Law

*Kaitlyn Parker is a recovering litigator. In her role at UNC School of Law, she focuses her attention on student engagement and supporting 3L students and recent graduates. Kaitlyn counsels students, recent graduates, and alumni on all aspects of their post-graduate career exploration and employment opportunities. Kaitlyn is a double Billiken, graduating from Saint Louis University and Saint Louis University School of Law. After completing law school, Kaitlyn served as a Concordance Fellow, in partnership with Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP and Concordance Academy of Leadership, representing recently justice-involved clients while simultaneously serving clients of an international law firm. She stayed on as a full-time associate and practiced business and commercial litigation at the conclusion of the fellowship program. Kaitlyn also has experience with small, civil litigation firms and public interest legal work. She is admitted to practice law in Missouri, Illinois, and North Carolina. Prior to attending law school, she participated in an alternative teaching licensure program in Washington, DC.*

## **Susan Parker Schmitz**

Managing Director, ELR Legal Search

*Susan Parker Schmitz is a Managing Director at ELR Legal Search where she consults with attorneys at all levels in a broad range of practice areas. In prior years, Susan served a Legal and Executive Search Consultant for two leading firms, The Alexander Group and Major, Lindsey & Africa, where she specialized in placing lateral partners, partner*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

*groups, counsels, senior associates, and professional staff, in a broad array of practice areas at top law firms and global corporations. A member of the Professional Development Consortium and PDC D&I Committee member, Susan is passionate about the successful integration of lateral partners and associates. She's committed to driving success for both law firm clients and candidates. Before joining ELR, Susan led recruitment, professional development, and D&I initiatives at Dell Technologies, where she delivered talent, culture, DEI, and performance strategies in both English and Spanish in over twenty-five countries. Previously, Susan led business development efforts and served as a Senior Consultant for a leading, New York-based Diversity & Inclusion consultancy and served as the Director of Job Training & Placement for Women Helping Women, a nationally recognized, award-winning 501(3)(c). Susan is the author of Walking in the Deep End and speaks on well-being and mental health issues, remote work and the connection between culture, talent, and performance. She studied History at the University of Seville, Spain and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She holds a certificate in Design Thinking from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.).*

## **Tiffany Partlowe**

Senior Legal Recruiting Manager, Reed Smith LLP

*Tiffany is a Big Law recruiting professional with experience in diversity pipeline building, and client/HBCU fellowship development. Prior to working in Big Law, she worked for a decade in law school admissions and offers a unique perspective in recruiting. Tiffany is a graduate of Drexel University with a Master of Science in Education and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Business.*

## **Khevna Patel**

Manager, Legal Recruiting and Development, Dykema

*Khevna is a certified diversity recruiter and law firm diversity and inclusion subject matter expert, having successfully grown DE&I programs at law firms in both the St. Louis and greater Los Angeles metro areas. In addition to DE&I responsibilities, Khevna has also been directly involved in full life-cycle recruitment for law firms, and is an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management*

## **Shilpa Patel**

Senior Legal Project Manager, Foley Hoag

*With over 20 years of experience in the legal field, Shilpa's expertise has focused on financial analysis, project management, change management, legal technology and process improvement. Starting her career as an Attorney/Financial Planner, Shilpa counseled top executives and directors at Fortune 500 companies on financial investments, tax, retirement and estate planning. Being able to utilize her financial experience in complex litigation, Shilpa became a Contract Attorney focused on securities and ERISA claims, employment compensation and benefits. Developing an interest in legal technology and project management, she joined Deloitte in their eDiscovery practice. She managed a team supporting the defense of the Department of the Navy in multi-million-dollar contract claims. In her prior role as a Legal Project Manager at Paul Hastings and current role as Senior Legal Project Manager at Foley Hoag, Shilpa advises Senior Leadership/Partners on innovative ways to deliver legal services, and to more efficiently and effectively managing matters. With a passion for personal development and growth, and innovation, her latest adventure has been to complete Northwestern University Organizational and Leadership Change (OLCC) Certificate and coach Leaders as they navigate their careers.*

## **Patricia Patrick**

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

Director of Legal Recruiting & Employee Benefits (retired), Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger

*Patricia Patrick was employed in various positions by Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP in Los Angeles for 38 years and served as its Director of Legal Recruiting and Employee Benefits for 32 years. She directed and managed the hiring, orientation and professional development of incoming associates, lateral attorneys, and partners. Patricia has been an active member of NALP since 1980. As a member of the Board of Directors in 1996, Patricia and others on the NALP Board were instrumental in establishing the NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education. She has been a speaker at many NALP conferences, law schools, local civic conventions and town hall meetings and has chaired as well as co-chaired several NALP Committees. And she is an inaugural member of NALP's new Retirement Advising Network (RAN). As Director of Employee Benefits, Patricia managed the overall administrative and financial responsibilities of the firm's employee benefits programs, including negotiating with insurance brokers, and representatives of insurance companies regarding the firm's medical, dental, life, mental health, long term care, cafeteria, and supplemental plans. Patricia "retired" in November 2012. She recently completed a one-year position with the 2018-2019 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury and her article "Human Trafficking in Inglewood and Surrounding Cities" was published in the Civil Grand Jury's Book of Final Reports. She currently serves as the City of Inglewood District 1 Planning Commissioner and is a Staff Assistant with the City of Inglewood Police Department working directly with the Human Trafficking Task Force.*

## **Marcia Pennington Shannon**

Career & Leadership Coach/Senior Consultant, See Clear Coaching (current); Assistant Dean for Career Strategy (retired), Georgetown Law Center

*Marcia Pennington Shannon has 30+ years of experience as a career and leadership coach and consultant to organizations. After her retirement from Georgetown Law's Office of Career Strategy, Marcia joined See Clear Coaching and partners with clients on career design, navigating major career transitions, and planning for the next stage/retirement. She consults with legal employers on designing resources for senior lawyers nearing retirement. Marcia served for a decade as the Assistant Dean for Career Strategy at Georgetown University Law Center, directing a team of 20 professionals. Prior to taking on the Assistant Dean role, Marcia was a founder and principal in the six-office national legal consulting firm, Shannon & Manch (now Volta Talent Strategies), serving the professional development and career transition needs of law firms all over the U.S. Her publications include: *The Lawyer's Career Management Handbook: Your Bridge to a Satisfying Career*, Managing Editor and co-author (West Publishing), and co-author, with Susan Manch, of *Recruiting Lawyers: How to Hire the Best Talent* (ABA). Marcia has been an active member of NALP for many years, presenting on a number of career and professional development topics. One of her favorite roles was serving as a faculty member for the Newer Professionals Forum, co-teaching the foundations course for career services professionals. And she is an inaugural member of NALP's new Retirement Advising Network (RAN). Marcia is a Master Certified Coach through the Behavioral Coaching Institute and also earned an Executive Certificate in Leadership Coaching from Georgetown University.*

## **Nicole Petrie**

Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer, Schulte Roth & Zabel

*Nicole Petrie leads Schulte's Marketing & Business Development team, working closely with the Executive Committee and Firm Leadership to drive and expand the firm's business development and marketing strategies. Nicole works to ensure that Schulte continues to deliver superior client experience while cultivating and growing a consistent business development mindset and skillset among all Schulte professionals in order to deliver brand differentiation in the marketplace. Nicole holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Newcastle, Australia and is a Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA). She also holds a Masters in Coaching Psychology from Sydney University, Australia and is a member of the New York charter of the International Coaching Federation (ICF).*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Whittley Pike**

Director, Law Career Development, Santa Clara University Law School

*Whittley Pike is the Director for Law Career Development at Santa Clara University School of Law, Office of Career Management. She has experience working with law students one-on-one, implementing 3L Exit Interviews, collecting graduate employment outcomes, organizing job fairs, coordinating OCI, and leading a student Leadership & Professional Development Institute. Prior to work on the school side, Whittley's legal career began as a partner in a small law firm focusing on elder law, estate planning, and trust administration. In conjunction with her practice, Whittley co-chaired a national committee on Pro-Active Elder Law, and serving as Career Counselor for National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys. Whittley loves cheering on local soccer, exploring coffee shops, and day hiking.*

## **Blane Prescott**

Managing Shareholder, MesaFive LLC

*(Submitted on behalf of Blane Prescott by Laura DeRise - to be updated pending final confirmation from Blane). Blane Prescott is a consultant and the Managing Shareholder with MesaFive, LLC, ([www.mesafive.com](http://www.mesafive.com)) and has more than 30 years of experience working with the legal profession. He works with law firms and in-house counsel throughout North America, Asia and Europe. MesaFive, LLC is a boutique management consulting firm serving law firms and in house legal departments, and focuses on strategy, structure and growth.*

## **Natalie Quinn**

Director of Associate Recruitment, Fox Rothschild LLP

*Natalie Quinn is the Director of Associate Recruitment at Fox Rothschild LLP. She leads all aspects of lateral associate and entry-level hiring for the Firm's 29 offices. In her role, she is responsible for collaborating with Department Chairs, Practice Group Leaders, and Office Managing Partners in all lateral associate recruiting efforts. She also works closely with the Firm-wide Managing Partner regarding hiring requests by reviewing associate utilization. Additionally, she is responsible for the planning and execution of the Firm-wide fall recruitment process including on-campus and call-back interviews and leads the Firm-wide Recruitment Committee as well as the 1L Diversity Fellowship Program. Natalie has been an active member of NALP since 2008. Her contributions include Co-Chairing the Experienced Professionals Section, serving as an elected member of the Conference Planning Committee, an elected member of the Nominating Committee, membership on several work groups and advisory groups, and a conference speaker on several occasions. Natalie earned a B.A. from the University of Delaware.*

## **Abby Read**

Wellness Manager, Haynes and Boone, LLP

*Abby Read, Wellness Manager, serves as administrative chair of the Haynes Boone Wellness Committee. She has a clinical background in psychology, nutrition, and health education, and leads the firm's wellness education, policy enhancement, program implementation, and crisis support. She is a dynamic well-being practitioner with extensive experience in strategic wellness program design and implementation, population health and vendor management and data analysis to drive employee engagement and experience. She is a highly motivated and passionate workplace well-being advocate with strong communication, relationship building and leadership skills. Abby is driven by building and maintaining relationships, inspiring positive change and producing successful outcomes for*

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organizations. She is Mental Health First Aid Certified, trained in Critical Incident Stress Management and a Registered and Licensed Dietitian in Texas.

## **Clare Roath**

Director of Alumni Relations, Troutman Pepper

*Clare has more than 20 years of experience in the professional services industry, including recruiting, diversity, inclusion and professional development. As director of alumni relations, Clare is responsible for the planning and implementation of programs and projects that engage alumni on a firm-wide basis, understanding that supporting and maintaining relationships with former lawyers is a vital component of the Troutman Pepper culture.*

## **Sheryl Roberts**

Legal Recruiting Manager, Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan LLP

*Sheryl Roberts is the Legal Recruiting Manager at Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan LLP in Raleigh, North Carolina. She has well over ten years' experience as a legal recruiter, including extensive experience recruiting entry-level to partner level attorneys, as well as experience in connection with integration, professional development, training, and DEI efforts within the firm. Sheryl was a member of the Nominating Committee (2022-23), a Southeast Representative of NALP's Regional Leadership Council (2020-2022), has served as a Vice Chair of the Experienced Professional Section for two working groups, is a Vice-Chair for a working group in the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Section, is a member of the Ethics and Standards Advisory Group, has participated in four webinars, published three NALP bulletin articles, and is a Co-Chair of her city group, the Triangle Area Legal Recruitment Association (and was President for over five years).*

## **Chief Justice Richard Robinson**

Chief Justice, Connecticut Supreme Court

*Chief Justice Robinson is checking his availability for this session, and so while we are hopeful that he can attend, I need to confirm after today's submission. The Honorable Richard A. Robinson was born December 10, 1957 in Stamford, Connecticut. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Connecticut in 1979 and a Juris Doctor degree from West Virginia University School of Law in 1984. He was admitted to the West Virginia Bar and the Connecticut Bar, and is a member of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia and the U.S. District Court, Connecticut. From 1985 - 1988, Justice Robinson was Staff Counsel for the City of Stamford Law Department. In 1988, he became Assistant Corporation Counsel in Stamford where he remained until his appointment as a Judge of the Superior Court in 2000. He remained a Superior Court Judge for the next seven years during which time he served as Presiding Judge (Civil) for the New Britain Judicial District (May 2003 - September 2006); Presiding Judge (Civil) and Assistant Administrative Judge for the Ansonia/Milford Judicial District (September 2006 - September 2007); and Presiding Judge (Civil) for the Stamford Judicial District (September 2007 - December 2007). He was appointed as a Judge of the Connecticut Appellate Court on December 10, 2007, a Justice of the Supreme Court on December 19, 2013 and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on May 3, 2018. Justice Robinson's career is complemented by an array of public and judicial service. He served as President of the Stamford Branch of the NAACP (1988-1990); General Counsel for the Connecticut Conference of the NAACP (1988 - 2000); President of the Assistant Corporation Counsel's Union (AFSCME) (1989 - 2000); Commissioner of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (1997 - 2000); Chair of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (1999 - 2000); New Haven Inn of Court member (2002 - present); Judicial Education Curriculum Committee member (2002 - 2014); Judicial Education Committee member (2003 - 2014); Faculty at several Judicial Institutes as well as spring and fall lectures (2003 - present); Civil Commission member (2005 - 2014); Court Annexed Mediator (2005 - 2014); Lawyers Assistance Advisory Board member (2007 - present);*

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*Bench-Bar Foreclosure Committee (2007 - 2014); Legal Internship Committee (2013 - 2017); Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency (2009-2022); Chairperson of the Rules Committee (2017-2018); Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Diversity Award (2010); Connecticut Bar Association's Henry J. Naruk Judiciary Award for Integrity (2017); NAACP 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut; Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows, Life Fellow; Discovering Amistad National Advisory Board; Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities' Alvin W. Penn Award for Excellence in Leadership (2018); Ebony Magazine Power 100 Award (2018); Quinnipiac School of Law Black Student Association Thurgood Marshall Award (2019); ABOTA Judicial Excellence Award (2019); Connecticut Bar Foundation Distinguished Service Award (2020); National Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices (2019 - 2022); Conference of Chief Justices Civil Justice Board of Directors (2020 - 2022); National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness (2020 - 2022); Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction of the Judicial Conference of the United States (2022- present).*

## **Mike Romney**

Deputy District Attorney, Head of Legal Recruiting, The Riverside County District Attorney's Office

*Mike Romney is a career prosecutor and two-time Prosecutor-of-the-Year with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office in Southern California. Mike has been assigned to a wide variety of assignments in his 16 years as a prosecutor, including the specialized units focused on Career Criminals, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, International Extraditions, and Prosecutorial Misconduct Prevention. He has been his office's Countywide Externship Program Coordinator and the Head of Law School Recruiting for the past nine years. Four years ago, he was assigned to handle legal recruiting full time and now oversees his office's lateral recruitment efforts as well. He has presented to law schools throughout the Southern California Region and has conducted over 1,500 interviews with law school students. At approximately 2.5 million residents, Riverside County is the 10th most populous county in the country as well as the 7th fastest growing large county. Riverside County, home to the Coachella Valley, Temecula Wine Country, Palm Springs, and Joshua Tree National Park, is contiguous to San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties as well as Arizona on its eastern border.*

## **Diana Ross**

Director, Talent Management (Attorney Careers), Paul Hastings LLP

*Diana Ross is the Director of Attorney Careers at Paul Hastings LLP. Diana has held several roles in the 15 years that she has been a business professional at the firm, including managing the talent acquisition & development responsibilities for the Atlanta office, and later managing all of the U.S. talent acquisition & development professionals. In her current role, she is the career coach for attorneys and business professionals at the firm, focusing on onboarding, career pathing and career self-awareness. Prior to joining Paul Hastings, Diana was a Legal Recruiting Manager at McKenna Long & Aldridge. Before transitioning into attorney recruiting, Diana was a commercial real estate attorney at Smith, Gambrell & Russell in Atlanta and Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis. Diana received her Coaching Certification from Columbia University's Coaching Certification Program, her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and her B.S.B.A. in Finance, with a minor in Economics from Truman State University.*

## **Melanie Rowen**

Manager of Attorney Development and Programs, Latham & Watkins

*Melanie Rowen manages attorney development in the Bay Area offices of Latham & Watkins and serves on the NALP Board of Directors. From 2012 to 2022, she was the Associate Director for Public Interest and Public Sector Programs at Berkeley Law. She has been a frequent NALP presenter on topics related to professionalism concepts and bias, particularly around LGBTQ+ and disability communities, including through NALP's Non-Binary Task Force.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Robyn Rucker-Moore**

Director, DEI Initiatives and Recent Graduates, Georgetown University Law Center

*Robyn Rucker-Moore is the Director of DEI Initiative and Recent Graduates at Georgetown University Law Center. For over 13 years, Robyn has engaged in law school professional development work serving as both an advisor to students and as an employer liaison. This allowed her to be a bridge builder and offer invaluable perspective to both sides. Over the years, she has developed and presented programming on a variety of subject matters including, but not limited to Navigating On Campus Interviewing as a Diverse Candidate and The Imposter Syndrome. Also, Robyn serves as an adjunct professor at the Law Center and teaches one of the Externship I Seminar courses. In addition to focusing on how best to maximize the experiential opportunities through the fieldwork, she emphasizes the overall importance of being culturally competent and globally responsible as an aspiring/new lawyer. Prior to joining the Law Center, Robyn served as the Associate Director of Career Advising at Valparaiso University. There, she served as a staff member of the law school's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She completed the Training of Trainers workshop with Kathy O'Bear which was designed to equip participants to facilitate DEI workshops. She led and co-facilitated workshops both on the undergraduate campus and at the law school. Robyn earned a certificate in Executive Leadership Coaching from Georgetown's Institute for Transformational Leadership and is ACC Certified through the International Coaching Federation.*

## **Caroline Ruhle**

Associate Director for LL.M Counseling and International Careers, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

*Caroline Ruhle is the Associate Director for international and LLM counseling for the Office of Career Strategy, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. She counsels and provides job search support to LL.M students and JD students interested in public or private international careers as well as coordinates the Global Justice Fellowship (GJF), the Global Legal Practice Fellowship (GLPF), and NYU's International Student Interview Program (ISIP). Prior to joining Penn, Caroline worked at Temple University-Beasley School of Law as a Director of Career Planning. Following law school, she practiced law in Chicago as an Assistant Public Guardian for the Office of the Public Guardian and later as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Caroline is a co-head of the NALP International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section*

## **Jackie Russell**

Director of Career Services and Recruitment Programs, Chicago-Kent College of Law

*Jackie is a member of the Career Services Office at Chicago-Kent College of Law. She provides a wide range of support to law students and Chicago-Kent alumni including application material review, interview preparation, and professionalism programming. She also oversees employer outreach and recruiting efforts such as on-campus interviews. This requires her to keep abreast of employer needs and market conditions with regard to legal employment. She is also the Director of Chicago-Kent's Solo and Small Practice Incubator, where she helps aspiring solo attorneys kick-start their law practices. A Michigan native, Jackie earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and English from Albion College. She then went on to earn her Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She practiced for several years in Michigan, focusing on child and family advocacy, family law, and civil rights work. Jackie began working in law school career services as a Career Counselor at her alma mater, the University of Detroit Mercy. She is a member of the Michigan Bar. She is also a member of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) and the Chicago Area Law School Consortium (CALSC).*

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## **Kelly Ryan**

Senior Professional Development Manager, Venable LLP

*Kelly Ryan is the Senior Manager of Professional Development at Venable LLP, overseeing firmwide professional development for more than 800 attorneys. With more than ten years of experience in legal professional development, Kelly has extensive knowledge in attorney training and development, mentorship, associate reviews and retention, onboarding, diversity initiatives and organizing and overseeing large events. She is currently the Vice-Chair for Knowledge Management in the Lawyer PD Section.*

## **Ayanna Ryans-Holder**

Diversity Recruiting Manager, Perkins Coie LLP

*Ayanna Ryans-Holder is the Diversity Recruiting Manager at Perkins Coie LLP. Ayanna brings over 20 years of recruiting and DEI experience to her role, where, as a member of the firm's Legal Talent Team, she works collaboratively with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team to develop creative strategies in furtherance of the recruiting initiatives of the Strategic Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Prior to joining Perkins Coie, Ayanna was the Diversity + Inclusion Manager - Recruitment Strategy & Client Relations at Morrison & Foerster LLP, where she managed the Keith Wetmore 1L Fellowship for Excellence, Diversity and Inclusion. She is currently a 2022 - 2023 Vice Chair of the NALP Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Section's Communications, Social Media & Marketing working group, as well as a long-standing member of the Association for Law Firm Diversity Professionals. A firm believer that engagement is crucial for effective DEI efforts, that allyship is a verb, not a noun, and staunchly committed to helping lawyers of color navigate the legal industry, this important work is an ideal fit for her.*

## **Ben Sachs**

Professor, University of Virginia School of Law

*Ben Sachs is a law school professor and consultant with expertise in management, strategy, negotiation, and communication. He is the author of All Rise: Practical Tools for Building High-Performance Legal Teams. Ben currently teaches practical skills courses at the University of Virginia School of Law and has taught thousands of attorneys through CLEs, seminars, and workshops. Ben is also president of The Landing Group, which provides consulting and training services for law firms, businesses, and government clients in the United States and internationally. Ben's professional career spans law and business, first serving as a litigator at Sidley Austin LLP and then as a strategic management consultant at the Boston Consulting Group before moving to Storyblocks, a technology and media company repeatedly named among the fastest-growing companies by Inc. magazine. At Storyblocks, Ben served as general counsel and chief operating officer, overseeing product development, marketing, content acquisition, customer retention, analytics, and strategy, ultimately helping secure the company's private-equity acquisition in 2020.*

## **Zakiyyah Salim-Williams**

Partner & Chief Diversity Officer, Gibson Dunn

*Zakiyyah Salim-Williams serves as Partner and Chief Diversity Officer of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. Ms. Salim-Williams leads various diversity and inclusion efforts, driving the firm's commitment to being a market leader in DEI efforts and initiatives. Ms. Salim-Williams has been at the firm for over a decade and played a leading role in launching the firm's successful Women of Gibson Dunn and Black Advancement Initiatives. Both proved to be a success, resulting in an increase of women partners and Black lawyers by over 100%. She also actively engages in pro bono matters; most recently working in an advisory and administrative role for the Board of The Alliance for Asian American Justice, a non-profit organization created in response to the surge in anti-Asian violence across the*

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*United States. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Salim-Williams served as the Director of Diversity for the New York City Bar Association. She served as a clerk for the District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and was an associate attorney at two global law firms. Ms. Salim-Williams also worked as an intern for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and for the White House Office of Counsel to the President. Ms. Salim-Williams earned her Juris Doctor in 2001 from Columbia Law School, where she was a Harlan Fiske Scholar. In 1998, she received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Howard University, where she graduated summa cum laude.*

## **Samanthea Samuels**

Associate Director, Professional Resources and Equity, Cassels Brock and Blackwell, LLP

*Samanthea Samuels (she/her) is the Assistant Director of Professional Resources, Equity & Associate Performance at Cassels. In this role, Samanthea is responsible for supporting Cassels' work allocation program, leadership development initiative, and the firm's mentorship program, as well as coaching associates to reach their career goals. She is also a part of Cassels' EDI team, advancing the firm's inclusion and diversity efforts and related initiatives and events.*

## **Mitch Satalof**

President and CEO, Juris Placements

*Mitch Satalof is President and CEO of Juris Placements, Inc., a legal search firm specializing in the recruitment and placement lawyers in all aspects of IP. He places groups, partners, and counsel, as well as associates nationally. After more than 20 years in the music industry, Mitch transitioned to recruiting, first in telecommunications and then in law. Mitch currently serves as President of NALSC. The Universal LPQ (U-LPQ) is Mitch's passion project within NALSC. Mitch served on the Board of Governors of the Germantown Cricket Club in Philadelphia for many years and attempts to play tennis three to four times per week year-round. He also served as Co-Chair of Ace for a Cure, an annual fundraising event benefiting the JDRF, dedicated to turning Type one Diabetes into Type none. He is a frequent guest on podcasts discussing legal career development and has spoken regularly at NALSC conferences, symposia, and online programs.*

## **Matt Satlak**

Legal Talent Operations and Technology Manager, Morrison & Foerster LLP

*Matt Satlak is the Legal Talent Operations & Technology Manager at Morrison & Foerster (MoFo). He has worked at MoFo for over 15 years, working in various aspects of the firm, from Executive Assistant to the Chairman to his current role in developing and implementing a roadmap for complex process improvement and technology initiatives. Matt holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics from the University of San Francisco and a Master of Business Administration from Presidio Graduate School.*

## **Bennett R. Savitz**

Managing Attorney, Savitz Law Offices

*Bennett Savitz has practiced exclusively in the area of immigration law since 1994. Since 2008, Bennett Savitz has been selected as one of Boston's Best Lawyers in Immigration Law by Best Lawyers of America. Best Lawyers of America is a trademarked publication described as "the leading referral list in the legal profession." Please go to [www.bestlawyers.com](http://www.bestlawyers.com) for the most recent listing. Additionally, in 2014, Bennett Savitz was selected to be added to The International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers. In 2022, Savitz Law Offices was selected as the*

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*Global 100 Business Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Massachusetts, and Bennett Savitz was selected as Corporate Immigration Lawyer of the Year in Massachusetts by Global Law Experts. Since 1994, Bennett Savitz has been an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), serving on several local and national AILA committees, helping shape policies and procedures for the entire Immigration Bar. He has also served as the Chapter Chair of the New England Chapter of AILA. Bennett Savitz speaks frequently and writes numerous articles on various aspects of Immigration Law. He graduated cum laude from the University of California at San Diego in 1990. He received both his M.A. in International Relations and his J.D. from Boston University in 1993, where he graduated as an Edward F. Hennessey Scholar. He is currently teaching Business Immigration Law at New England Law School, and a Graduate School course on Immigration Law and Policy at Lesley University.*

## **Jaya Saxena**

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Spencer Stuart

*Jaya Saxena is a lawyer and a diversity and inclusion strategist with almost 20 years of advocacy and professional development expertise. She currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Spencer Stuart, one of the world's leading global executive search and leadership consulting firms. Previously, she was the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Brattle Group, a global economics advisory firm. She is a recognized diversity, equity and inclusion leader with experience operating in the professional services sector in both the law firm (White & Case) and the consulting space (Brattle). In these roles, she created the internal programming, systems and infrastructure necessary to welcome, retain and develop underrepresented talent. Her experience is in developing novel diversity programming within professional services organizations known for legacy habits and customs. As the most senior diversity leader at Brattle, Jaya spent the most recent chapter of her career implementing DE&I strategy across Brattle's matrix structure while advising its C-suite on how to ensure the gains are sustainable and long-lasting. She brings an international lens to her work, having operated with a global scope while at White & Case as well as Brattle. Jaya is active in the community having served on numerous boards. She earned her JD from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and graduate and undergraduate degrees from Carnegie Mellon University. Jaya also has an Executive Certificate in Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Management from Georgetown University and a Graduate Certificate in Health and Wellness Coaching from the Maryland University of Integrative Health. She is a mom to two spirited and delightful young girls, ten and six. On the weekends she enjoys mocktails and cocktails at her family bar, The Fountain Inn, in Georgetown, DC.*

## **Tom Schoenherr**

Assistant Dean of Public Interest Resource Center (Retired), Fordham Law School

*Tom Schoenherr retired in July 2020 after working at Fordham Law School for 32 years where he was the founder and Assistant Dean of Fordham's Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC). Prior to founding the PIRC, he was the Associate Director of the Career Planning Center at Fordham for 5 years. He has counseled thousands of law students and alumni in all phases of career planning. Tom has been an active NALP member and leader for the past three decades and was a founding member in the 1990s of both the Public Service Section and the LGBT Section (now included in the DE&I Section). He has served on the NALP Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee (twice), chaired numerous NALP sections, working groups, and task forces, and received NALP's President's Award in 2008 in recognition of his leadership of the Part V Timing Guidelines Task Force. Tom has presented on a wide range of counseling and law-related careers program topics at many conferences of NALP, the ABA, AALS, Equal Justice Works, and the NYS and NYC Bar Associations. He also served as chair of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities, which honored him in 2018 with the Father Robert Drinan Award in recognition of his career advancing the ethic of pro bono service through personal service, program design, and program management. Tom is especially excited this year to be co-chairing with Betsy Armour the EP Section's new Retirement Advising & Affiliate Membership Network!*

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## **Kia Scipio**

Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Ropes & Gray, LLP

*Kia Scipio is the Director of Diversity & Inclusion for Ropes & Gray LLP, and is based in the firm's Washington D.C. office. In collaboration with the firm's Diversity Committee, Kia leads the firm's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, which are focused on embedding diversity, equity and inclusion, and cultural competency into the firm's day-to-day operations. She is also responsible for planning, developing, and directing strategies to help Ropes effectively recruit, develop, and retain its diverse workforce. Kia works closely with Ropes & Gray leadership and other strategic teams to support the firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Prior to joining Ropes, Kia was the Diversity & Inclusion Manager at Fish & Richardson P.C. Kia has also held senior positions at two large law firms, where she managed professional development, mentorship and attorney training initiatives as well as having served as the Director of the Office of Career Strategy at Georgetown University Law Center. Kia is the immediate past Vice President for the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals (ALFDP). She's also active and served in leadership positions in National Association of Law Placement (NALP), as well as the Washington Area Legal Recruitment Administrators Association (WALRAA).*

## **Marcia Shannon**

Senior Coach and Consultant, See Clear Coaching

*Marcia Pennington Shannon has 30+ years of experience as a career and leadership coach and consultant to organizations. After her retirement from Georgetown Law's Office of Career Strategy, Marcia joined See Clear Coaching ([www.seeclearcoaching.com](http://www.seeclearcoaching.com)) and partners with clients on career design, navigating major career transitions, and planning for the next stage/retirement. She consults with legal employers on designing resources for senior lawyers nearing retirement. Marcia served for a decade as the Assistant Dean for Career Strategy at Georgetown University Law Center, directing a team of 20 professionals. Prior to taking on the Assistant Dean role, Marcia was a founder and principal in the six-office national legal consulting firm, Shannon & Manch, serving the professional development and career transition needs of law firms all over the U.S. Her publications include: *The Lawyer's Career Management Handbook: Your Bridge to a Satisfying Career*, Managing Editor and co-author (West Publishing), and co-author, with Susan Manch, of *Recruiting Lawyers: How to Hire the Best Talent* (ABA). Marcia has been an active member of NALP for many years, presenting on a number of career and professional development topics. One of her favorite roles was serving as a faculty member for the Newer Professionals Forum, co-teaching the foundations course for career services professionals. Marcia is a Master Certified Coach through the Behavioral Coaching Institute and also earned an Executive Certificate in Leadership Coaching from Georgetown University.*

## **Meredith Shih**

Special Assistant to Chief Justice Kimberly, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

*Meredith Shih is the Special Assistant to Chief Justice Kimberly Budd at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Prior to the SJC, Meredith worked as a public defender for ten years, first as a trial attorney at the Committee for Public Counsel Services, then as an appellate public defender at the Boston firm Wood & Nathanson, LLP, and finally working as a clinical instructor at Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Institute. She was the youngest member to serve as Co-Chair of the Boston Bar Association's Amicus Committee and authored numerous amicus briefs on behalf of the BBA and the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Meredith is a graduate of Boston University School of Law and the University of Maryland.*

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## **Karren Shorofsky**

Director, Office of Career Services, University of San Francisco School of Law

*Karren Shorofsky is the Director of Career Services at the University of San Francisco School of Law and an Adjunct Professor at the law school and the graduate program in museum studies, where she has taught for over ten years. Karren graduated from Yale Law School in 1989. She also holds a B.A. in Art History from Brown University and an M.A. in Art History from San Francisco State University. After graduating from law school, Karren joined Morrison & Foerster as an Associate. She then worked at Steinhardt & Falconer (now part of DLA Piper) as an Associate and Partner, and also worked at Pillsbury as Of Counsel. Karren practiced intellectual property law and related matters during the course of her private firm career, during which she spoke frequently at conferences across the country and actively participated in her firms' recruiting, hiring and retention programs. At University of San Francisco, Karren leads a diverse and dedicated team of professionals who guide and support students through every aspect of their journey from law school into careers of their choice. She is proud to serve at a law school where more than half of the students come from traditionally underrepresented groups.*

## **Laura Simon**

Chief, Recruitment Services Branch, Administrative Office of the United States Courts

*Laura Simon serves as the Chief, Recruitment Services Branch with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO). She has over 30 years of experience with the federal judiciary and private industry working with federal judges, court unit executives, court staff, probation and pretrial services offices, law schools, and legal community. Her leadership skills include delivering human resources solutions and communications to promote the federal judiciary as a workplace with diverse career opportunities. Ms. Simon provides program management support for the AOs' law clerk recruitment program (OSCAR), the United States Courts LinkedIn Program, and the Diversity Subcommittee of the federal judiciary's Committee of Judicial Resources, along with other recruitment and court initiatives to include judiciary recruitment modernization strategies and the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the federal judiciary. In addition, her portfolio includes the management of the federal judiciary's personnel security group, which provides the background checks, investigations, and drug testing for judiciary candidates.*

## **Tina Solis**

Partner, Nixon Peabody

*Tina Solis is a partner in Nixon Peabody LLP's Chicago office in its Complex Commercial Disputes Department. She counsels lawyers and law firms on professional responsibility matters and advises businesses and executives on issues involving trade secrets, unfair competition, corporate governance and derivative litigation in state and federal courts. Tina also leads the firm's Financial Institutions & Banking Disputes team. Tina is a frequent speaker before legal and professional organizations including at several NALSC conferences and symposia. She also has been a featured guest on podcasts and frequently publishes articles, especially regarding the legal, ethical, and fiduciary duties of lawyers in the course of making career moves. As an active member of the legal community, Tina is a Board Member and serves on the Alumni Engagement & Development Committee of the Iowa Law School Foundation. Tina earned both her JD and BA degrees from the University of Iowa.*

## **Angela Sordi**

Senior Director, Professional Resources, Fasken

*Angela Sordi is the Senior Director of Professional Development with Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP in Toronto. Angela oversees the recruitment, training, management and development of the firm's students, associates and*

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*counsel. She is responsible for all aspects of the Toronto associate program including performance management, career development, workload allocation and mentoring. She also oversees the management of the partnership admission process. Angela is a member of the Student Development Committee, and the Firm's Professional Development Committee, and is a champion of the Firm's diversity initiatives. Angela is an active member of the National Association of Legal Professionals and a member of the International Coaching Federation.*

## **Heather Spielmaker**

Assistant Dean, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law

*Heather Spielmaker is the Assistant Dean of Career Development and a Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in Tucson, AZ. Prior to joining Arizona Law, Heather served as the Assistant Dean of Career Services at both University of Kansas and West Virginia University law schools. Heather is a first gen college graduate (Michigan State University) who completed law school (Western Michigan University Cooley Law) as a single mother working full-time.*

## **Jessie Spressart**

Managing Director, Optia Consulting

*Jessie is the Founder and Managing Director of Optia Consulting. She brings more than fifteen years of experience in talent management and law firm professional development to her coaching and consulting practice. Jessie founded Optia with the mission to help law firms improve well-being through solutions designed to capitalize on the strengths of each generation in the workforce today. Optia provides consulting and training on management and leadership skills, and mental health and well-being in the workplace. Jessie is certified by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing as an instructor for Mental Health First Aid and helps firms talk about and improve mental health among their attorneys and business professionals. Prior to founding Optia, Jessie worked in consulting and spent more than a decade building and leading the professional development department at a law firm in Washington DC. Jessie is an ICF-accredited executive coach, holds Master's degrees from Fordham University and St. Andrews University, and has trained in Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.*

## **Michael States**

Associate Dean for DEI, University of Wisconsin School of Law

*Michael J. States joined the law school in December 2021 as the Inaugural Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Prior to coming to UW Law, he was the Assistant Dean for Admissions, Financial Aid, and Diversity Initiatives at The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Kansas and his law degree from Saint Louis University School of Law, where he was president of the Black Law Students Association and a member of the Council of Presidents. Dean States began his law school administration career as the Associate Director of Admissions at the UIC John Marshall Law School. He has been the Director of Admissions at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Stuart Graduate School of Business. From 2004 to 2015, he was the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Dean States is a member of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) board of trustees, a consultant for the Council for Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), Achieving Success in the Application Process program, and a member of the Executive Committee for the Association of American Law School's section on Pre-Legal Education and Admission to Law School. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of Christian Brothers High School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he chairs the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Bonnie Stepleton**

Director of Student and Career Services, University of New Mexico

*Bonnie grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attended the University of Oregon and obtained a BS in Political Science in 1984. She graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1987. She was a law clerk in the New Mexico Supreme Court. Following her clerkship, Bonnie represented people with intellectual disabilities and then practiced law in insurance defense. She served as a mediator with the New Mexico Workers' Compensation administration and has also been a volunteer mediator for the Metropolitan Court. She was Assistant Dean for Student Services from 2004 until 2014 when she left to return to the Workers' Comp Administration as Bureau Chief. She served as Appellate Mediator with the New Mexico Court of Appeals in 2018 and early 2019 and then returned again to the law school as Director of Student and Career Services.*

## **Lauren Symington**

Chief Talent Officer, Lewis Roca

*Lauren Symington is the Chief Talent Officer at Lewis Roca. She is responsible for leading the development and execution of the Recruiting and Professional Development strategies, which includes the recruitment, retention, professional development, and advancement of lawyers. Lauren is passionate about leadership and enjoys guiding professionals to meet their full potential. She collaborates with Firm leadership to encourage a culture of inclusion and respect and is committed to improving the work-life balance for professionals within the legal industry and beyond. Lauren's background includes more than 15 years of legal talent experience, including recruiting, leadership, and professional development. She loves to mentor and believes in leading with kindness and patience. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys cooking, spending time with her family and dogs, Pilates, and travel. Lauren graduated from San Diego State University and received her J.D. from California Western School of Law.*

## **Kendrea Tannis**

Associate Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Baker Botts LLP

*Kendrea is a former Big Law attorney turned certified professional coach and DEI practitioner. She founded The Pivoting Lawyer to help attorneys of color take control of their futures and prioritize their happiness by designing a career they love either in or out of law. Kendrea is a graduate of Duke University School of Law and is licensed to practice in New York, the District of Columbia, and Texas. Kendrea received her coaching certification from Coach Training Alliance, and International Coach Federation (ICF) accredited program. When Kendrea is not coaching attorneys of color, she and her husband can be found chasing their two young children around the playgrounds of Austin, Texas.*

## **Albert Tawil**

Founder & CEO, Lateral Hub / Summer Associate Hub

*Albert Tawil is the founder and CEO of Lateral Hub, an online lateral job board for top-tier law firms, and Summer Associate Hub, a resource and content hub for law students to learn about BigLaw practice areas and prepare for the summer recruiting process. After graduating from NYU School of Law in 2017, Albert worked as an IP/technology transactions associate at Cleary Gottlieb and Fenwick & West. Albert launched Lateral Hub in 2022 based on his experience lateralizing and helping others, and subsequently launched Summer Associate Hub in 2023. Albert writes often on LinkedIn about legal recruiting and law firm life. Lateral Hub/Summer Associate Hub is a proud member of NALP and regular exhibitor at NALP conferences.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Danielle Taylor**

Director of Research, NALP

*Danielle Taylor has been the Director of Research at NALP since 2019. In this role, she oversees the organization's research portfolio, including the production of Jobs & JDs, NALP's hallmark annual research report, presenting the most comprehensive analysis of the types of employment and salaries obtained by the most recent law school graduating class. She also is responsible for producing NALP's annual Report on Diversity in U.S. Law Firms. Since 2020, Danielle has presented an annual NALP member webinar on the disparities found within the latest employment data.*

## **Annabrooke Temple**

Professional Development Manager, Covington & Burling

*Annabrooke Temple is the Professional Development Manager for Covington & Burling's California and Asia offices, where she supports the integration of lateral associates. Her background includes working in the law school career development office at UC College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings) and practicing as a legal aid attorney in San Francisco.*

## **Jennifer Thomas**

Director of Legal Recruitment, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

*Director of Legal Recruiting Jennifer Thomas coordinates the full hiring process for law clerks, entry level and lateral attorneys for the organization's seven legal divisions. She is responsible for the 65 student summer law clerk program where she provides training and mentoring during the 10-week program. Jennifer also runs spring and winter break law clerk programs, coordinates post-graduate fellowship applications, works with private firms to provide support for loaned associates and provides outplacement counseling for staff attorneys. Prior to joining the executive group at PDS, Jennifer worked as a career counselor at American University Washington College of Law, as a program associate for the Equal Justice works fellowship and was a member of the Elderlaw practice at the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau. Jennifer has a B.A. in Political Science from Western Maryland College and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law.*

## **Sherri Thomas**

Associate Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, University of New Mexico

*Professor Sherri Nicole Thomas serves as the Associate Dean of Institutional Culture and Equity and as Assistant Director of the Law Library for the University of New Mexico School of Law (UNMSOL). She is a committee member of the Supreme Court of New Mexico Commission on Equity and Justice, a member of the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Liaisons in Equity and Advocacy for Diversity (LEAD) Council, as well as a member of the UNM Policy, Equity, and Inclusion Lens (PEIL). She frequently presents to new law students and new bar members about implicit bias and the development of professional identity. Sherri is Black and Indigenous, and she grew up on the Dine (Navajo) Reservation and is an enrolled Tiwa (Taos Pueblo) member. Before graduating from the UNMSOL in 2005 with an Indian Law certificate, Sherri worked as the Information Manager for Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc., a bio-litigation consulting firm, in San Mateo, CA, and as a Database Specialist/Cataloger for Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, PC, based in Palo Alto, CA.*

## **Chasity Thompson-Osborn**

Director of Attorney Learning & Development, Taft Stettinius & Hollister

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

*Chasity Thompson Osborn is the Director of Attorney Learning and Development at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, an Am100 law firm with more than 800 attorneys. With 20 years of experience in legal and professional development, Chasity brings a trusted perspective to development programming. Chasity oversees firm-wide, office specific, and individual attorney training and development programming for all attorneys. This includes identifying and addressing training and development needs, developing and implementing associate programming, managing Continued Learning Education (CLE) related functions, collaborating with firm leaders on recruitment initiatives, and leading overall design and implementation of attorney training activities across the firm. Prior to joining Taft, Chasity worked in higher education, most recently serving as assistant dean for the office of student affairs and assistant dean for the office of professional development at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Before working at Indiana University, Chasity served as a Judicial Law Clerk to Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard for the Supreme Court of Indiana. Additionally, Chasity has law firm and government experience, and she developed a course to help law students and new associates better understand key concepts to help them better understand the business side of the legal practice. Chasity is well-respected in her field, receiving numerous awards for her work. Her accolades include the IU McKinney Advisor of the Year award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Empowered Leader award, Outstanding Educator award, and Rabb Edison Diversity award (2017, 2006), among many others.*

## **Robin Thorner**

Assistant Dean of Career Strategy, St. Mary's University School of Law

*Robin Thorner is the Assistant Dean of Career Strategy and Adjunct Professor of Law at St. Mary's University School of Law. She received her undergraduate degree at Yale University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law. After graduating from law school, Robin clerked for the Hon. Deborah Hankinson on the Texas Supreme Court, and was an Equal Justice Works Fellow at South Brooklyn Legal Services, where she began her disability rights career. Robin brings to the Office of Career Strategy 15 years of public interest experience, much of that in leadership positions at Disability Rights Texas and University Legal Services, the protection and advocacy programs for individuals with disabilities in Texas and Washington, D.C., respectively. As an adjunct professor, Robin regularly teaches Client Interviewing, and she has taught first-year Legal Research and Writing and an upper level seminar on Mental Health and the Law. Among other things, as the Assistant Dean Robin counsels students on career development and professionalism.*

## **Carole Tillotson**

Associate Director, Career Development, Drake University Law School

*Carole Tillotson is the Associate Director Career Development at Drake University Law School. In her position at Drake, Carole counsels law students and alumni on all aspects of legal employment, manages student programs, services and employer outreach. She is the student networking events coordinator and oversees public interest and Bar information. Carole is a University of Iowa law graduate. Prior to joining Drake, she had a broad-based legal career in Des Moines beginning as a bond attorney. She has also been Assistant General Counsel at Wells Fargo Financial, Inc., General Counsel to the Iowa Finance Authority and Vice President of Springsted Incorporated, a public finance advisory firm.*

## **Fiona Trevelyan Hornblower**

President and CEO, The NALP Foundation

*Fiona Trevelyan Hornblower is President and CEO of the NALP Foundation. In this role, she guides the Foundation's research initiatives, publications, and programs on key issues such as the professional development of lawyers, access to and diversity within the legal profession, and the effective management of lawyers. Prior to joining the*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies

## (this document will not be updated)

*Foundation, Fiona served as Assistant Dean for Career Development and Public Service at Boston University School of Law, and as the National Director of Legal Recruiting for Bingham McCutchen. A former litigator, independent consultant to law firms, and Principal in a boutique practice, Fiona has held numerous leadership positions in both national and local legal and recruiting organizations, including NALP and the ABA. She regularly publishes and speaks on a wide variety of issues in the legal profession. Fiona received her BA from Harvard University and her JD from Boston College Law School. Following law school, she clerked for the Hon. Frank M. Coffin, senior judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.*

### **Tiffany Tucker**

Assistant Dean for Career Development, University of Houston Law Center

*Tiffany J. Tucker is the Assistant Dean for Career Development at the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC). She earned B.A. degrees in Psychology and Sociology from Grambling State University, an M.Ed. in Counselor Education from Florida A&M University, and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. After a career of providing mental health counseling services to individuals, families, and groups, Tiffany launched a new career in law and practiced transactional intellectual property and corporate law at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in New York, NY. While practicing law, she provided mentoring and career training to law students and lawyers in her spare time. She then combined her careers when she returned to her home state of Texas to provide professional and career development services to law students and lawyers at the UHLC Career Development Office.*

### **Kimberly Underdown**

Director, Student Engagement & Employment, St. Mary's University School of Law

*Kimberly Underdown serves as the Director of Student Engagement and Employment in the Office of Career Strategy. She counsels law students and graduates and facilitates all law school recruiting programs, including the On- and Off-Campus Interview Programs. Kimberly manages student participation in regional job fairs and maintains CORE, the web-enabled recruiting site for law students and legal professionals. She currently serves on the Sunbelt Diversity Recruitment Program Board, the St. Mary's University School of Law Dean's Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Co-Chairs the NALP Small and Solo Section.*

### **Waleska Vernon**

Director, Professional Recruitment & Development, Paliare Roland

*As the Director of Professional Recruitment & Development at Paliare Roland, Waleska Vernon is responsible for developing and managing the firm's student and associate recruitment, professional development, and mentoring programs, as well as the administration of the evaluation process. Waleska also contributes to diversity and inclusion initiatives as they relate to recruitment, retention and advancement. Waleska became interested in career and professional development while practicing litigation and then corporate law in full-service business law firms in New York and Toronto. She obtained a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology in 2013 and became a registered psychotherapist in 2015. She has worked in a number of post-secondary career counselling roles. Prior to joining Paliare Roland in 2021, Waleska was the Career Development Counsellor for the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.*

### **Donatella Verrico**

Chief Human Resources Officer, Lowenstein Sandler LLP

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies

## (this document will not be updated)

*Donatella Verrico is the Chief Human Resources Officer at Lowenstein Sandler, LLP. Donatella leads all aspects of the human resources function for Lowenstein Sandler, which include recruiting, benefits, training and development, compliance, employee relations, and retention. She oversees the firm's talent management initiatives and serves as a strategic partner to firm leadership. Working closely with firm leadership, Donatella develops and implements strategies, programs and processes that support the recruitment, development and advancement of professionals at all levels.*

### **Becca Vogt**

Recruitment Manager, Immigrant Justice Corps

*Becca Vogt is the Recruitment Manager for Fellowship Programs at Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC). IJC identifies promising lawyers and advocates passionate about immigration, places them with legal services and community-based organizations where they can make the greatest difference and supports them with training and expert insights as they directly assist immigrants in need. Becca is responsible for recruitment strategy and the application review process for the Justice Fellowship and Community Fellowship programs at IJC. Prior to joining IJC, Becca worked for five years in undergraduate admissions and recruitment in a private university setting. She earned her MA in Political Psychology from Stony Brook University and a MS.Ed in Community and Social Change from the University of Miami.*

### **Christie Vonk**

Senior Recruiting Manager, Law Student Recruiting & Campus Outreach, King & Spalding

*As Senior Manager of Law Student Recruiting and Campus Outreach at King & Spalding, Christie leads entry-level hiring efforts across the U.S. offices. Her responsibilities include designing their growing summer program, devising annual OCI and law school campus recruiting strategy, recommending diversity and inclusion recruitment initiatives, and advising on hiring decisions and industry best practices. Previously, she managed both lateral and on-campus efforts for the New York office. Prior to Christie's transition into legal recruiting, she worked as a Human Resources Manager for a growing recruitment agency, a Compliance Manager for a large non-profit, and a Talent Acquisition Specialist for a national hospitality services corporation - where she recruited candidates across various business sectors, including correctional services facilities and high-profile sports, entertainment, and recreational venues.*

### **Mary Beth Walsh**

Sr. Director, Legal Recruiting and Development, Dykema Gossett PLLC

*Mary Beth Walsh oversees all levels of firm-wide attorney recruiting and development. She collaborates with Dykema's National Hiring Members, Department Directors, Practice and Industry Group Leaders and Office Managing Members in lateral member, senior counsel, and associate recruiting efforts for Dykema's 14 offices. She is also responsible for Dykema's summer associate program. In addition, Mary Beth works with the Firm's Professional Personnel Committee, which manages the associate evaluation and membership consideration processes. She is also responsible for the implementation of the Firm's attorney training and professional development programs and manages Dykema's continuing legal education (CLE) offerings. She has nearly 15 years of experience attracting, recruiting, integrating, and developing lateral and entry-level attorneys. Mary Beth previously worked at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP for five years, overseeing all levels of attorney recruitment and development. Prior to that, she spent six years at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in Philadelphia, where she focused on summer associate and lateral associate recruiting. Mary Beth earned her J.D. from the Marquette University Law School and her B.A. in Public Relations, with a Minor in Business, from Penn State University.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Amy Wegener**

Executive Coach and Consultant,

*Amy Wegener is an executive coach who partners with mid-career, senior and C-level executives to develop and enhance their leadership skills and help them set and achieve professional goals and aspirations. Amy has worked with leaders in global enterprises, mid-sized companies, and start-ups. Her coaching experience spans multiple industries, including venture capital, technology, cryptocurrency, engineering, law firms, in-house legal operations, healthcare, and entertainment. Amy earned her executive coaching certification at UC Berkeley's Executive Coaching Institute. Prior to serving as an executive coach, Amy spent nearly three decades in leadership roles at Paul Hastings LLP, with the last ten years focused on innovation, digital transformation, and modernizing operations. Amy's expertise includes business strategy, leadership, organizational design, large-scale change management, and technology deployment. Amy directed and led a multi-functional department of lawyers, technologists, and legal operations professionals. She was recognized in 2020 by the Financial Times as Practice and Business Leader in the Global Legal sector, with additional accolades received for her team's work from The American Lawyer, Legal Week, The Lawyer and the International Legal Technology Association. In addition to executive coaching, Amy teaches a course on artificial intelligence at UC Irvine School of Law and serves on two advisory boards. During her career, Amy was fortunate to have had mentors and coaches. She now strives to pay this forward by enhancing others' careers.*

## **Rochelle Weiner**

Director of Professional Development, Blank Rome LLP

*Rochelle Weiner is the Director of Professional Development at Blank Rome LLP where she oversees firm-wide training, mentoring, orientation, and integration for all attorneys. Prior to Blank Rome she worked at several law firms in the Professional Development and Legal Recruiting capacities. Rochelle is currently the Co-Vice-Chair of the Lawyer Professional Development Section's Education Group.*

## **Trisha Weiss**

Director of Attorney Recruiting, Cooley

*Trisha Weiss is the Director of Attorney Recruiting at Cooley LLP based in New York. She develops and implements strategies to help facilitate the firm's legal talent recruiting initiatives. Working closely with department and practice group leadership she oversees the hiring of summer associates, patent personnel, first year associates and lateral associates across all of the firm's global offices. Prior to joining Cooley, Trisha spent 15 years at an AmLaw 100 firm where she was responsible for lateral partner, associate and summer associate recruitment. She earned a B.A. from Boston College and is a member of NALP and NYCRA.*

## **Erin Wilkins**

Manager, Diversity, Equity + Inclusion, Goodwin Procter LLP

*Erin Wilkins is the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Manager at Goodwin Procter LLP where she is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion is implemented in the firm's strategy at every level. In her role, Erin collaborates with senior leaders and other key stakeholders to identify gaps that need to be addressed and create initiatives that foster a more inclusive workplace culture. Prior to joining the legal industry, Erin worked as a higher education professional and remains on the faculty at The George Washington University School of Business. Erin holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Health Studies from Elon University and a Master's of Arts in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University.*

# 2024 Annual Education Conference Speaker Biographies (this document will not be updated)

## **Chiara Wrocinski**

Chief Administrative Officer, Kirkland & Ellis

*Chiara Wrocinski is an accomplished leader with more than 20 years of experience in organizational and talent development. She is a recognized legal industry executive with a track record for innovation, attracting top talent, and serving as an influential agent for positive change. She has a unique set of experiences having worked across several industries — from the Big 4, to legal. She has served in several positions at Kirkland & Ellis over the last decade, including founding the Alumni Engagement and CareerLink programs, leading the global Legal Recruiting & Development Department, as well as currently serving as Chief Administrative Officer where she oversees all business support functions of the firm. She is a member of several Executive Director/COO forums, serves on the NALP Foundation Board, as well as various philanthropic boards.*

## **Natasha Zech**

Director of Attorney Recruiting, Diversity & Development, Williams & Connolly LLP

*Natasha Zech is the Director of Attorney Recruiting, Diversity and Development at Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, DC. For over a decade, she has managed all aspects of the firm's associate and summer associate hiring, diversity and inclusion initiatives and associate professional development, as well as the planning and oversight of the firm's summer associate program and firmwide social events. She works closely with firm management on an array of initiatives related to associate recruiting and retention, and is a frequent speaker on all aspects of her role, both internally and externally for law schools and professional organizations. After clerking for Judge Thomas Motley on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and working as a trial lawyer for several Washington area firms, she began her present career in law firm recruitment. She has been a NALP member since 2010, has served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Area Legal Recruitment Administrators Association (WALRAA), and is a Volta Certified Lawyer Coach. Natasha also holds a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center and a BA in English from the University of Virginia.*

## **Megan Zurbriggen**

Director of Career Counseling, University of Wisconsin Law School

*Megan Zurbriggen is the Director of Career Counseling in the University of Wisconsin Law School's Office of Career and Professional Development. Megan joined the office in August 2017. Prior to joining the UW staff, she practiced state and federal law in Minnesota and nationwide representing individuals injured as a result of negligence in complex tort and professional liability cases including product liability claims, medical malpractice injuries, long-term care injuries and wrongful death claims. Upon moving to Madison, Megan worked at the State Bar of Wisconsin in its Member Relations Department and served as the administrator of the Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. Megan is a 2012 graduate from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In law school, she was a student attorney in the Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services as part of the Elder Law Practice Group and worked as a public policy intern for the Alzheimer's Association. Prior to law school, Megan attended Iowa State University, receiving B.A.s in Criminal Justice and Communications. In her spare time, Megan loves HIIT exercise classes, the Chicago Cubs, and strategic boardgames. At the law school, Megan advises students one-on-one regarding career goals, provides professional development programming, and assists students with bar exam related questions.*