



**LAURIE N. ROBINSON**

Assistant General Counsel  
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**W**HEN she moved to New York in 1998 to work as an attorney, it didn't take Laurie N. Robinson long to determine what was missing from her life and that of scores of other African-American women lawyers—a professional organization where they could network, inspire one another, and simply mingle. It was not long before she culled together a professional directory of sorts, which consisted of about six people, recalls Robinson, an assistant general counsel at CBS Broadcasting, Inc., where she represents more than 180 radio and television stations in labor and employment matters.

That was two years ago. Now, the directory has morphed into a sprawling not-for-profit organization, Corporate Counsel Women of Color, a group of about 1,200 women attorneys of color. Many of its members work for Fortune 1000 and Forbes 2000 legal departments in the United States and abroad, says Robinson, the group's founder and CEO. "It's absolutely a dream come true," says Robinson, whose goal is to unite women of color in her profession. "The energy of this group is unbelievable."

She witnessed the energy first-hand last fall when 400 members from around the globe converged on New York to attend the group's first convention at the Hilton New York. Truly inspiring women were in attendance, says Robinson, including Debra Martin Chase, the keynote speaker, who regaled members of the audience with the story of her decision to transition from major law firms to pursue her passion of filmmaking. "It was really spectacular," Robinson says of the keynote address and the overall event. "In many corporate environments, you feel like you're the only minority. At the conference, we discovered that we're not alone, and that working together we can build a great future for ourselves and generations to come."

Robinson is a recipient of the Women's Venture Fund's Highest Leaf Award and the Charting Your Own Course Spirit Award. She received a bachelor of arts, graduating *magna cum laude* from North Carolina Central University. She later earned a juris doctorate from Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington.