

2023 PDI Speaker Biographies

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Fairuz Abdullah

Deputy Director, *University of California Law, San Francisco*

Fairuz Abdullah is the Deputy Director at the University of California Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings). Fairuz is a relationship builder. She co-leads the office and creates job opportunities for students and alums. She builds affiliations with employers and identifies new opportunities in the legal profession. She brings emotional intelligence, leadership skills, and diverse professional experiences to her work. Fairuz is a certified Co-Active coach, and Myers Briggs Training Instructor (MBTI). She worked as a Family Law and Juvenile Dependency attorney before coming to Hastings. In her previous roles with the CDO, she served as Director of Public Interest and Public Service and the Director of Employer Relations. She has been invited to speak at conferences on a number of career advancement topics, including micro-aggressions, bias, and bad behavior, and professional development topics such as time management and productivity. Fairuz is committed to diversity issues in the legal field and has served on the boards of minority bar associations and nonprofits. She received her B.A. in Political Science from U.C. Santa Cruz and her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Juliet Aiken

Consultant, *Volta Talent Strategies*

Juliet Aiken, PhD is a Consultant at Volta. Aiken holds a PhD and MS in Industrial Organizational Psychology. She is an organizational psychologist with a specialization in hiring and selection, diversity and inclusion, statistics, and aligned strategic change management. At Volta, Aiken develops and validates competency models and assessments to enable law firms to hire diverse top talent and provides coaching and training for law firms around topics such as effective interviewing, competency modeling, and debiasing evaluation forms. Aiken serves as a trusted advisor to help organizations pivot during periods of uncertainty (internally and externally), supporting them in developing systems for hiring, training, promoting, and retaining talent. She has over a decade of experience in consulting and leadership roles in government, private sector, and nonprofit sectors. Aiken is part of the team that won the 2017 Innovation in Assessment Award from the International Personnel Assessment Council (IPAC) for "Hiring Quickly and at a Low Cost under a Consent Decree." She also received the 2020 Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology (SIOP) Early Career Award in Practice.

Marissa Alert

Founder & CEO, *MDA Wellness*

Marissa Alert (she/her) is a licensed clinical health psychologist, consultant, and speaker dedicated to helping firms and organizations tackle stress and burnout. As the founder of MDA Wellness, Marissa provides her clients with practical and sustainable strategies to create a positive, growth-oriented culture that supports employee wellbeing and engagement. Using her research-based INTENT Framework, she delivers tailored assessments, workshops, and training that lead to measurable improvements in mental health and wellbeing. Marissa previously served as the Associate Director of Product Development at Johns Hopkins HealthCare Solutions where she spearheaded the creation of digital health programs that increased access to mental health care. Marissa received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Dartmouth College and obtained her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Miami. She completed her predoctoral and postdoctoral training at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, respectively.

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Susanne Aronowitz

Senior Consultant, *Beard Strategies, Inc.*

Susanne Aronowitz is a Senior Consultant with Beard Strategies, Inc., where she provides executive, leadership and outplacement coaching and consulting services at the nation's leading law firms. In addition, she works directly with attorneys from a variety of professional settings, guiding them in navigating career transitions and finding deeper engagement in their work. She previously served as the Associate Dean for Law Career Services and Alumni Relations at Golden Gate University School of Law, where she taught as an adjunct professor and co-founder of the Law & Leadership Program. Susanne earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, her law degree from UC Law SF, is a graduate of CoachU's Core Essentials Program and holds a Professional Certified Coach credential from the International Coaching Federation. She currently serves as a co-Vice Chair of the Lawyer/Law Student Professional Development Collaboration sub-section of NALP's Professional Development section and is an advisory board member of the ABA Career Center.

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 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.

Whittney Beard

Founder and President, *Whittney Beard Coaching LLC*

Whittney Beard is a lawyer, coach and learning and development professional, who over the past 20 years has seen the legal industry from all angles. She cares deeply about lawyers and the legal profession. She is an ICF-credentialed Master Certified Coach (one of just 1,200 in the world to have earned this credential) who works with individuals and teams to up their performance, focusing on leadership, team management, business development strategies, the design of efficient systems and reducing the experience of overwhelm or chaos. Her work is focused on creating accountability and structure while not losing sight of the humanity of each person who makes a law firm thrive. In 2018, Whittney co-designed and continues to co-lead the industry-standard, ICF-accredited Volta Coach Training program for lawyer coaching—when it comes to coaching in law firms, Whittney literally helped to write the manual. Whittney practiced corporate law at Milbank. In 2007, she became a professional coach, and has focused her practice on lawyers ever since, both in-house at Orrick, and as an external professional. Whittney received her BA, magna cum laude, from the University of California, San Diego, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She received her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, graduating as a member of the Order of the Coif. When she is not working, Whittney lives in San Diego with her 9-year old son, and the Labradoodle they adopted during the pandemic.

Jeanna Beck

Director of Career Development & Advancement, *Arnold & Porter*

Jeanna Beck has provided career development guidance and training programs to practicing attorneys since 2008. Her discussions with attorneys focus on a wide variety of topics, including career advancement and transitions, engagement and integration, leadership and management, work-life balance, and well-being. Ms. Beck also leads Arnold & Porter's Executive Leadership Academy for new partners and counsel and serves on the firm's pro bono

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committee. Previously, Ms. Beck was a litigation associate at Arnold & Porter and clerked for the late Judge James H. Alesia on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Jonathan Beitner

Certified Coach & Founder, *De Novo Professional Development*

Jonathan Beitner is a certified coach and Founder of De Novo Professional Development. Jonathan is a frequent speaker and author on topics related to the intersection of professional development and well-being. He helps individuals identify and achieve their goals and works with firms, law schools, and Fortune 500 companies to help their lawyers, students, and staff be more productive, happier, and healthier. As a co-creator of the American Bar Association's Well-Being Pledge, Jonathan has experience creating and implementing industry-wide initiatives to help lawyers and legal professionals thrive. Jonathan previously practiced as a litigator at Jenner & Block LLP and clerked for federal judges on the Sixth Circuit and Eastern District of Michigan after graduating from the University of Michigan Law School.

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 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 LLP*

Melissa Berry returned to Perkins Coie as Director of Attorney Development in February 2023. Now leading 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 legal education and law student development as a faculty member and 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 participation in the Holloran Center's Leadership Competency Milestone Working Group. She also is a member of NALP's Neurodiversity in the Legal Profession Task Force.

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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.

Elizabeth Brady Murillo

Director of Professional Development, *Burns & Levinson LLP*

Elizabeth Brady Murillo is the Director of Professional Development, leading the firm's legal talent management. Drawing on nearly 15 years as a litigator at Burns & Levinson, Lizzie contributes to the firm's success by optimizing the recruitment, integration, development, training, coaching, engagement, and retention of its talented legal professionals. She leads the development, implementation, and assessment of educational, coaching, mentoring, career development, feedback, and performance evaluation programs for Associates, Patent Agents, Technical Specialists, Law Clerks, and Summer Associates. Lizzie works closely with practice group leaders and firm leadership on the development of strategies and programs to help support our legal talent and shape the firm for the future. Lizzie holds a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.

Kendra Brodin

Founder & CEO, *EsquireWell*

Kendra Brodin is the Founder and CEO of EsquireWell, a lawyer well-being and professional development company, providing consulting, training, and the EsquireWell Academy, a cutting-edge online learning community, to help lawyers be happier, healthier, and more successful. Prior to founding her company, Kendra was Chief Attorney Development Officer at a large national law firm where she managed firm-wide lawyer training and development as well as well-being initiatives. Kendra is a frequent presenter, coach, and consultant for small, mid-sized, and large law firms, legal departments, and law schools, and she teaches a course called "Well-being and Professional Formation" at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis. With a master's degree in social work, a law degree, and nearly 20 years of professional experience in legal professional development and well-being, Kendra brings together the "people" side and the "business" side of the law as she guides legal organizations and their people to thrive now and in the future.

Shannon Burke

Director of Talent and Diversity, *Chapman and Cutler LLP*

Shannon Burke is the Director of Talent Development and Diversity at Chapman and Cutler LLP. She works on all aspects of professional development, including administration of new professional development and mentoring programs, facilitation of internal professional development curriculum, competency and staffing models, and training and development. In the diversity space, she coordinates the firm's attorney resource groups as well as the firm diversity programming.

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Kori Carew

CEO, *Bridge 68 LLC*

Kori Carew is a people inclusion strategist, advocate, speaker, writer, status quo disruptor, truth teller, child of God, 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. At her day job she focuses on developing and implementing strategies for individual career and diversity and inclusion success, and helps organizations build bridges across differences and improve inclusion. 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, and cherishing her phenomenal tribe and community. She is energized by helping people live their best lives.

Amber Castelli

Director of Professional Development, *Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney*

Amber L. Castelli is the firm's Director of Professional Development. Amber focuses on learning, coaching, feedback and performance enhancement pertaining to all attorneys and staff to ensure they are highly engaged in continuous development. Amber works closely with firm management, section leadership and the Associates Committee to cultivate an environment that encourages communication through regular meetings, panel discussions, specialized trainings and surveys. She leads the evaluation process and works with the Associates Committee to set compensation for associates, senior attorneys, staff attorneys and specialists. Amber manages the firm's in-house training program to expand and enhance the skills and abilities of our employees. She specializes in associate development to help create future leaders of the firm.

Darwin Conner

Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, *Eversheds Sutherland*

Darwin Conner is the firm's US Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Officer. He is responsible for developing, implementing and managing the firm's internal and external diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. He works closely with the firm's Managing Partner; Executive Committee; DEI Committee Chair; DEI Committee; recruiting, human resources and talent development departments; affinity groups and others in firm leadership to advance Eversheds Sutherland's DEI initiatives. Darwin is a former law firm partner and DEI leader with over 20 years of experience in law firm practice, management, and client service. He spent most of his career developing his corporate finance practice at Winston & Strawn, and before joining Eversheds Sutherland, he chaired the DEI Committee at Sullivan & Worcester where he created and implemented the DEI strategic plan. Darwin was also named a Fellow in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's (LCLD) flagship leadership program in 2013 and continued his involvement with LCLD by serving on the Executive Council of the LCLD Alumni Program. He also served as a Board Member of his alma mater's multicultural alumni network. In 2019, Darwin was named to the inaugural Lawyers of Color "Nation's Best" list.

Darryl Cross

US Executive Sales Coach, *Norton Rose Fulbright*

Darryl Cross is a well-renowned expert in high performance, with over 25 years of experience in the legal industry. He currently serves as the Norton Rose Fulbright's first in-house coach, where he leverages his vast knowledge to build scalable sales programs and help partners build their own successful practices. Throughout his career, Darryl has held various influential positions, including Chief Marketing Officer of a law firm, Vice President of

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Performance Development and Coaching at LexisNexis, Head of Global Sales Enablement for Intapp, and the head of the sales methodology strategy team at Amazon Web Services. Darryl has an extensive background in researching and studying the practices of successful professionals in high-pressure domains, including astronauts, pilots, athletes, Navy SEALs, surgeons, and trial lawyers. He has shared his insights with over 10,000 lawyers and business executives across 100 countries on five continents, inspiring them to maximize their performance and business results. His book, *Cultivating Excellence: the Art, Science, & Grit of High Performance in Business*, was published in 2017. As an evangelist of the power of team dynamics, Darryl is the only Certified Team Performance Coach dedicated to the legal industry. He speaks regularly on the importance of building diverse teams to allow individuals to leverage their strengths, build trust between partners, and engage in client-centric collaboration. In his spare time, Darryl has passions for helping busy rainmakers with physical fitness programs, volunteering as a youth rugby coach, and chasing after his 5-year-old granddaughter at the playground.

Doneene Damon

Chief Diversity Partner, *Richards, Layton & Finger LLP*

Doneene Damon's extraordinary leadership includes her roles as the immediate past president of Richards Layton and chair of the Corporate Trust and Agency Services Group. In 1999, Doneene was the first African-American attorney to make partner at a major Delaware law firm. In 2019, she was the first African-American woman to be elected as the managing partner of a major Delaware law firm. She now serves the Chief Diversity Partner of the firm. Doneene focuses her substantive practice on formation and operational issues relating to Delaware statutory trusts and Delaware and New York common law trusts in all types of commercial and business transactions, representing issuers, underwriters, investors, and trustees. Doneene advises clients on the use of common law trusts, statutory trusts, owner trusts, master trusts, series trusts, and titling trusts in connection with capital markets transactions. Considered "terrific" and praised as "experienced, careful, smart and very personable" (Chambers USA), in 2021 alone Doneene was named among the Philadelphia Business Journal's Diversity Leaders in Business, the News Journal's Most Influential Delawareans, Savoy Magazine's Most Influential Black Lawyers, and a Women, Influence & Power in Law Managing Partner of the Year. Her practice includes representing banks and trust companies in connection with their trust and agency services under Delaware and New York law in various commercial transactions, including their roles as trustee, collateral agent, verification agent, custodian, master servicer, depository agent, securities intermediary, paying agent, registrar and transfer agent, and exchange agent. She also served as primary Delaware counsel in a series of first-to-market structured finance transactions employing the use of blockchain distributed ledger technology.

Nakimuli Davis-Primer

Shareholder, *Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC*

Nakimuli Davis-Primer partners with employers to create respectful, diverse, and inclusive workplaces that comply with federal, state, and local laws. Nakimuli advises clients on day-to-day workplace issues; assesses risks of anticipated workplace decisions and offers creative solutions to lessen those risks; conducts internal investigations; represents clients in federal and state court and before administrative agencies; and trains employees on various legal and professional development topics. Nakimuli collaborates with clients on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) goals ranging from creating and evaluating DEI initiatives to conducting assessments and audits to drafting social media policies and diversity statements to creating diversity supplier programs to advising companies on communication strategies around DEI. Nakimuli creates training programs for clients that raise awareness of, identify tools and strategies for, and reinforce best practices to create sustainable inclusive workplaces. At Baker Donelson, Nakimuli is Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee, Chair of the D&I Communications Committee, and Editor of the Diversity Matters Newsletter. Nakimuli also Co-Chairs the BakerBridge program, which provides legal counsel to minority owned businesses to help them scale and grow. Nakimuli leads a diversity podcast at Baker Donelson, *Diversity Ever After*, that creates a safe space to navigate difficult but necessary conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession and workplaces. She serves in other roles at the firm, for

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other organizations, and in her community. Nakimuli is passionate about educating others on DEI related topics and fostering inclusive climates in her firm, the legal profession, and her community.

Brett Dengate

Manager, Learning & Development, *Norton Rose Fulbright*

Brett Dengate is a former professional recording and touring drummer, former lawyer, a certified health coach, and has been a legal learning and development professional for more than a decade in Big Law. He creates engaging content and facilitates professional development programs for lawyers and business services staff and has also presented to the legal teams of companies such as Shell, BP, and Citi Global in Australia, the US, and Europe. Brett is expert-certified in the DiSC behavioural styles psychometric tool and is currently completing an MBA.

William Dougherty

Founder & CEO, *Capacity - (CapacityApp.IO)*

William is a former lawyer who trained, qualified, and practiced at Dentons in London. He co-founded Capacity, an algorithmic work allocation solution, in 2018. William is motivated to help firms rise to the industry-wide challenges he became aware of as a junior associate. With his team's experience in the legal sector, and insights from neuroscientific research, Capacity was built to cater specifically to law firms and to address their broad cultural and strategic concerns. William firmly believes that law firms thrive when they put people first – attracting and retaining the best talent and the most valuable clients, developing a diverse and inclusive culture, building teams of motivated and energetic lawyers, and pushing up productivity and profits as a result. He sees the optimisation of work allocation as the most important process to achieve the people-centric profitability that will help firms face the future with confidence. Outside of his role at Capacity, William is a keen gardener, DJ and has a deep interest in psychology and philosophy.

Lois Durant

Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, *Sheppard Mullin*

Lois Durant is Sheppard Mullin's Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, responsible for leading the firm's internal and external diversity and inclusion efforts as well as the development, implementation and leadership of talent management programs and initiatives. She works closely with the Firm Chair, D&I Chair, Chief HR Officer, and others in firm leadership to advance diversity and inclusion strategic objectives and meet talent management goals. In 2020, Lois was recognized by Crain's New York Business for her accomplishments, mentorship skills and community involvement within the talent management and D&I fields in the publication's "Notable Women in Talent Resources" list. Lois has worked across all functional areas of talent management and has spent most of her career working at large law firms. Before joining Sheppard Mullin, she was a key member of White & Case's Global Senior People Leadership Team and led the talent management efforts of all litigation practice groups, advising practice group leaders on talent related matters. Prior to her time at White & Case, Lois was Kaye Scholer's Manager of Professional Development and Retention and worked closely with the D&I Committee to create and implement the firm's diversity and inclusion strategic action plan. Lois received her M.B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis and her B.A. from Fordham University where she majored in English literature and minored in theological studies and history.

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Paula Edgar, Esq.

CEO, *PGE Consulting Group, LLC*

Paula T. Edgar, Esq. is CEO of PGE Consulting Group LLC, a firm that provides training and education solutions at the intersection of professional development and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Paula is an engaging keynote speaker and facilitator, conducting live and virtual presentations for clients across industries using her Engage Your Hustle™ method. Paula develops customized programming, and her areas of diversity expertise include unconscious bias, inclusive leadership, and allyship. Her professional development skill set includes personal branding, relationship building, and mentor/sponsor best practices. Paula received her B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Fullerton, and her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law.

Darien Fleming

Owner, Coach and Trainer, *Darien Fleming*

Darien is a certified executive coach and trainer. She started her career as an attorney at AmLaw 100 firms in Boston, MA. After 7 years of practice in estate planning and probate litigation, she transitioned to Professional Development. In her role as Director of Professional Development and Talent Management for a mid-size, Boston-based law firm, she directed the evaluation processes for legal professionals firm wide, ran compensation processes, advised management on practice management best practices, and coached attorneys at every level of the firm on business development, leadership management, career advancement and succession planning. She has spent nearly 15 years feeding her passion: training attorneys in critical interpersonal skills and coaching attorneys to determine, set and achieve their goals. Darien enjoys working with attorneys at every stage of development. She helps with a wide range of issues, including: communication, people management, delegation, delivering feedback, time management and organization, building self-confidence, health/wellness and business development. Using self-awareness raising tools, asking powerful questions, and providing best practices, she helps attorneys manage the obstacles getting in their way of optimizing their billable time and advancing in their practice. Darien holds a B.A. and J.D. from Boston College. She is a certified Professional Co-Active Coach (CTI), Professional Certified Coach (ICF), a certified Gallup Strengths Coach, a certified Workplace DiSC® facilitator and Smart Collaboration certified.

Leanne Fuith

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

Leanne Fuith is the Dean of Career and Professional Development and 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.

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Chris Gardephe

Chief Professional Resources Officer, *Proskauer Rose LLP*

Chris Gardephe is the Chief Professional Resources Officer at Proskauer Rose LLP. In this role, Chris oversees functions and programming focusing on the hiring, development and retention of the Firm's lawyers world-wide. His areas of oversight include: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Knowledge Services; Leadership Development; Legal Recruiting; Paralegal Services; Practice Management; Pro Bono; Training & Development; and Women's Initiatives. Chris has over 25 years of law firm experience, including over 15 years at Proskauer, and has served in his current role since 2020. Prior to joining Proskauer, Chris was a practicing lawyer and worked in politics.

Michelle Gomez

Senior Director, Onboarding & Integration, *Littler Mendelson, P.C.*

Michelle Gomez creates and oversees Littler Mendelson, P.C.'s firmwide onboarding and integration programs for all newly hired talent, as well as for individuals moving positions within the firm. She manages all aspects from the first interview through the initial 18 months of employment, including organizing training sessions, serving as a talent liaison to introduce new hires across the firm, and assisting in individual onboarding and integration plans. In addition, Michelle continues to represent and advise employers on a wide variety of employment matters, including claims based on age, race, color, national origin, and sexual discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Michelle is a member of the Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) Steering Committee, a member of the Reunion affinity group for Littler's Latinx attorneys, and a prior co-chair of the SOAR Program which was launched in 2017 and connects a senior attorney mentor with a new diverse attorney mentee. Michelle also co-chairs Littler's Career Advocacy Program (CAP) which is one of the firm's cornerstone IE&D initiatives. The program matches diverse associates (Protégés) with shareholder Advocates who encourage and foster their career growth. The program also includes client Champions who serve as corporate allies and an additional resource to our Protégés. CAP continues to be an integral initiative in helping diverse associates advance to shareholder. Since its inception, CAP has been a tremendous success – over the past nine years, Protégés have represented on average 24% and up to 40% of the new shareholder classes.

Jarrett Green

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

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 with emphases on Neuroscience, Positive Psychology, and Cognitive-Behavioral Psychology. Jarrett has Certifications in Executive Coaching, Mindfulness, and Stress Management. He 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, as well as many Fortune 500 companies, such as U.S. Bank, NBC-Universal, Hyundai Motor Company, Salesforce, and Allstate Insurance Company. With his wife Rebecca Simon Green, he is the co-author of the recently published 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.

Rebecca Green

Well-Being, Stress Resiliency and Peak Performance Consultant and Lecturer in Law, *UC Irvine Law School and Jarrett-Green.com*

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Rebecca Simon Green, Esq., is a mindfulness, well-being, and peak performance consultant to law firms, legal organizations, and law schools. After beginning her career as a full-time law professor at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, California, Rebecca left full-time academia so she could live her passion of transforming the legal industry by helping lawyers, legal professionals, and law students experience less stress and strife, greater happiness and emotional well-being, enhanced cognitive performance, optimized engagement and productivity, improved communication and relationships, and increased overall success in career, and life. Rebecca graduated with honors from both UC Berkeley and Southwestern Law School. She holds a variety of certifications in the fields of well-being and culture change, including a 2-year Mindfulness Teacher Training Program from the UC Berkeley Greater Good Science Center, the Executive Mind series from the Drucker School of Management, Social-Emotional Learning Program from the Greater Good Science Center, and a Certificate in Public Policy from the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Rebecca is one of the pioneers in the field of wellbeing and mindfulness in law. In 2014, she served as the founding Co-Chair of the American Association of Law Schools' (AALS) Mindfulness Affinity Group and in 2015 became the Co-Founder and original Executive Director of the Mindfulness in Law Society. She has taught mindfulness, well-being and performance optimization at law schools and law firms across the globe. From 2014 through 2018, she was an Associate Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School, where she co-led the school's Academic Success and Bar Success programs. She is currently the Co-Director of the nationally-recognized Mindfulness, Stress Management and Peak Performance Program, founded at Southwestern Law School, before moving to University of Southern California ("USC") School of Law in 2018. In addition to teaching at USC Law School, Rebecca serves as an Adjunct Law Professor at University of California, Irvine School of Law, where she co-created and co-teaches the upper-division elective course, "Happiness and Peak Performance in Law School." Rebecca regularly lectures at law schools across the nation. Rebecca is also the co-creator of the Bar Peak Performance Program (www.BarPeakPerformance.com), an online Bar Exam preparation program designed to assist bar students optimize their resiliency and cognition in order to pass the exam. Rebecca consults to and leads workshops at nearly half of the AmLaw 100 firms, as well as many Fortune 500 companies. She also has a passion for one-on-one coaching work, and has coached hundreds of law students and lawyers on growing their stress resiliency, enhancing their cognitive performance while under pressure, and finding deeper meaning and purpose in their lives. She is also a sought after keynote speaker and presenter to legal industry organizations from coast to coast, such as the Association of Corporate Counsel, National Health Law Program, National Diversity Counsel, Law School Admission Counsel, National Association for Law Placement, National CLE Regulators Association, and many others. Rebecca is a long-time advocate for the advancement of women in law, business and politics, including spending 13 years on the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus. She has twice served as the Keynote Speaker for the conference of the National Association of Women's Lawyers, and regularly presents to women's bar associations across the country and to women's committees and affinity groups at many of the largest law firms in the country. She has also led executive women's retreats to Rishikesh, India and other locations. Rebecca has a recently published book, along with her husband Jarrett, titled "Happiness and Peak Performance in Law School," and is currently working on her second book, "Happiness and Peak Performance in the Law."

Anu Gupta

Founder & CEO, *BE MORE with Anu*

Anu Gupta is a lawyer, educator, scientist, and the Founder of BE MORE with Anu (BMA), an edtech company that supports organizations actualize their diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) commitments using mindfulness-based tools. He has logged over 10,000 hours of meditation and developed BMA's approach after 15 years of research that was funded by the National Science Foundation, American Heart Association, among others. He has brought BMA's science-backed, compassion-based approach to over 300 organizations reaching over 60,000 professionals impacting over 25 million lives. He serves as a Systems Designer for the Antiracist Development Institute at Penn State Dickinson Law and is a sought-after expert in breaking bias, behavior change, and wellbeing. He has extensively written and spoken about his work, including on the TED stage, SxSW, the Oprah Conversation, Fast Company, and Newsweek. Prior to founding BMA, he worked as a transactional attorney, legal

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scholar, and a human rights advocate in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Anu is also a trained yoga (500-hours) and meditation teacher. He recently completed an advanced two-year meditation training on “Exploring the Heart of Freedom” at Insight Meditation Society and is a student of Taoist Tai Chi master, Ilchi Lee. Anu’s meditations can be found on the Insight Timer, Open, and the Ten Percent Happier apps for free. He obtained his JD from NYU Law, where he was a Root-Tilden Scholar, an MPhil in Development from Cambridge, and a BA in International Relations & Islamic Studies from NYU. Learn more: bemorewithanu.com and [@bemorewithanu](https://twitter.com/bemorewithanu).

Niteesha Gupte

Executive Coach and Director, Partner Practice Group, *Major, Lindsey & Africa*

Niteesha Gupte is a recruiter in the law firm partner practice with Major, Lindsey & Africa and an executive coach. Niteesha was a practicing lawyer for nearly 15 years in the health care and life sciences industries before she transitioned into career and leadership coaching in 2017. Last year, she added legal recruiting to round out her experience in talent development. Niteesha began her legal career with the federal government in the Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General. She transitioned to Epstein Becker & Green as an associate and then moved in-house for the bulk of her legal career at global companies including Pfizer and Hill-Rom. As a coach she has had varied experiences, including working as the internal coach for attorneys at Paul Hastings, conducting mock interviews for and coaching Penn Carey Law School students, and serving as a career coach at a start-up financial institution focused on women’s financial and career wellness. Niteesha received her coaching certification from the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching (iPEC) and is an International Coaching Federation (ICF) certified coach. She received her JD with a certificate in Health Law from Saint Louis University School of Law and her MPH with a focus in Behavioral Science and Health Education from Saint Louis University School of Public Health. She has her BA from Washington University in St. Louis.

Sarah Hadjimarkos

Director of Legal Training and Development, *Fenwick & West LLP*

Sarah Hadjimarkos is the Director of Legal Training and Development at Fenwick & West LLP. In this role, Sarah oversees firmwide legal professional skills training, as well as substantive training across practice groups, including both corporate and litigation. Prior to joining Fenwick, Sarah worked on the law school side, where she spent one year at University of Wisconsin Law School’s career services offices and six additional years teaching Legal Research and Writing to Wisconsin’s 1Ls. In the early days of her career, Sarah litigated at Gibson Dunn and also taught high school English at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. (This love of teaching and the law might just explain her somewhat insane career path.) Sarah earned her bachelor’s degree in Theater from Northwestern University, and her J.D. from University of San Diego. She also received her single subject teaching credential through UCLA’s Teacher Education Program. She currently serves as a co-Vice Chair of the Lawyer/Law Student Professional Development Collaboration sub-section of NALP’s Professional Development section.

Kara Hardin

, *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.

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David Henderson

Partner, *Ellwanger Henderson LLP*

David Henderson has nearly three decades of experience in high-profile communication-based roles, including 20 years as a trial attorney during which he has tried over 70 jury cases to a verdict. Previously, he served as an associate at Vinson & Elkins, LLP, an international law firm with approximately 700 lawyers worldwide, and then as a prosecutor in the Special Crimes Division of the Bexar County's District Attorney's office. Currently, he serves as a civil rights attorney at Ellwanger Henderson LLLC, specializing in civil rights, discrimination in the workplace, and fighting for sexual assault survivors. He is also a CNBC contributor who regularly provides legal analysis on CNBC and MSNBC. David joined Toastmasters International in 2007, and in 2010 he was named World Champion of Public Speaking in a competition of more than 30,000 elite speakers from 113 countries.

Jennifer Henfey

Associate Dean for Professional Development and Leadership, *Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law*

Jennifer Henfey is the Associate Dean for Professional Development and Leadership at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. At Villanova, Jennifer sets the strategic vision for and leads the implementation of the professional development and leadership curriculum, career services, and pro bono and public service initiatives for students and alumni. She services as a member of the Dean's leadership team and participates in several leadership committees focused on student formation and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Jennifer joined Villanova after practicing at a large law firm in Philadelphia where she served on the firm's recruiting and retention committee and chaired the committee as the firm's hiring partner.

Alice Hickling

Neuroscience Researcher, *University College of London*

Alice is a cognitive neuroscientist at University College London. She is interested in understanding how our beliefs and memories can impact our decision making.

Fiona Hornblower

President & CEO, *The NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education*

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 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.

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Steve Hughes

President, *Hit Your Stride, LLC*

Steve Hughes is a sought-after speaker and consultant who helps people look and sound smart when they talk. He's the author of "Captivate" and he has been featured on NPR, BBC Radio, CBS and in The Wall Street Journal and Businessweek. He is the proud creator of "International Be Kind to Lawyers Day" which is celebrated annually on the second Tuesday in April. Today he works with a select list of blue-chip clients including Am Law 200 firms, leading universities, national associations, and Fortune 500 companies. Steve holds a BA in French Literature and European History from the University of Kansas and an MBA in Marketing from Washington University's Olin School of Business, where he was awarded the prestigious Olin Cup.

Nicholas Jelfs-Jelf

CEO, *Volta + Thine*

Nicholas Jelfs-Jelf leads the team at Volta + Thine as the company's CEO. As a consultant, Nicholas advises law firms on key talent-related initiatives such as competency development, performance management, and upward reviews. Nicholas also coaches partners and senior business services professionals on leadership, people management and business development. He supports firms in developing and building coaching cultures and authors the Volta Coaching Insights Survey, a biennial industry report on trends and developments in the use of coaching in law firms. By background, Nicholas is a lawyer, and former partner and law firm executive. He led the talent function as CHRO of a global law firm and has held other senior business services roles within law firms in the US, UK and Hong Kong. He has professional certifications in HR (SHRM-SCP and GPHR) and is trained and certified as both an individual and team coach (through the NeuroLeadership Institute and Brown University) and is credentialed by the International Coaching Federation.

Ann Jenrette-Thomas

Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, *Stinson LLP*

Ann oversees the implementation of the Stinson's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, taking an innovative approach when it comes to addressing challenges within the firm and the profession relating to diversity and inclusion. Her two-pronged approach centers on individual responsibility—equipping people with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to create an inclusive environment—and eradicating the effects of bias through systems and process. She addresses structural bias by continuously evaluating the firm's policies, practices and norms and identifying unique methods to achieve desired outcomes. When she noticed that diverse attorneys and law students were often foreclosing opportunities simply because they did not know the "unwritten rules" for success in the profession, Ann created Big Law Success: The Inside Scoop for Law Students and New Lawyers, a five-part podcast that demystifies how to thrive in big law. Ann also led a multi-stop roadshow to law schools in order to educate diverse law students on the importance of a strong personal brand, and has worked with several organizations on diversifying the law school pipeline. Among numerous publications and presentations throughout her career, Ann penned the Amazon best seller, *The Happy Law Practice: Expert Strategies to Build Business and Maintain Peace of Mind*. Prior to joining Stinson, Ann was a diversity and inclusion consultant, an attorney at an Am Law 100 firm, a judicial clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and a legislative attorney for the New York City Council. She was also president and CEO of a nonprofit organization.

Tasneem Khokha

Managing Director, *GrowthPlay*

Tasneem K. Khokha has spent over 20 years as an executive leader in the professional services space working with lawyers and other professionals to grow their businesses by helping firms make the most of their relationships

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with their clients, their talent, and their recruits. Prior to joining GrowthPlay, Tasneem was a partner and the Director of Marketing at Katten Muchin Rosenman, where she led the firm's marketing and business development team. Tasneem previously practiced law in the corporate department of Latham & Watkins and the restructuring group of Kirkland & Ellis. Clients value Tasneem's prior experience as a practicing professional and executive leader in professional services organizations, as well as her relentlessly optimistic approach. Tasneem speaks frequently on topics related to new business development, selling professional services, marketing, client experience, leadership, diversity, and women in professional services. She has spoken at several law schools, including Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, University of Chicago Law School, and University of Illinois College of Law. Tasneem graduated from the University of Chicago Law School and earned her Bachelor's degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago. Tasneem serves on the board of directors of Latinos Progresando, a Chicago-based nonprofit that provides immigration legal services.

Abigail Lauer Litow

Partner, *Kirkland & Ellis LLP*

Abigail Lauer Litow, J.D., is a Partner in the Intellectual Property Group at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP. She represents clients in high-stakes litigation primarily related to patent infringement, and she also has experience in matters related to trade secrets and antitrust. She returned to work from her second maternity leave in January 2023 following the birth of her twin daughters and is navigating the demands of her job while caring for three children under the age of four. Ms. Litow earned her law degree from Harvard Law School and an undergraduate degree in Biology from the College of William and Mary.

Sang Lee

Chief Growth & Strategy Officer, *Volta Talent Strategies*

Sang Lee brings more than two decades of experience in law practice, recruitment, training, coaching, and organizational development to her work at Volta Talent Strategies and Thine Solutions. She is a go-to advisor on every aspect of legal talent management for AmLaw 200 firms and other sophisticated legal-sector employers. Sang's expertise spans a wide range of topics pertaining to legal practice and talent management, including personal branding, employee growth and retention, lawyer recruitment and integration, leadership competencies, and industry culture. Her book, "Owning the Awkward: Talent Management Strategies that Actually Work" will 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, and credentialed by the International Coaching Federation (*ICF). She is certified to administer psychometric assessments, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® (MBTI®), EQ-i 2.0, EQ 360, DiSC®, and the Modern Lawyer Competency Index™. Sang has served on a number of non-profit boards, is currently a Trustee of Poly Prep Country Day School, and member of the Parent Leadership Council at Haverford College. She was honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Greater New York in 2019, named to the Fastcase 50 in 2021, and recognized by Lawdragon as a Global Top 100 Leader in Legal Strategy and Consulting in 2021 and 2022. Sang serves on the inaugural Diversity Council of the Practicing Law Institute (PLI).

Tim Leishman

Principal, *Firm Leader Inc.*

Tim Leishman is a principal of Firm Leader Inc. and has been consulting with law firms for 25 years, including with more than a third of the Global 100 law firms. Prior to consulting, Tim was a practicing lawyer and partner with management responsibilities in a leading business law firm. Tim designs advanced training programs for partners and lawyers at all levels in leadership and management skills, including practice group and team leadership,

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delegation and supervision, feedback and coaching, and client development. Tim consults with law firms on all aspects of talent strategy.

Jason Levin

Speaker, Trainer and Coach, *Ready Set Launch LLC*

Jason Levin is the founder of Ready, Set, Launch, LLC® where he is a speaker, trainer, career and business development coach. He has broad career experience in brand management at Unilever, consulting at Accenture and law firm branding sales at Vault.com. Levin has been helping his clients land jobs, get promotions, and build legal practices since 2011. He has had a lifelong interest in keeping in touch, which is why he wrote *Relationships to Infinity: The Art and Science of Keeping in Touch*. Jason is married to a lovely red-headed attorney and have two adorable red-headed sons.

Jayson Levine

Resource Manager, *Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP*

Jayson Levine is a recovering eDiscovery Program leader with over a decade of Big Law and Consulting firm. He has experience running everything from large scale eDiscovery teams, smaller consulting pods, and being the agent of change to roll out new technologies at both Big Law and Consulting firms. In his current role he is charged with the oversight, development, and expansion of the US Work Allocation program at BCLP. Jayson is focused on ushering in a new era of people first, technology driven work allocation. His mission is to help move the culture of the legal industry forward with a more balanced, empathetic, equitable, and in-turn profitable approach to Fee Earner Work Allocation. Outside of his role at BCLP, Jayson is an avid runner, snowboarder, cyclist, has a heavy interest in digital assets/crypto markets and is a novice urban gardener.

Allen Liedkie

Head of Business Development - US, *Steps Drama Learning Development*

Allen is a very experienced actor-facilitator, lead facilitator and experiential drama-based learning program designer. Allen has worked across all levels within businesses and firms, including with senior management, senior partner groups and global leaders. Clients he has worked with include Dechert, White & Case, Butler Snow, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, Dentons, Debevoise & Plimpton, Goodwin's, the Lex Mundi Group, Penguin Random House, IBM, Oxford University Press, Morgan Stanley, HSBC, UBS, ING and more. Allen received his BA in Communication Arts from Austin College in Texas and his MA from East 15 School of Acting in the UK. As well as having an extensive background in film, theatre, television and radio, Allen has used his skills as a volunteer to support the LGBTQ mental health sufferers by serving as the drama group leader for Mind UK's Islington drop-in center. He worked with the services users to use drama-based approaches to improve their mental health. Allen is the Head of Business Development for the US at Steps. He is also a producer and the host of the Steps to Change podcast. www.stepsdrama.com/podcasts

Marlon Lutfiyya

Director of Talent & Diversity, *Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP*

Marlon is the Director of Talent & Diversity at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP. In that role, he helps lead and advance the ongoing development and implementation of the firm's recruiting, professional development and diversity strategies. As a former litigator, Marlon brings strategic and innovative thinking to the areas of recruitment, professional development and diversity & inclusion. He is on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Law Placement, and is a member of the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals, and the

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Professional Development Consortium. He previously served as the Vice Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the ABA's Law Practice Division and was appointed to the Law Practice Division's Attorney Well-Being Committee.

Laurie Lyte

Director, Professional Development & Planning, *Maryland Office of the Attorney General*

Laurie Lyte serves as Director of the Professional Development and Planning Division at the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, where she develops and implements continuing legal education programming for the office's attorneys and professional staff. Previously she served as an Assistant Attorney General in the office's Contract Litigation Unit and for the Retirement Systems. Laurie is a frequent presenter with the National Association of Attorneys General and other organizations on a variety of topics, including management and leadership development, resilience, well-being, ethics, career development, trial advocacy, and litigation skills. She serves as Leadership Development Counsel for the District of Columbia Bar's John Payton Leadership Academy and as an Assistant Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania. Laurie is qualified as an executive coach holding a PCC certification, working with attorneys and other professionals, and helping them achieve their professional and personal goals. Laurie previously worked for the U.S. Army Contracting Command Europe in Wuerzburg, Germany, where she trained civilian and military personnel in federal and local procurement, contingency contracting, and standards of conduct. Prior to that, Laurie was in private practice specializing in professional liability defense litigation. Laurie is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut (B.A.); the University of Baltimore School of Law (J.D.); the University of Texas at Dallas's Jindal School of Management (M.Sc. in Organizational Behavior and Executive Coaching); and the University of Pennsylvania (Masters in Applied Positive Psychology).

Janell Mallard

Director of Legal Talent, *Wiley Rein LLP*

Janell Mallard has over 16 years of experience in legal recruitment and professional development and is currently the Director of Legal Talent at Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, DC. Janell is responsible for the executive level direction of the firm's legal talent strategy and leads a team focused on strategies for attorney recruiting and professional development. Janell is an active member of the National Association of Law Placement (NALP), the Professional Development Consortium (PDC), and the Washington Area Legal Recruitment Administrators Association (WALRAA). She has served as a member of the NALP Research Advisory Group and is a faculty member of the 2022 and 2023 Newer Professionals' Forum.

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.

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Diana Mercer

Director, *Loyola University New Orleans College of Law*

Diana Mercer graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2002. She was a member of the Loyola Law Review and a William Crowe Scholar. Her casenote, "Preserving Continuity and Fairness: The Louisiana Supreme Court Limits Deviation from Child Support Guidelines," was published in the Spring 2001 (47 Loy. L. Rev. 885 (2001)). 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 returned to Loyola in 2012 as a Career Advisor in the Career Development Office. She was appointed Director of the Career Development Office in May 2015. 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).

Lori Mihalich-Levin

CEO & Founder, *Mindful Return*

Lori Mihalich-Levin, JD, is the CEO and founder of Mindful Return, author of *Back to Work After Baby: How to Plan and Navigate a Mindful Return from Maternity Leave*, and co-host of the *Parents at Work* Podcast. She is also the Chair of the inaugural DC Chapter of Postpartum Support International (PSI). Lori is mama to two wonderful red-headed boys (ages 10 and 12) and is a health care lawyer in private practice. Prior to founding her own law firm, The GME Group, she worked as a Partner at Dentons and an Associate at two other AmLaw 100 firms. She now practices law in approximately 10% of her professional work week and runs Mindful Return in the other 90%. Her thought leadership has been featured in publications including *Forbes*, *The Washington Post*, *New York Times Parenting*, and *Thrive Global*. Ms. Mihalich-Levin holds a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center and completed her undergraduate studies at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.

Kelly Mixon Morgan

Chief Legal Performance Officer, *Barnes & Thornburg*

Kelly Mixon Morgan works closely with firm leadership to create strategic talent development solutions in order to establish a learning environment that facilitates success. As chief legal performance officer, she believes in managing change through effective planning, communication and educational programming. Kelly has more than 20 years of experience in attorney recruiting, professional development, wellness, and diversity with mid-sized regional and international law firms. She specializes in helping firms design a comprehensive attorney development vision and strategy, fostering the firm's culture, and enhancing legal talent engagement. Active in the legal talent arena, she has served in numerous leadership roles and shares her insight as a frequent speaker at industry conferences.

Traci Mundy Jenkins

Director of Career Development, *Venable LLP*

Traci Mundy Jenkins is the Director of Career Development at Venable LLP where she created a firm-wide program for approximately 300 associates focused on various components of their career advancement. As part of the Professional Development and Training Department, Traci's support includes the onboarding and integration of recent law school graduates and lateral associates through individual advising and coaching, small group discussions, presentations on critical professional skills, and highlighting the firm's well-being initiatives. She works with associates to develop their annual self-assessments, in part based on applicable competencies. Traci also

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provides guidance to partners and other firm leaders to assist with their associate interactions. Prior to returning to Venable in 2018, the law firm where she started her legal practice as a commercial litigation associate, Traci was the Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development at American University Washington College of Law where she spent 15 years working with law students and alumni on all aspects of their career progression. She was also a founder and managing partner of a legal recruiting and consulting company.

Kay Nash

Chief Talent Officer, *Wiley Rein*

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.

Jennifer Rakstad

Americas Senior Learning & Development Manager, *White & Case*

Jennifer Rakstad is the Americas Senior Learning & Development Manager at White & Case, where she works closely with a global team and leads the Learning & Development function in the Americas region. Jennifer has over 15 years of experience in talent development and eight years as a practicing attorney in AmLaw 100 firms. Jennifer is Professional Certified Coach (PCC) through the International Coach Federation – certified through the Hudson Institute of Coaching. Jennifer oversees the White & Case Coaching Office, winner of the 2022 Financial Times Innovation in People Skills and Management award, which provides coaching to lawyers and business services professionals globally. Jennifer has developed and delivered training programs for lawyers and firm clients in the U.S. and globally on topics including Creating and Executing Career Plans and Business Plans; The Art of Communication, Time Management, Delegation and Feedback; Lawyer Well-Being; Effective Networking and Business Development,. Jennifer is certified in the Hogan Leadership Assessment and MBTI and developed an innovative global group coaching program for senior associates focused on career and business development. As a recognized thought leader, Jennifer is a frequent writer and presenter on a wide range of professional development topics, including at the NALP and PDI education conferences.

Julie Remer

Owner / Executive & Neurodiversity Coach, *Amicus Coaching, LLC*

Active in the California legal community since 1998, Julie Remer has successfully advised attorneys on a range of topics including leadership, management, communication, utilizing mentorship and sponsorship opportunities, business development, career transition, and thriving with neurodiversity. Prior to her coaching work, Julie was a litigator with McKenna Long & Aldridge (now Dentons) and practiced at several recognized regional law firms in Southern California. A graduate of UCLA School of Law, Julie is admitted to the State Bar of California. She completed her coach training with the Coaches Training Institute, (CTI), the oldest and largest coach training program in the world, and trained to coach neurodiverse people with the late Carol Gignoux, a pioneer in the field

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of ADHD coaching and author of *Your Innovator Brain: the Truth about ADHD*. Julie is a mom to two neurodiverse teenagers and was herself diagnosed with ADHD as an adult.

Benjamin Reyes

Associate, *Blank Rome LLP*

Benjamin Reyes, JD, is a litigation associate in the Washington, DC, office of Blank Rome LLP. At his firm, he is a member of Blank Rome's parent support group, BR Parents, and Blank Rome's AAPI affinity group BR Asians. He is a newly-minted 2022 graduate from law school and entered the legal profession as a new father to his daughter Ayla born in August 2022. Since joining Blank Rome, Mr. Reyes has been navigating the challenges of starting a new career in a big law firm, taking paternity leave after such a short tenure, and balancing the demands of being a new associate and a new father. Mr. Reyes holds a law degree from the American University Washington College of Law, worked as a federal employees in the Department of Homeland Security for eight years prior to going to law school, and completed his undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley.

Denise Robinson

Founding Principal, *The Still Center LLC*

Denise A. Robinson (she/her) is a diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI) and well-being consultant, yoga teacher, and former practicing labor & employment attorney. Through her consultancy, The Still Center LLC, Denise performs cultural assessments, provides strategic advice, and delivers training on DEI, well-being, and other talent development topics. In addition, she has directed benchmarking surveys and other think tank projects to advance DEI in the workplace. Before starting her consultancy, Denise served as the Director of Diversity & Inclusion for O'Melveny & Myers LLP and subsequently, the Diversity Officer for the International Monetary Fund. Denise has been teaching yoga asana and meditation classes for over a decade and applies her knowledge and experience with these contemplative practices to her DEI work. Denise earned her undergraduate degree in philosophy from Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College, and she is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, where she served as the chapter president of the Black Law Students Association and a student advocate in the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic.

Dani Rosetti

Chief Talent Officer, *Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney*

Danielle L. Rosetti oversees all aspects of attorney and law student recruiting across the firm's 15 offices and is in charge of the growth and training of the firm's lawyers. As Chief Talent Officer, Dani is responsible for hiring at the shareholder and counsel level by attracting highly credentialed individuals and group practices to strategically grow the current ranks. She advises on expansion efforts and works closely with the firm's Lateral Recruiting and Advisory Committees. By managing attorney integration plans, Dani champions the transition process of new shareholder and counsel attorneys through their first months at the firm. Dani has been a guest speaker at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, the Phoenix College of Law and American University Washington College of Law and has been a panelist for programming at the Professional Development Institute and the American Conference Institute. Dani is a member of the Junior League of Washington. While in Arizona, she served on the Board of Phoenix Day School and held a leadership role in the Sandra Day O'Connor Inn of Court.

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Diana Ross

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

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.

Amanda Salazar

Steps Associate, *Steps Drama Learning Development*

Amanda has worked as a consultant and educator in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion space for the past decade, specializing in using drama to facilitate behavior change. Amanda has partnered with Steps since 2013 as a facilitator, designer and actor, working largely in the legal and finance sector. Clients include Morgan Stanley, Milbank, White & Case, HSBC, Nomura Bank and Simon Business School. Amanda will be spending summer 2023 at Great River Shakespeare Festival as the Director of Inclusion and Engagement as well as the on-site Mental Health Coordinator. For more information please visit: www.theamandasalazar.com.

Patti Scott

Director of Professional Development, *Lowenstein Sandler LLP*

Patti Scott oversees and provides strategic direction for all aspects of lawyer career development, including performance feedback, coaching and mentoring, orientation, training and CLE, promotions, and other career transitions. In addition to aiding the attorneys, she is a leader in the design and rollout of Lowenstein University, a platform that delivers robust learning opportunities for lawyers, staff, clients, alumni, and other friends of the firm. Patti also creates and delivers training programs for Lowenstein's support staff on topics ranging from performance management to the development of trust. Patti has extensive experience on the change management front and plays an active role in the firm's Diversity and Inclusion initiatives. Prior to joining Lowenstein, Patti was a litigator handling employment and civil rights litigation. She also served as a member of the Passaic County District XI Ethics Committee and a trustee of the Passaic County Bar Association. Prior to joining Lowenstein, Patti was a litigator handling employment and civil rights litigation. She also served as a member of the Passaic County District XI Ethics Committee and a trustee of the Passaic County Bar Association.

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

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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 and holds Master's degrees from Fordham University and St. Andrews University.

Krystal Studavent Ramsey

Director of Diversity & Inclusion, *Blank Rome*

Krystal Studavent Ramsey serves as Blank Rome's Director of Diversity and Inclusion. In this role, she manages the diversity and inclusion function and takes an integrated and metrics-driven approach to developing and advancing Blank Rome's diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") firm-wide strategy. She manages a team of diversity and inclusion professionals and works collaboratively with firm leaders, legal talent and human resources, marketing and business development, IT, and other key stakeholders to implement the DEI strategy, increase diversity, foster inclusion, drive business and cultural growth, and establish fair and equitable workplace processes, practices, and policies, across a workforce of 1000+ and 14 offices. She serves as a strategic adviser and coach, internally and externally (with clients, strategic partners, and professional organizations). She serves on Blank Rome's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, working closely with the Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chairs, and as a member of Blank Rome's firmwide Strategic Planning Committee. Krystal is an award-winning DEI leader with 15 years of DEI experience across the legal industry (e.g., Big Law, consulting, business development and marketing, recruiting, professional development, program management, nonprofit). Previously, she served as General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Business Affairs for Music World Entertainment, Beyonce's home record label and management company. Krystal earned a B.S. in Social Justice, with a minor in English, from Texas Southern University, and her J.D. from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, one of the most diverse law schools in the country. She is a certified professional, receiving her organizational change management certification from Wharton and DEI workplace certification from Cornell.

Erin Tasnady

Senior Manager of Professional Development, *Shearman & Sterling LLP*

Erin Tasnady is the Senior Manager, Professional Development at Shearman & Sterling LLP where she is responsible for all aspects of the firm's lawyer and business services training and development initiatives, including training, mentoring, wellbeing, entry-level associate onboarding and integration, morale initiatives, associate reviews, and CLE compliance. She has a particular passion for helping to advance and promote wellbeing for lawyers and business services professionals alike.

Shane Taylor

Project & Design Manager, *Steps Drama Learning Development*

Shane Taylor is a skilled speaker, trainer, facilitator, and coach with a passion for helping people improve and strengthen their personal impact using communication skills. For more than 10 years, he has worked with clients in the United States and abroad to strengthen their ability to build relationships, improve customer service, impact the bottom line, negotiate, navigate difficult conversations, lead teams, coach, strengthen confidence, and command a room. Having worked all over the United States and beyond, including Canada, the United Kingdom, and Austria, Shane is comfortable with national and international groups alike.

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Suzanne Thomas

Director, Talent (Learning), *Dentons Canada LLP*

Suzanne Thomas has worked in the areas of law firm professional development and talent management since 2011. Her law firm talent career has seen her create and deliver programs touching on every part of the lawyer career life cycle. Whether it's the design and execution of recruitment campaigns, or the development and management of student and associate programs, or the creation and oversight of internal professional development initiatives, Suzanne is always looking for innovative ways to help people achieve their professional and personal goals. Her true passion has always been learning and development, and in her current role as the Director, Talent (Learning) for Dentons Canada, Suzanne works closely with lawyers, leadership, and business services teams to deliver programming for all firm members focused on the capabilities professionals will need to be successful in the law firm of the future. In her spare time, Suzanne is a volunteer board member with a leading arts organization in her community and an avid concert goer with a particular interest in alternative music from the 80s & 90s. Prior to embarking on her law firm talent management journey, Suzanne practiced law in Alberta for 13 years.

Simon Thomson

Director, *Steps Drama Learning Development*

Simon is an owner and Director of Steps and sits on the board. He has spent over 30 years working in learning and development in both corporate and educational settings. He joined Steps formally in 2002 with responsibility for managing client relationships and business development. He is responsible at Board level for developing Step's work in the US. He is also a Client Relationship Director for a number of top-tier global US clients. He leads our work for several major US law firms including, Skadden, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson and Debevoise & Plimpton. He has also previously worked with the ALFDP. A large part of his client work includes a focus on Diversity and Inclusion, Inclusive Leadership and Unconscious Bias. Some of this work was recently cited by AMLaw as being responsible for making significant improvements to gender parity at partner level at Dechert. Simon also sat on the City HR Steering group, hosted by the Bank of England, which looked at Diversity in the City of London. He was also a member of BP's Diversity and Inclusion Faculty initiated after the Deep-Water disaster. Simon has a BA (Hons) degree in Performance Arts from Middlesex University and subsequently trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. He ran his own storytelling company before joining Steps where he worked primarily with social services and in educational settings facilitating work with the homeless, refugees and young people in care.

Julie Tran

Senior Director of Talent, *Vinson & Elkins*

Julie Tran is the global Senior Director of Talent at Vinson & Elkins where she oversees the attorney talent life-cycle: integration, engagement, training and career development, diversity, equity, and inclusion, wellness, and alumni relations. Julie has more than 16 years of experience in all areas of law firm talent management, including with strategic planning, change management, innovation, inclusive leadership, and team development. She serves as an advisor to attorneys and business professionals at all levels of the organization on talent strategies, programs, and initiatives. In 2022, Julie introduced the Attorney Development team, comprised of business professionals embedded within practice groups, who implement targeted talent development strategies in collaboration with Practice Group Leaders and Talent/Diversity Leads. Attorney Development professionals, many of whom are former practicing lawyers, are focused on promoting a culture of feedback and encouraging proactive career development plans. They meet regularly with their associates to check-in on their experience and offer support using a coaching approach. Julie is passionate about helping people succeed and developing genuine, respectful relationships. Working across talent functions, she seeks to deliver an integrated talent experience

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where all lawyers and business professionals are valued, feel a sense of belonging, and have equal opportunities to reach their highest potential.

Josh Troy

Director of Talent Management, *Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP*

Josh Troy serves as Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP's Director of Talent Management and is responsible for managing and supporting the firm's talent needs. This includes responsibility for helping build a high-performance culture through focused training and development, retention of talented and diverse attorneys and professional staff, and integration of the firm's overall strategic goals and objectives. In addition, Josh is responsible for the assessment of organizational needs and the design and evaluation of programs that facilitate the professional development and continuous learning of the firm's attorneys and professional staff. This includes the development and management of firm leadership programs, attorney and business development programs, mentoring programs, staff development programs, IT projects, and other talent initiatives, including additional resources and content for associates and emerging leaders. Josh also participates in special projects for the Firm Chair, the Executive Committee, and the Chief Operating Officer. Josh has over 15 years of law firm experience in professional development and recruiting, as well as practicing as a litigation associate early on in his career. He is also currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Professional Development Consortium (PDC). Prior to joining Kilpatrick Townsend, Josh was Director of Attorney Professional Development in the New York City office of an Am Law 100 firm. Josh is a speaker at various conferences and webinars for the PDC and National Association for Law Placement (NALP). He also is a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Law School Mentor. Josh received his J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science from Brown University.

Nk Udogwu

Director of Legal Resources & Integration, *Mayer Brown LLP*

Nk Udogwu, is recovering big law associate that specializes in legal talent management & development in the professional development space. She has held various positions at notable law firms covering most of the attorney life-cycle – including recruiting, new hire integration, diversity, equity and inclusion, attorney professional development and post-practice transition. She is regarded as a subject matter expert in strategic work allocation and resource management, a change management expert, strategic leader, DEI Champion and an “Alien Superstar”. Nk has been a certified professional coach (CPC) since 2017 and is passionate about maximizing the full potential of individuals and facilitating the success of others.

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

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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.

Emily Whelden

Team Coach, *Dixon Life Coaching*

Emily Whelden is an attorney-turned-coach who has trained extensively in ADHD coaching with Casey Dixon. Emily left the practice of law to become a coach to other lawyers and high achievers with ADHD or chronic illnesses. She has worked with dozens of attorneys with ADHD, including associates, partners, and a member of the federal judiciary. Before beginning her coaching career, Emily worked for six years as an attorney doing civil litigation, probate administration, and legal guardianship work. She has extensive appellate advocacy experience, including presenting oral argument before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Emily is the lead coach for The Focused Lawyer group coaching program where lawyers with ADHD learn to identify how ADHD symptoms are getting in the way of their work and design systems to mitigate these impacts. In this role, Emily develops materials, moderates our group messaging platform, facilitates live coaching workshops, and mentors support coaches. She also developed and hosts Focused Health ADHD—a 4-week coaching group for people with chronic illness and ADHD, and Planning Power-Up—a 6-hour how-to workshop about planning with ADHD. Emily particularly enjoys working with lawyers and other high achievers who have a new ADHD diagnosis or are struggling with other health concerns in addition to their ADHD. As a former attorney who also has multiple chronic health issues, she understands how difficult it can be to manage life while dealing with ADHD. Emily is a licensed attorney in the District of Columbia.

Adam Wicks

Counsel, *Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney*

Adam Wicks is a strategic, business-minded negotiator and corporate attorney based in Buchanan's Pittsburgh office. Adam's business transactions practice focuses on representing entrepreneurs, emerging and established companies, venture capital and private equity firms, independent sponsors, family offices and other sources of institutional capital in their corporate development, investment and acquisition strategies. Adam also serves as outside corporate counsel to clients ranging from startups to publicly-traded companies, advising on entity formation and corporate governance, financings and offerings, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), fund formation, equity plans, federal and state securities law compliance, commercial matters, and connecting his clients to key professionals and experts in other practice areas within Buchanan as various needs arise. Adam's clients span a variety of industries including software, robotics, security and fire alarm and protection, sports and gaming, medical devices, residential and commercial services, manufacturing, and professional services. Adam has received Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch recognition in the Corporate Law and Securities / Capital Markets Law categories since 2021.

Eva Wisnik

President, *Wisnik Career Enterprises*

Eva Wisnik is a professional trainer. Since launching Wisnik Career Enterprises Inc. in 1996, she has presented over 800 training programs for 120 of the most recognized law firms nationwide. Eva has presented at many NALP Conferences. She teaches attorneys the skills and mindset needed to lead successful and fulfilling careers. Eva Wisnik holds a BA from Columbia University and an MBA from Fordham. She is certified in the Stephen Covey Time Management System and is a certified Health Coach through the Institute for Integrated Nutrition. Eva's career insights led her to write *Your Fairy Job Mentor's Secrets for Success*.

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Emma Zaccarelli

Professional Development Specialist, *Shearman & Sterling LLP*

Emma Zaccarelli is a Professional Development Specialist at Shearman & Sterling LLP where she supports various aspects of the firm's lawyer and business services training and development initiatives, including training, mentoring, wellbeing and assisting with the firm's Associates Committee and Associate Development Partners. She has been with the firm since 2018.