



**CORPORATE COUNSEL**  
WOMEN OF COLOR



# LAW FIRM ASSOCIATES

Virtual Career Strategies Conference

**Thursday, June 16, 2022**

**Power Networking Session  
for Law Firm Associates on  
the CCWC Virtual Platform**

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**FRED J. ADAM**  
Partner  
WilmerHale



**SHARIKA SHROPSHIRE**  
Assistant General  
Counsel, Litigation  
Ally



**JAMILA JUSTINE WILLIS**  
Partner  
DLA Piper



**DEBORAH MARTIN OWENS**  
East Coast Diversity Director  
Sidley Austin LLP



**ASHLEY HOWLETT**  
Counsel  
Hogan Lovells



**LUNA BARRINGTON**  
Partner  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP



**JANINE N. SLADE**  
Special Counsel  
Covington & Burling LLP



**MARY AKHIMIEN**  
Assistant General Counsel,  
Senior Vice President  
Bank of America



**ALANNA RUTHERFORD**  
Vice President Legal,  
Global Products & Technology  
Visa

## HOT CONFERENCE TOPICS

- **Managing Your Career During COVID-19**
- **Surviving and Thriving When You Are the Only One**
- **Professional Branding Inside and Outside Your Law Firm**
- **Finding and Using Your Voice for Power**
- **Business Development: Creating a Sustainable Book of Business**
- **Get the Most From Your Annual Performance Evaluation and Feedback**

**REGISTER ONLINE**



[www.ccwomenofcolor.org](http://www.ccwomenofcolor.org)

**And more...**



# LAW FIRM ASSOCIATES

## Virtual Career Strategies Conference

Law firm associates have an unprecedented number of opportunities in today's job market. Now more than ever, it is essential to develop clear goals and strategically pursue opportunities that will advance your career. Attend the CCWC Law Firm Associates Virtual Career Strategies Conference for access to career insights from top attorneys in a variety of roles. From law firm partners to executives, our featured speakers will share strategies they implement to move forward in their careers.

Learn best practices from their career playbooks and plan your next career move. **Join us for tips on how to build a sustainable book of business, maximize your professional brand and thrive during every stage of your legal career.**



**LAURIE ROBINSON HADEN**

.....o.....  
Founder, President and CEO  
Corporate Counsel Women of Color

### AGENDA

10:00 am – 10:30 am	Power Networking Session for Law Firm Associates on the CCWC Virtual Platform		
10:30 am – 11:15 am	COVID-19 and Business Unusual: How Law Firm Associates Can Proactively Manage Their Careers During the Ongoing Pandemic		
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	I Am the Only One or One of a Few: Elevating Your Voice as an Attorney of Color During This Important Time of Change		
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	You Are Unique and Powerful: 5 Steps to Maximize Your Professional Brand Inside and Outside of the Workplace		



**FERLILLIA V. ROBERSON**

Partner  
DLA Piper



**TONYA MAJOR GAUFF**

Partner  
DLA Piper



**SHAUNA C. BRYCE**

Chief Diversity Officer and Chief Legal Talent Officer  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP



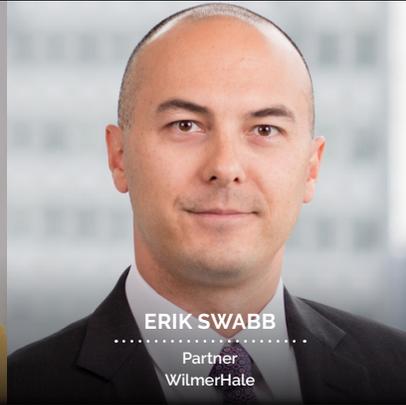
**NAANA FRIMPONG**

Partner  
DLA Piper



**KORI S. CAREW**

Chief Inclusion & Diversity Officer  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP



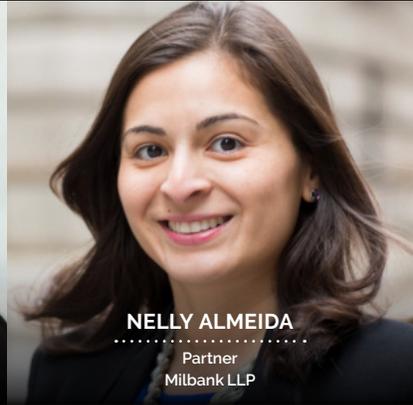
**ERIK SWABB**

Partner  
WilmerHale



**LYNNETTE D. ESPY-WILLIAMS**

Partner and Chief Diversity Officer  
Cozen O' Connor



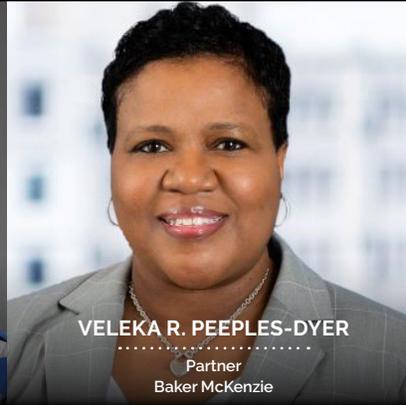
**NELLY ALMEIDA**

Partner  
Milbank LLP



**CARA EDWARDS**

Partner  
DLA Piper



**VELEKA R. PEEPLES-DYER**

Partner  
Baker McKenzie

# FEATURED SPEAKERS

**1:00 pm – 1:45 pm**  
**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**It Is Never Too Early to Start: 5 Steps to Building a Client Base and Sustainable Book of Business**

**1:45 pm – 2:45 pm**

**We Have Traveled in Your Shoes: Empowering Stories of Attorneys of Color Who Survive and Thrive at Law Firms and Corporations**

**2:45 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Preparing for Your Performance Evaluation: Leveraging the Feedback for Your Professional Development**

10:30 am – 11:15 am

## COVID-19 and Business Unusual: How Law Firm Associates Can Proactively Manage Their Careers During the Ongoing Pandemic

Advancing your legal career requires grit, determination and proactive management. Even during a pandemic, you have the power to determine how far your career can go.

In this 45-minute digital session, our featured speakers share strategies on how to:

- Stay visible, get key assignments and advance while working from home.
- Meet your billable hours and get enough quality work to GROW your practice.
- Set career goals and stay on track to meet them.
- Build and maintain relationships with key people while working remotely.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to proactively grow your career whether you're working from the office or a remote location.

SPEAKERS / DEBORAH MARTIN OWENS • SHAUNA C. BRYCE • JAMILA WILLIS

**DEBORAH MARTIN OWENS** is the East Coast Diversity Director at Sidley Austin LLP in New York City. In this role, she develops and implements policies, programs and initiatives that support the firm's DEI goals in its Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. offices. Previously, Deborah was the Executive Director of the New York City Bar Association's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Her professional experience includes advising leaders on diverse membership engagement matters, policies, procedures and best practices for pipeline initiatives. Throughout her career, she has held other positions including Staff Attorney, Campaign Manager and Director of Communications. Deborah serves on the board of Women Creating Change, a non-profit organization that promotes equitable civic engagement for underserved women. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and African American Studies from the University of Albany SUNY and a Juris Doctor from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.



**DEBORAH MARTIN OWENS**

.....  
East Coast Diversity Director  
Sidley Austin LLP



## SHAUNA C. BRYCE

Chief Diversity Officer and Chief Legal Talent Officer  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

**SHAUNA C. BRYCE** is Chief Legal Talent Officer and Chief Diversity Officer with Steptoe & Johnson LLP, an Am Law 100 firm. In these complementary roles, she oversees professional development, talent acquisition, DEI policy development and other community-building initiatives. Shauna is also the founder of Bryce Legal, a career coaching and resume writing firm for lawyers where her clients include leaders in government, Global 100 law firms and Fortune 500 companies. As a former practicing attorney with 25+ years of experience, she has worked in a Global 100 law firm, served on the hiring committee of an Am Law 200 firm and practiced in-house. In addition to authoring books and a blog, Shauna has appeared in publications and events for Forbes Magazine, Bloomberg Law, the American Bar Association, the National Association of Women Lawyers and Harvard Law School. Shauna is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Law School.

**JAMILA JUSTINE WILLIS** is a Partner in DLA Piper’s restructuring group. In this role, she has garnered extensive experience representing debtors in complex restructurings across a variety of industries and borders. Additionally, she represents debtors, sponsors, acquirers and distressed investors in distressed asset sales and distressed acquisitions. Jamila is Co-Chair of DLA Piper’s Consumer Goods and Retail subsector and Chair of the firm’s New York Restructuring Group. She serves on the firm’s Policy Committee and as Chair of the firm’s New York Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Jamila has been recognized for her legal accomplishments by *Bloomberg Law* which acknowledged her achievements with its inaugural *They’ve Got Next: The 40 Under 40 Award*. *Crain’s New York Business* named her to its *2020 Notable Women in Law* list. *M&A Advisor* presented her with its *2019 Emerging Leaders Award*. Jamila was named a *New York Rising Star* by the *New York Law Journal*.



## JAMILA JUSTINE WILLIS

Partner  
DLA Piper

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

# I Am the Only One or One of a Few: Elevating Your Voice as an Attorney of Color During This Important Time of Change

Your expertise, opinions and voice matter during these critical times. It's important to speak up and be heard even if it makes you or other people uncomfortable.

In this 45-minute digital session, our featured speakers will share best practices on how to:

- Rise above other people's perceptions that are based on race and gender.
- Become a thought leader in your industry, law firm and community.
- Silence your inner critic, trust your ideas and know that you have the right to be heard.
- Be your authentic self in the workplace.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn tips and strategies to assert yourself and share your perspectives in any professional setting.

SPEAKERS / KORI S. CAREW • SHARIKA SHROPSHIRE • NAANA FRIMPONG • JANINE N. SLADE

**KORI S. CAREW** is an attorney, TEDx speaker and advocate who generates awareness of critical issues by creating a climate for meaningful dialogue and change. As Chief Inclusion & Diversity Officer at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, she leads the firm's efforts in expanding cultural fluency, inclusive leadership development and diverse recruitment. In this role, she uses advocacy and organizational strategies to address structural barriers to diversity in the workplace. Kori offers an incisive voice, unapologetic questioning of the status quo and a commitment to empowering women and marginalized people. She regularly speaks at national DEI conferences. Her topics include diversity, inclusive leadership, talent engagement and development, authenticity and leveraging power. In 2017, Kori presented a talk at a TEDxYouth@KC event entitled *Just Belonging: Finding the Courage to Interrupt Bias*. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Politics of Underdevelopment from Westmar University and a Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School.



**KORI S. CAREW**

Chief Inclusion & Diversity Officer  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP



## SHARIKA SHROPSHIRE

Assistant General Counsel, Litigation  
Ally

**SHARIKA SHROPSHIRE** is Assistant General Counsel for Ally, a leading online bank and broker-dealer. She is an experienced litigator who handles a variety of matters for Ally. These include litigation and pre-litigation matters related to Ally Bank, Ally Invest and the company's auto business. Previous roles include Senior Counsel (Litigation) for Wells Fargo and Program Director/Attorney for the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy. In these roles, she handled a diverse portfolio of defensive litigation matters. In addition, Sharika is a pro-bono enthusiast and was recognized by the *Charlotte Business Journal* as the recipient of their *2020 Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award*. She is a prolific public speaker and enjoys the opportunity to speak with law students and the next generation of minority and women attorneys. Sharika earned an undergraduate degree in corporate finance from the University of South Carolina and a Juris Doctor from the Duke University School of Law.

**NAANA FRIMPONG** is a Partner with DLA Piper. She is a former federal prosecutor with over 17 years of experience conducting a broad array of investigations both in private practice and in the public sector. She has extensive experience defending clients in high-profile civil and criminal matters brought by a wide variety of prosecutors and regulators in the U.S. and in foreign countries as well as across a range of industries. Naana served for four years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. During her tenure as a prosecutor, she served as lead counsel on dozens of felony investigations and prosecutions including various financial fraud schemes and transnational narcotics trafficking matters. Her practice includes white-collar criminal defense, internal investigations and government enforcement actions, compliance consulting, international arbitration and international disputes. Although Naana's practice is global in its reach, she has a particular focus on Africa.



## NAANA FRIMPONG

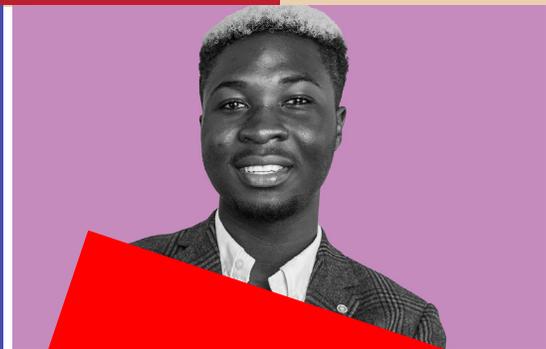
Partner  
DLA Piper



**JANINE N. SLADE** is a Special Counsel with Covington and Burling. In this role, she advises clients on the U.S. national security review process administered by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and reviews conducted by the interagency working group known as Team Telecom. Previously, Janine held several positions at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including Deputy Director, Foreign Investment Risk Management, and Attorney Advisor in the Office of the General Counsel. She advised Department leadership on matters relating to CFIUS and Team Telecom and negotiated national security risk mitigation measures with corporate counsel for companies under review and investigation by CFIUS and Team Telecom. Janine serves on the Board of Directors of the D.C. Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is a graduate of Howard University School of Law.

**JANINE N. SLADE**

.....  
Special Counsel  
Covington & Burling LLP



Nominate a  
Next Gen Millennial  
for the  
CCWC Award

.....  
**NOMINATION DEADLINE:**  
**MAY 31, 2022**



TO NOMINATE, GO TO:  
[WWW.CCWOMENOFCOLOR.ORG](http://WWW.CCWOMENOFCOLOR.ORG)



**NEXT**  
**GEN MILLENNIALS**

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

## You Are Unique and Powerful: 5 Steps to Maximize Your Professional Brand Inside and Outside the Workplace

You've worked diligently to develop a solid professional brand at work. Are you leveraging your brand and reputation to boost your influence and authority in your industry and community?

In this 45-minute digital session, our featured speakers will share strategies on how to:

- Build a professional brand that aligns with your vision for your career.
- Define your unique value proposition and get clear about what you bring to the table.
- Market your successes and tell your story.
- Invest in yourself through training, professional development and industry certifications.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn tips and strategies that you can implement to maximize your professional brand to get noticed in your office, industry and beyond.

SPEAKERS / MARY AKHIMIEN • NELLY ALMEIDA • ASHLEY HOWLETT • ERIK SWABB

**MARY AKHIMIEN** is Assistant General Counsel, SVP for Bank of America. In this role, she is responsible for managing multi-disciplinary processes, high-risk components and complex projects that impact revenue, investments, profitability and expense management. She translates corporate goals to line of business goals that are integrated across the company and proactively advises executive management within Global Human Resources for The Private Bank and Global Banking and Markets. Her professional responsibilities include managing threatened and filed employment-related litigation and partnering with Corporate Audit, Internal Enterprise Investigations and the Employee Relations Investigations Group on various matters involving employee conduct and behavior. Mary is an active member of the Legal Department's Pro Bono Committee. Mary leads various projects that serve the underserved including the Employee Engagement Council, which promotes and encourages department-wide connectivity, communication and engagement around the globe and Power of 10, a small mentoring and networking group of leaders within the firm.



**MARY AKHIMIEN**

Assistant General Counsel, Senior Vice President  
Bank of America



## NELLY ALMEIDA

Partner  
Milbank LLP

**NELLY ALMEIDA** is a Partner in the New York office of Milbank and a member of the firm's Financial Restructuring Group. In this role, she represents creditors, debtors, lenders, official committees, equity holders and in both in- and out-of-court domestic and international corporate restructurings and distressed financings and acquisitions. Most recently, she represented lenders (and ultimate equity owners) in the successful chapter 11 cases of Cirque du Soleil and RentPath Holdings, Inc. and was on the team that structured a number of the groundbreaking financings that enabled US airlines to monetize their loyalty programs and raise billions of dollars. She has committed time to pro bono work in the areas of immigration, asylum, trusts and estates, divorce matters and housing. Sanctuary for Families and The Legal Aid Society have recognized her outstanding pro bono service. Nelly earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Amherst College and a Juris Doctor (cum laude) from the University of Michigan. She is fluent in Spanish.

**ASHLEY HOWLETT** is Counsel with Hogan Lovells at the firm's office in D.C. Her practice focuses on antitrust clearance and mergers and acquisitions. In this role, she helps clients navigate complex antitrust investigations. Ashley also represents clients in matters before federal courts, the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Department of Justice. Clients have included Orbital ATK, KSL Capital Partners and Aetna Inc. She completed a secondment with Verizon Communications where she served as in-house counsel and advised on antitrust matters. Ashley is the co-author of an antitrust compliance treatise published by **Bloomberg Industry Group** as part of its **Corporate Practice** series. She is a member of the American Bar Association. Ashley was recognized in 2021 by **The Best Lawyers in America** on its **Ones to Watch - Antitrust Law** list. She earned a B.S. and an M.B.A. from Hampton University. Ashley is a graduate of Harvard Law School.



## ASHLEY HOWLETT

Counsel  
Hogan Lovells



**ERIK SWABB**

Partner  
WilmerHale

**ERIK SWABB'S** practice focuses on investigations, crisis management and public policy counseling related to defense and national security. Prior to rejoining WilmerHale, he served as General Counsel of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee and Special Adviser to the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State. He is a former U.S. Marine infantry officer. Mr. Swabb has conducted internal investigations and responded to government inquiries for defense contractors and other companies whose businesses intersect national security. These matters have involved a range of issues including regulatory and government contract compliance, the False Claims Act, anti-corruption, sanctions, military operations and congressional oversight. He has counseled clients facing corporate crises, congressional inquiries and other matters at the intersection of law, national security and public policy, drawing on his experience in the U.S. government. Mr. Swabb earned a B.A. in Political Science from Columbia University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



CORPORATE COUNSEL  
WOMEN OF COLOR

Hogan  
Lovells

# ATLANTA 2022



**COMMON**



**LAILA ALI**



**BEVERLY  
JOHNSON**

## 18th Annual Corporate Counsel Women of Color & Hogan Lovells Career Strategies Conference

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm: **LUNCH AND LEARN**

## It Is Never Too Early to Start: 5 Steps to Building a Client Base and Sustainable Book of Business

A strong book of business can add value to your career by making you more attractive to clients and law firms. Business development and sustainability require a long-term strategy that involves networking and building relationships. Now is the time to start building your client base.

In this 45-minute digital session, our featured speakers will share strategies on how to:

- Leverage existing networks to find potential clients.
- Tap into the power of social media channels to share your expertise and expand your reach.
- Sharpen your communication skills and secure speaking engagements that can lead to the acquisition of new clients.
- Hone your skills and provide excellent service to retain existing clients.

Don't miss the opportunity to explore strategies and best practices to build a client base and sustainable book of business.

**SPEAKERS / FRED J. ADAM • ZELDA OWEN • FERLILLIA V. ROBERSON**

**FRED J. ADAM** is a trusted business advisor at WilmerHale. He helps public and private multinational, investment fund and fund portfolio companies and early-stage emerging market companies navigate complex tax issues. Fred advises clients—including those in the pharmaceutical, life sciences, medical device, technology, private equity and financial services, real estate and retail industries—on the taxation and structuring involved in international and domestic tax planning and advisory matters, fund formation and investment transactions, private equity investments, domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, and financings and recapitalizations, as well as venture capital and early-stage investments. He has led countless multi-jurisdictional transactions and planning/advisory projects. His experience includes projects and matters that have touched nearly every country around the world. Fred earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economies of Industrial Societies from University of California (Berkeley) and a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.



**FRED J. ADAM**

Partner  
WilmerHale



## ZELDA OWENS

Chief Executive Officer  
Owens Williams & Associates, LLC

**ZELDA OWENS** is the Founder and CEO of Owens Williams & Associates, an executive career coaching and attorney placement firm. GCs and Executive Management look to her company to find the perfect talent to add to their legal teams. In this role, she coaches lawyers and legal tech professionals in all practice areas, especially emerging fields such as Privacy, Technology, Compliance, Legal Operations and FinTech. Prior to founding her company, Zelda had a successful career working with Fortune 500 companies and their outside counsel placing legal and professional talent. Zelda has held board positions at The Chapin School, Women in eDiscovery, The Masters Conference and Harlem Commonwealth Council. She has been featured in several magazines including *Essence Magazine*, *Black Enterprise* and *The New York Times*. Zelda is the recipient of the *Network Journal's 40 Under 40* business award. She is a native New Yorker and proud graduate of Barnard College.

**FERLILLIA V. ROBERSON** is a Partner at DLA Piper LLP where she handles complex intellectual property litigation and appeals. She represents global companies in diverse industries including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, automotive, industrial equipment and electronics. Ferlillia has represented clients in jury trials for patent and trade secrets, ITC hearings, PTAB post-grant proceedings and before the Federal Circuit. Ferlillia also counsels clients on global IP strategy including patent portfolio management, trade secrets protection and negotiations for IP agreements. She frequently speaks on intellectual property and trade secret issues including on a variety of topics relating to U.S. patent litigation and the legal profession throughout the United States and Asia. She was named as an Emerging Leader by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and has received other prestigious awards. Ferlillia earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law.



## FERLILLIA V. ROBERSON

Partner  
DLA Piper

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

## We Have Traveled in Your Shoes: Empowering Stories of Attorneys of Color Who Survive and Thrive at Law Firms and Corporations

Attorneys of color have overcome numerous challenges to excel in their careers. These empowering stories from law firm partners and corporate executives can help you through the tough times in your career.

In this 60-minute digital session, our featured speakers will share strategies on how to:

- Shift your mindset from survival mode to thriving.
- Create long-term sustainability at law firms and corporations.
- Overcome challenges in the workplace that many women of color face.
- Develop a growth and learning mentality that you can tap into throughout your career.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from these stories told by women of color attorneys who have shattered the glass ceiling and are thriving in their careers.

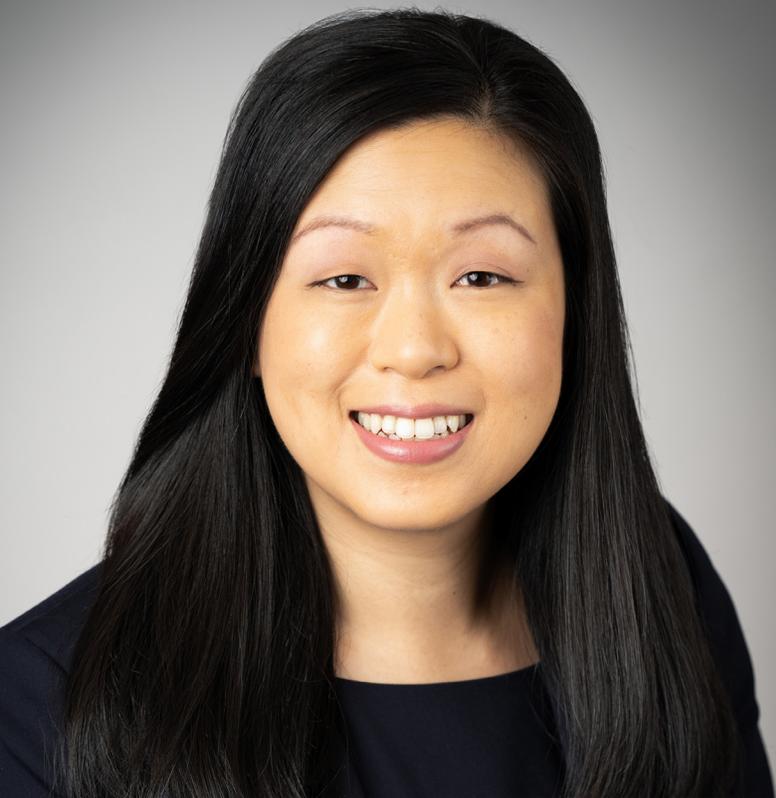
SPEAKERS / LYNNETTE D. ESPY-WILLIAMS • LUNA BARRINGTON • VELEKA R. PEEPLES-DYER  
• CARA EDWARDS • ALANNA RUTHERFORD

**LYNNETTE D. ESPY-WILLIAMS** is a Partner and Chief Diversity Officer with Cozen O'Connor in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Her practice focuses on litigating matters pertaining to mass and complex torts, liability, contract disputes and extracontractual disputes, including defending bad faith claims. In this role, Lynnette provides strategic legal counsel to clients and has extensive experience in defending many high-exposure liability matters. Beyond her work with Cozen O'Connor, she has used her legal background and leadership skills for the betterment of the community. Lynnette is the former President of the Gate City Bar Association, the oldest African American bar association in the state of Georgia. Awards and recognitions include the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's 40 Under 40 Award* and *One of the Most Influential Black Lawyers in the U.S.* accolade by Savoy Magazine. Lynnette earned an undergraduate degree in economics from Spelman College and a J.D. from the University of Maryland.



**LYNNETTE D. ESPY-WILLIAMS**

Partner and Chief Diversity Officer  
Cozen O' Connor



## LUNA BARRINGTON

Partner  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

**LUNA BARRINGTON** is a Partner in Weil’s Complex Commercial Litigation practice, where she has developed a generalist practice that regularly involves high-stakes, bet-the-company cases at all phases of litigation including at trial. She is a rising star who focuses on advising clients on matters that threaten their reputations and businesses including issues involving consumer class actions, antitrust litigation, commercial contract disputes and multi-district litigations. With her unique perspective as a minority and a woman in an elite legal practice, Luna is passionate about shaping the next generation of litigators. She is a role model and a mentor to associates across Weil and is extremely active in the firm and mentorships with other professional organizations, diversity and development initiatives which include serving as co-leader of AsianAttorneys@Weil and a member of the leadership development program at the Asian American Bar Association in New York. She serves as co-chair of AABANY’s Litigation Committee.

**VELEKA R. PEEPLES-DYER** is chair of the North America Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Practice Group for Baker McKenzie and a member of the Firm’s North American Healthcare & Life Sciences Steering Committee. In this role, she counsels clients on a full range of matters including, marketing authorizations, clinical trials and good clinical practices (GCP) and current good manufacturing practices (cGMP), including quality management programs. With more than 25 years of experience as an attorney, she has spent most of her career providing substantive, strategic and practical legal, regulatory, compliance advice and counsel to several biopharmaceutical companies throughout the world. Veleka developed her extensive industry perspective as former senior in-house legal and compliance counsel for leading biopharmaceutical companies in the private sector. She was instrumental in building and managing in-house legal and compliance teams. Veleka is a graduate of Hampton University and the University of South Carolina School of Law.



## VELEKA R. PEEPLES-DYER

Partner  
Baker McKenzie



## CARA EDWARDS

Partner  
DLA Piper

**CARA EDWARDS** is a Partner in DLA Piper's Product Liability and Mass Tort group. In this role, she advises global pharmaceutical, medical device and consumer goods companies in product liability and commercial litigation matters. Cara serves as national counsel in multi-jurisdictional cases in state and federal courts. She has been recognized by **Legal 500** and **Chambers** for her counsel on risk management, regulatory, clinical research, recall and public disclosure issues. As the Co-Managing Partner of the firm's New York office and Co-Chair of the Leadership Alliance for Women, Cara is involved with diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. She is involved with pro bono work focusing on asylum for indigent women and LGBTQ rights. Cara chairs the Board of Day One, a New York City non-profit dedicated to ending intimate partner violence in youth. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University and a Juris Doctor from New York University.

**ALANNA RUTHERFORD** is Vice President and Associate General Counsel of Legal, Global Products & Operations at Visa Inc., where she oversees a team managing the legal work for Payment & Platform Products, which constitutes a majority of the products offered by Visa. She also manages Visa's participation in standards setting bodies and the Visa Rules (the policies and principles that govern the use of Visa payment products). Prior to this role, Alanna was an equity partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, where her primary practice areas were complex civil litigation and antitrust. In addition to being the youngest and first black equity partner at her firm, she has received numerous accolades and honors, including **Crain's 100 Women Leading Lawyers in New York**, **Law 360's Rising Star** and the **National Law Journal's Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award**. Alanna earned an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.



## ALANNA RUTHERFORD

Vice President Legal,  
Global Products & Technology  
Visa

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

## Preparing for Your Performance Evaluation: Leveraging the Feedback for Your Professional Development

Feedback is a powerful tool that you can use to improve your job performance and serve your clients better. Constructive and continuous feedback can help you transform professional shortcomings into growth opportunities.

In this 45-minute digital session, our featured speakers will share best practices on how to:

- Develop the right attitude to receive and welcome feedback.
- Remain coachable and positive after receiving a disappointing performance evaluation.
- Seek out continuous feedback all year long.
- Provide a constructive response to a performance appraisal when you don't agree with the rating.

Don't miss this opportunity to get tips and strategies on how to make the most out of feedback to enhance your career.

SPEAKERS / TONYA MAJOR GAUFF • RASHIDA MACMURRAY-ABDULLAH • CHRISTY HARRIS

**TONYA MAJOR GAUFF** is a Partner with DLA Piper (U.S.). She is an experienced finance lawyer representing a broad range of clients in negotiating various debt transactions. Her finance practice includes assisting public and private borrowers, lenders, investors, financial institutions, real estate investment trusts and private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies. In this role, she is responsible for structuring and negotiating secured and unsecured senior, mezzanine, first lien and second lien, subordinated financings, leveraged buyouts, dividend recapitalizations, workouts, acquisition financings, private debt offerings and general working capital credit facilities. Tonya has extensive experience negotiating and documenting domestic and international subscription-backed credit facilities. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who is licensed in Illinois. Tonya earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from Dillard University, a Master of Professional Accounting from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from Pritzker School of Law at Northwestern University.



**TONYA MAJOR GAUFF**

Partner  
DLA Piper



## RASHIDA MACMURRAY-ABDULLAH

Chief Diversity Officer  
Wiley Rein LLP

**RASHIDA MACMURRAY-ABDULLAH** is Wiley's first Chief Diversity Officer. In this role, she translates the firm's diversity, equity and inclusion goals into strategic action. Throughout her career, Rashida has served in multiple diversity roles and implemented programs that empower professionals from underrepresented groups. She has nearly two decades of experience advising clients at Fortune 500 companies, in the public sector and at law firms. This experience includes capital projects assessments, global corporate investigations, regulatory compliance, forensic accounting and strategic procurement of legal services. She serves as Vice-Chair for the National Bar Association – Commercial Law Section, Secretary and Board member of the Campaign for Fair Sentencing of Youth and Nominations Chair and Board Member for the UVA Ridley Scholarship Program. Rashida earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Virginia. She earned a JD from Rutgers University. In January 2021, Rashida obtained a Certificate with Distinction from Harvard Business Analytics Program.

**CHRISTY HARRIS** is the CEO and Founder of Harris Program and Community Consulting. She also serves on the Board of Corporate Counsel Women of Color. Christy has more than 20 years of public policy and program development experience, which includes over 10 years working for the City of Chicago where she managed citywide initiatives for the Board of the Chicago Public Schools, the third largest school district in the country. Christy has worked with several universities in the Chicago area including the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago State University and National Louis University. Her public policy and non-profit experience extend to the local, state and federal levels and her professional expertise includes communications, program development, leadership and public relations. Christy earned a bachelor's in computer science (with honors) from Hampton University and a Master of Public Policy from University of Chicago, where she co-led a course on leadership development.



## CHRISTY HARRIS

CEO, Harris Programming and  
Community Consulting Program  
Board Member, Corporate Counsel Women of Color