

COURAGEOUS COUNSEL

Conversations
with Women
General Counsel
in the
Fortune 500



By Michele Coleman Mayes and Kara Sophia Baysinger

With a foreword by Judge Judith S. Kaye

Laurie Robinson

Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, CBS Corp.



Following stints as a legal intern with the NFL and as an associate with two New York City labor and employment law firms, Laurie Robinson joined CBS Broadcasting Inc. in 2002 as assistant general counsel, representing nearly 150 television and radio stations in labor, employment, and immigration matters. In a leadership role created for her, she also became director of training and development for the broadcast unit. Crediting the devoted mentorship of Louis J. Briskman, executive vice president and general counsel for CBS Corp., Robinson was promoted in 2006 to vice president and assistant general counsel of CBS Corp., reporting directly to Briskman. She was promoted to senior vice president in 2010.

"I went from seeing only one snapshot of the company to having an overview of all CBS operations," says Robinson, "while the addition of executive and managerial responsibilities has greatly enhanced my skills as an in-house lawyer."

Robinson has also earned national recognition—and significantly expanded her skill set—as CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color, the nonprofit she founded in 2004. "My inspiration was to create a resource for women of color, whom I saw as isolated in the legal profession, to help and inspire each other." Through her considerable efforts, she now counts over 2,500 members around the globe—along with immeasurable benefits to her career. "From sales and marketing to run-

ning a website and organizing conferences, I have learned so many transferable business and leadership skills," says Robinson, her sights set on one day becoming a general counsel or heading up a business unit.

Robinson is unreservedly optimistic about the road ahead for women. "We know where we want to go. And we know that we have the power to control the things within our power to control. Women will be ready when opportunities open up."