



CCWC

LAW FIRM ASSOCIATES CAREER STRATEGIES CONFERENCE WASHINGTON, DC



MICHAEL R. CAPLAN
Chief Operating Officer
Lowenstein Sandler LLP



TAMIKA TREMAGLIO
Managing Director
Secretariat



LYNNETTE ESPY-WILLIAMS
Office Managing Partner
Chief Culture Officer | Cozen O'Connor



NITYA KUMAR GOYAL
Partner, Global Finance
Dechert

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Mayflower Hotel
Washington, DC
7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Welcome to the CCWC® Law Firm Associates Conference 2026

Welcome to the CCWC® Law Firm Associates Conference 2026, convening on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. On behalf of Corporate Counsel Women of Color®, I am pleased to welcome you to a day designed with intention, candor, and urgency – because the legal profession is changing, and associates who adapt early will define what success looks like next.

This conference was built for associates who are serious about their careers and realistic about the terrain ahead. The rules for advancement have shifted. Technical excellence remains table stakes, but it is no longer sufficient on its own. Today's high-performing associates understand the business of law, know how to leverage technology responsibly, cultivate visibility with purpose, and deliver value in ways clients can see and measure. Our agenda reflects that reality without platitudes and without sugarcoating.

From our opening sessions on using AI, strategic visibility, and business thinking to accelerate your career, to candid conversations about partnership pathways, internal branding, and law firm economics, today is about equipping you with practical insight you can act on immediately. You will hear directly from partners, senior leaders, and in-house counsel who evaluate performance every day – and who will be clear about what matters most in 2026 and beyond.

We are also intentional about meeting associates where they are. Junior associates will focus on mastering client service expectations, navigating firm culture, building credibility, and establishing a professional digital presence that opens doors rather than creates risk. Mid-level associates will tackle business

development earlier, lead matters with confidence, manage teams effectively, and demystify the metrics and behaviors that partnership committees actually reward. These are not abstract concepts; they are skills that separate contributors from future leaders.

Throughout the day, you will also have time to build relationships – across firms, practice areas, and career stages. The breakfast, luncheon, and closing networking sessions are not filler. They are opportunities to expand your professional circle, identify mentors and sponsors, and learn from peers who are navigating similar challenges. Your network, like your reputation, is an asset. Treat it that way.



Laurie N. Robinson Haden
Founder and CEO
Corporate Counsel Women of Color

At CCWC®, we believe preparation is power. This conference is part of our broader commitment to ensuring women of color in the legal profession are not only present, but positioned – strategically, confidently, and competitively. Whether your goal is partnership, in-house leadership, or another path entirely, the skills you sharpen today will serve you throughout your career.

I encourage you to be fully engaged. Ask direct questions. Take notes. Introduce yourself. Be honest with yourself about where you are and deliberate about where you want to go next. The legal marketplace will not slow down – but associates who think ahead will always have an advantage.

Thank you for joining us. We are glad you are here, and we look forward to a powerful and productive day.

Laurie

Laurie N. Robinson Haden
Founder, President & CEO

LFA 2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA



TUESDAY

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Registration

WEDNESDAY

6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome Remarks

*Presented by Laurie N. Robinson Haden
Founder, President & CEO, Corporate Counsel Women of Color®*

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

General Session (ALL)

From Associate to Strategic Asset: Using AI, Visibility & Business Thinking to Accelerate Your Legal Career

A practical session on how associates can use AI, strategic visibility, and business thinking to work smarter, add greater value, and accelerate their legal careers.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

General Session (ALL)

Pathway to Partnership: Skills & Internal Branding That Matter Most
Candid guidance on how partners evaluate associates today – and how associates can prepare early.

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

General Session (ALL)

Managing Your Legal Career Like a Business: Strategy, Visibility & Long-Term Success

A strategic session on understanding law firm economics—and how you fit in—personal metrics, sponsorship, visibility, and long-term career planning.



Time	Track A Junior Associates	Track B Mid-Level Associates
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<p>Session A1: The New Rules of Client Service: What Corporate Counsel Expect from Law Firm Associates in 2026</p> <p>Insights from in-house leaders on communication, responsiveness, value-add thinking, and standing out as outside counsel.</p>	<p>Session B1: Business Development for Mid-Levels: How to Start Generating New Business to Secure You on the Partnership Track</p> <p>A practical workshop on early business development strategy, networking, client cultivation, and relationship mapping and conversion.</p>
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<p>Session A2: Building Your Professional Digital Profile: LinkedIn, Thought Leadership & Your Online Brand</p> <p>Tools and strategies for building online presence early, posting smartly, and creating a digital footprint that opens doors and makes an impact.</p>	<p>Session B2: Leading Deals & Matters: The Mid-Level Blueprint for Ownership, Delegation & Team Leadership</p> <p>A discussion on the skills required to run matters confidently, manage juniors, and operate like a future partner.</p>
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<p>Networking Luncheon</p>	
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<p>Session A3: How to Navigate Law Firm Culture, Staffing & Expectations as a Junior Associate</p> <p>Understanding partner styles, staffing challenges, feedback, time management, and internal relationship-building.</p>	<p>Session B3: Cracking the Partnership Code: Insider Metrics, Behaviors & Pathways for Advancement</p> <p>What partnership committees look for in 2026: billables, client relationships, collaboration, originations, and firm citizenship.</p>
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<p>Session A4: From Contributor to Key Player: How to Build Influence and Earn Credibility</p> <p>How associates can develop executive presence, deliver excellence, manage perceptions, and build their reputations in high-pressure environments.</p>	<p>Session B4: Becoming the Associate Clients Ask for by Name: Delivering Value & Building Trust</p> <p>How associates can provide advanced client-centric strategies that make in-house counsel request you specifically.</p>
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<p>Recap & Closing Remarks</p>	
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<p>Networking Coffee & Dessert</p>	

FEATURED SPEAKERS



LAURIE N. ROBINSON HADEN

FOUNDER & CEO
CORPORATE COUNSEL WOMEN OF COLOR®

Laurie N. Robinson Haden is a business executive, legal strategist, and innovator shaping the future of law and leadership. She is the Founder, President, and CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color® (CCWC®), a premier organization for executive attorneys in corporate and law firm roles. Laurie previously served as Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of Litigation at CBS Corporation, overseeing complex legal matters for nearly two decades. In July 2025, Laurie earned a certificate in Artificial Intelligence Strategies for Business Innovation from Northwestern's Kellogg School, reinforcing her focus on legal innovation. She leads the CCWC® AI Council and flagship programs such as the CCWC® AI + Legal Tech + Innovation Summit, CLO Symposium, and General Counsel Training Bootcamps. She is also the author of *It's Time to Shine*. Laurie received her Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from North Carolina Central University and earned her Juris Doctor from Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

Transformative Leader and Visionary

JANICE BROWN

CHAIR OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE INVESTIGATIONS
MEYERS NAVE

Janice Brown is the Founder and President of Beyond Law, where she works with lawyers and legal teams on business development, leadership, and long-term career growth. Her work focuses on helping attorneys build strong professional relationships, develop sustainable practices, and navigate career inflection points with intention and clarity. She draws on decades of experience inside the legal profession and a deep understanding of how lawyers actually build trust and credibility. In addition, Janice serves as Chair of the Labor and Employment and Workplace Investigations practices at Meyers Nave. She has more than 35 years of experience as a trial, arbitration, and appellate lawyer in state and federal courts. Her background includes service in the U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program and leadership of a successful employment and business litigation firm. Together, her roles reflect a career rooted in practical judgment, leadership, and advancing the legal profession.



From Associate to Strategic Asset: Using AI, Visibility & Business Thinking to Accelerate Your Legal Career



KAREN MCCAIN BORNO

VICE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL
VERIZON

As Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Verizon, she advises C-suite leaders on strategic partnerships, enterprise transformation, the integration of newly acquired assets, and go-to-market plans. Karen leads globally distributed, high-performing teams known for delivering results with speed, trust, and accuracy. Recent engagements include enhancing 5G and fan experiences for the 2026 World Cup games, NFL stadiums, and strategic partnerships enabling AI data centers. Karen champions AI and data-driven approaches within the legal department, using insights from contracts, matter management, and trend analysis to improve customer interactions, drive efficiency, and deliver better business outcomes. Her leadership and commitment to innovation, mentorship, and inclusion have earned recognition including the WIPL Innovation Leadership Award, Verizon Business President's Excellence Award, and the National Bar Association Legal Technology Leader honor. Karen earned her Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts with honors from Hampton University.

From Associate to Strategic Asset: Using AI, Visibility & Business Thinking to Accelerate Your Legal Career

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ERICA WILLIAMS

FORMER CHAIR
PUBLIC COMPANY ACCOUNTING OVERSIGHT BOARD

Erica Williams is the former Chair of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). Under Erica's leadership, the PCAOB developed and executed an ambitious strategic plan to modernize standards, enhance inspections, strengthen enforcement, and improve the PCAOB's organizational effectiveness. Erica joined the PCAOB from Kirkland & Ellis, where she was a Litigation Partner. Previously, she served as Special Assistant and Associate Counsel to President Barack Obama, advising the president and his senior advisors on legal and constitutional issues. Before that, Erica spent 11 years at the SEC serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for three chairs. In this role, she oversaw all aspects of the SEC's operations and served as a Senior Legal Advisor to the SEC Chair on regulatory policy and enforcement. Earlier in her career, Erica served as a Trial Attorney in the SEC's Trial Unit. Erica earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia.

Pathway to Partnership: Skills & Internal Branding That Matter Most

CRYSTAL KALDJOB

PARTNER
GOODWIN

Crystal Kaldjob is a partner in Goodwin's Financial Industry group based in Washington, DC. She advises fintech companies, banks, merchants, and other financial services clients on regulatory, transactional, and strategic matters involving consumer credit, payments, and banking products. Crystal has deep experience structuring and negotiating private label and co-brand credit card programs, point-of-sale financing arrangements, asset purchases, and loan portfolio sales and acquisitions. She also counsels clients on compliance with federal and state consumer financial laws across credit, deposit, and payments products. Before joining Goodwin, Crystal co-led the Fintech practice at Morrison & Foerster, where she was a member of the firm's Financial Services group. She is a frequent speaker and author on emerging fintech and financial services regulatory issues. Crystal earned her JD from Georgetown University Law Center and her BA from the University of Virginia and is recognized by Chambers and The Legal 500 for her fintech expertise.



Pathway to Partnership: Skills & Internal Branding That Matter Most

JENNIFER KENT

PARTNER
LATHAM & WATKINS

Jennifer Kent is a partner at Latham & Watkins, representing borrowers in secured lending and other debt financing transactions. Her clients include private equity sponsors, as well as privately held and public companies, including The Carlyle Group, KKR, GTCR, and American Airlines. Jennifer advises on a variety of debt financing matters — including syndicated credit facilities, private credit financings, asset-based loans, recurring revenue facilities, and liability management transactions — and she has extensive experience with cross-border financings. Jennifer has served as the Global Chair of Latham's Black Lawyers Group and is a former member of the firm's Recruiting Committee. She has been widely recognized by organizations, including the National Law Journal, for both her commercial work and her leadership in the area of equal opportunity and inclusion. Jennifer earned her J.D., magna cum laude, from Boston College Law School and her B.S., cum laude, from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Pathway to Partnership: Skills & Internal Branding That Matter Most

FEATURED SPEAKERS



LYNNETTE D. ESPY-WILLIAMS
CHIEF CULTURE OFFICER & OFFICE MANAGING PARTNER
COZEN O'CONNOR

Lynnette D. Espy-Williams is a member of Cozen O'Connor's Commercial Litigation Department and currently serves as the firm's Chief Culture Officer and the Office Managing Partner of the Washington, D.C. office. Lynnette has a national practice representing a wide variety of clients in complex litigation. Her experience in the commercial litigation industry is widely recognized, as she has acted as Lead Counsel on many complex commercial litigation matters and routinely speaks on issues of import in the industry. Lynnette is the former President of the Gate City Bar Association, the oldest African-American bar association in the state of Georgia, and a former Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where she was recently named Graduate of the Year by the Black Law Students Association. She also received the Diversity in Business award from the Washington Business Journal. Lynnette graduated from Spelman College, cum laude, with honors in economics, and she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

**Managing Your Legal Career Like a Business:
Strategy, Visibility & Long-Term Success**

TAMIKA TREMAGLIO
MANAGING DIRECTOR
SECRETARIAT

Tamika Tremaglio is a leader in Secretariat's Global Sports Consulting practice, bringing more than 30 years of leadership and business transformation expertise in the sports industry. She is known for her strategic vision, deep industry knowledge, and ability to drive change across complex organizations. Tamika has advised Fortune 500 companies and organizations across professional services, sports, media, and entertainment, consistently delivering results in governance, operations, and growth initiatives. Before joining Secretariat, she served as Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association, where she led the union representing NBA players. She also served as Managing Principal for Deloitte's Greater Washington practice, overseeing strategic advisory and performance for a major regional office. Tamika has served on the boards of more than 20 organizations, contributing her leadership to diverse missions. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in business and finance from Mount St. Mary's University, her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, and an MBA from the University of Baltimore.



**Managing Your Legal Career Like a Business:
Strategy, Visibility & Long-Term Success**

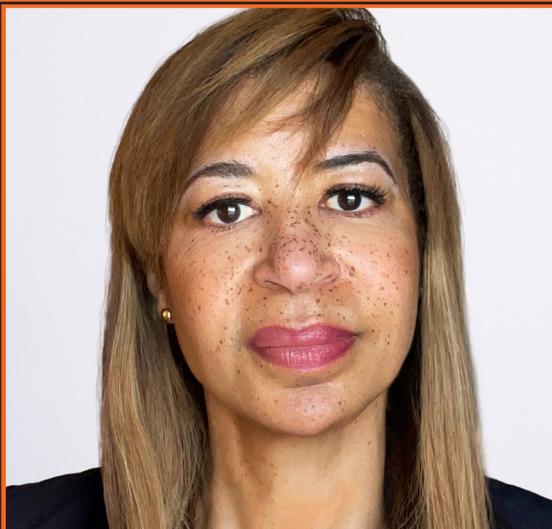


MICHAEL R. CAPLAN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
LOWENSTEIN SANDLER

Michael R. Caplan is widely recognized for innovative and entrepreneurial leadership across the professional services industry, overseeing Lowenstein Sandler's business, financial, and administrative operations with a focus on strategic partnerships, technology adoption, and data-driven decision-making to optimize return on investment. Mike brings more than 25 years of experience across accounting, finance, investment, and consulting, along with 15 years of corporate legal experience, to his role as Chief Operating Officer. He has worked with more than 30 general counsels on data analytics, technology implementation, law firm relationship management, and financial strategy, driving efficiency through intelligent cost reduction, program management, compliance, and risk mitigation. His work includes developing metrics and dashboards in areas such as litigation, e-discovery, outside counsel accruals, and alternative fee arrangements. Recognized by Financial Times North America as a top Legal Intrapreneur, Mike has also received honors from The Changing Lawyer Awards and Best in Biz Awards.

**Managing Your Legal Career Like a Business:
Strategy, Visibility & Long-Term Success**

FEATURED SPEAKERS



SHARI L. SHEFFIELD

TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT ATTORNEY
JORDAN IP LAW

Shari L. Sheffield brings two decades of experience in trademark and copyright law, advising clients across government, private practice, and corporate environments. She has guided clients through every phase of trademark practice, including counseling, prosecution, enforcement, and portfolio defense, and brings an entrepreneurial perspective shaped by her experience as a business owner. Since 2014, Shari has served as Senior Trademark and Copyright Attorney with the Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, managing and defending the Army's portfolio of more than 700 trademarks and insignia. She advises senior military leadership on trademark and copyright matters, and represents the U.S. Army before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and in federal court matters with the Department of Justice. Her background also includes work with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Shari earned her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law and her B.A. from Spelman College.

**Session A1: The New Rules of Client Service:
What Corporate Counsel Expect From
Law Firm Associates in 2026**

KARYN A. TEMPLE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & GLOBAL GENERAL COUNSEL
MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

Karyn A. Temple is Senior Executive Vice President and Global General Counsel for the Motion Picture Association. One of the world's leading authorities on copyright, Karyn oversees all of the Association's legal affairs and content protection efforts around the world. Before joining the Motion Picture Association, Karyn served for more than eight years at the U.S. Copyright Office, most recently as the Register of Copyrights, where she led the 400-person agency and its eight divisions. Before leading the U.S. Copyright Office, Karyn headed its Office of Policy and International Affairs and served in policy and litigation roles at the U.S. Department of Justice; she most recently served in the Obama Administration as Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General of the United States. Karyn received her Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School and her B.A. in English from the University of Michigan.



**Session A1: The New Rules of Client Service:
What Corporate Counsel Expect From
Law Firm Associates in 2026**



MARIA LIU

SENIOR COUNSEL, LITIGATION
UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Maria Liu is Senior Counsel, Litigation at Uber Technologies, Inc. She oversees complex, high-stakes litigation matters in antitrust, consumer protection, breach of contract and business torts, and intellectual property. She works with outside legal counsel and business constituents to develop and implement thoughtful litigation strategies, solve tough problems, reduce future legal exposure, and achieve beneficial outcomes. Before joining Uber, Maria was a Litigation Associate at Jenner & Block LLP and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. At these firms, Maria gained significant experience in every phase of litigation — from discovery and briefing of dispositive motions to trial and appeal — and held leadership positions on inclusion committees. Maria is a proud Double Wolverine, having received her Bachelor of Arts in public policy from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and her Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School.

**Session A1: The New Rules of Client Service:
What Corporate Counsel Expect From
Law Firm Associates in 2026**

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ASHLEY JOYNER CHAVOUS

OF COUNSEL
COVINGTON

Ashley Joyner Chavous is Of Counsel in Covington & Burling LLP's White Collar Defense and Investigations practice in Washington, D.C. She represents financial institutions, public companies, and senior executives in high-stakes congressional investigations, criminal and civil enforcement matters, and internal corporate investigations, advising clients on navigating congressional oversight, regulatory risk, and intense public and political scrutiny. Ashley also leverages her litigation skills in pro bono civil rights matters, including representing the Virginia NAACP in a landmark lawsuit challenging a school board's decision to restore Confederate names to public schools. A 2025 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow, she has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star, and by Best Lawyers as One to Watch. She serves on the DC Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board and the Board of Legal Aid DC. Ashley holds a B.A. from Syracuse University, an M.A. from NYU, and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

Session BI: Business Development for Mid-Levels: How to Start Generating New Business to Secure You on the Partnership Track

JOI BOURGEOIS

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
ELEVATE COACHING

Joi Bourgeois is an executive coach and former global leader of inclusion at Kirkland & Ellis and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. She has spent 25+ years helping attorneys win business, build client relationships, and lead with impact. A trusted advisor to partners and leaders across Am Law firms, Joi combines deep talent experience with decades of relationship-building expertise. She creates strategic partnerships with organizations including CCWC®, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, and bar associations to help attorneys leverage the power of community and expand their networks. Before her firm leadership roles, Joi helped build a premier B2B coaching consultancy serving top law firms and coaching thousands of attorneys at every level. Recently, Joi founded Inspiro Leadership Coaching & Consulting to support attorneys and business professionals on leadership, advancement, client growth, and relationship strategy. Joi is a former corporate attorney and graduate of NYU School of Law, NYU GSAS, and Northwestern University.



Session BI: Business Development for Mid-Levels: How to Start Generating New Business to Secure You on the Partnership Track



ERICKA AIKEN

PARTNER
WILMERHALE

Ericka Aiken has built a reputation as a trailblazer in investigations and litigation, handling complex matters in both state and federal courts. Her experience includes litigation involving substantial discovery, expert witnesses, and numerous depositions. She is also recognized for her crisis management capabilities, including representing a technology company facing regulatory and media scrutiny over data privacy and consumer protection. In that role, she coordinated responses to dozens of state attorneys general, federal regulators, and inquiries from multiple countries. Ericka currently represents companies facing state and federal lawsuits brought by state attorneys general and private plaintiffs related to emissions. She has also represented individuals, private companies, and financial institutions in criminal, civil, and regulatory matters involving the U.S. Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She earned her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2013 and holds a B.S. in political science from North Carolina State University.

Session BI: Business Development for Mid-Levels: How to Start Generating New Business to Secure You on the Partnership Track

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ZELDA OWENS

CEO

OWENS WILLIAMS & ASSOCIATES

Zelda Owens is a trusted career partner for executives seeking transformative results. With 20+ years of experience as a Corporate Sales Executive, negotiating complex global deals, and as a Headhunter placing top attorneys in Fortune 200 companies and Am Law 100 firms, Zelda brings unparalleled industry insight into her coaching practice. Her discreet approach ensures that executives master self-advocacy, achieve significant compensation increases, and secure career-defining opportunities. Zelda's coaching is centered on cultivating a confident mindset in her clients, educating them on the latest trends regarding career paths and compensation, empowering them to overcome imposter syndrome, and solidifying their positions as indispensable leaders. An alumna of Barnard College and The Chapin School, and a Six Sigma-certified professional, Zelda's commitment to excellence is reflected in her successful track record. As a leader on nonprofit boards, she champions innovation and diversity, setting a new standard for leadership in the legal and tech industries.

Session A2: Building Your Professional Digital Profile: LinkedIn, Thought Leadership & Your Online Brand

DANIELLE BULGER

PARTNER AND CO-LEADER OF THE AI & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES INDUSTRY GROUP
ARENTFOX SCHIFF LLP

Danielle Bulger is an IP partner and Co-Leader of the AI & Emerging Technologies Industry Group at ArentFox Schiff. Her practice navigates the ever-evolving landscape of intellectual property law in the digital age. Danielle advises on all aspects of copyright, anti-piracy, trademark, trade dress, and advertising law, helping clients create business-minded solutions and understand intricacies related to the creation, ownership, licensing, use, and enforcement of brand assets and works of authorship. Her practice spans multiple sectors, allowing her to serve clients in the fashion and retail; media and technology; food, drug, and beverage; hospitality; and automotive industries, among others. Danielle has been quoted in multiple legal publications, including Law360, and frequently presents Continuing Legal Education courses on IP hot topics and trends. Best Lawyers has recognized Danielle for her Sports and Entertainment practice, and Super Lawyers has named her on their list of "Rising Stars."



Session B2: Leading Deals & Matters: The Mid-Level Blueprint for Ownership, Delegation & Team Leadership



NITYA KUMAR GOYAL

PARTNER, GLOBAL FINANCE
DECHERT

Nitya Kumar Goyal focuses her practice on commercial real estate finance at Dechert LLP. She represents banks, insurance companies, institutional lenders, and private equity investors in mortgage and mezzanine loan originations secured by commercial real estate assets, including office, industrial, multifamily, hotel, and retail properties, as well as loan participations, syndications, and co-lender arrangements. She is recognized by Legal 500 as a "Next Generation Lawyer" in real estate finance and is ranked by Chambers USA for real estate finance in Pennsylvania. She was named to the CRE Finance Council's 20 Under 40 Class of 2025 and recognized as a "2025 Rising Star" by Law360. Her honors include Chambers Diversity & Inclusion Awards North America "Future Leader" and Profiles in Diversity Journal's "Asian Leader Worth Watching." She was also a finalist for Euromoney's "Rising Star." She earned her Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School and her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University.

Session B2: Leading Deals & Matters: The Mid-Level Blueprint for Ownership, Delegation & Team Leadership

FEATURED SPEAKERS



DIANE GRIFFIN HOLLAND

PARTNER
WILEY REIN, LLP

Diane advises clients on telecommunications, media, technology, and consumer protection issues, with a recent focus on regulatory compliance and enforcement support. She has deep expertise navigating the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with over 20 years of federal government experience. Prior to joining Wiley, she served in the FCC's Office of General Counsel as Deputy Associate GC for Administrative Law, as Media and Consumer Protection Legal Advisor to FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, and most recently as Deputy Chief and Special Advisor in the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau. Diane also previously served as Vice President of Law & Policy for a major broadband trade association. Diane also advises clients on navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues resulting from legal, regulatory, and market changes, supporting clients with education, risk assessment, and compliance strategy. Diane is a Past President of the Federal Communications Bar Association—The Tech Bar and currently serves as a co-chair on the FCBA's TMT Pipeline Program Committee. She earned her J.D., cum laude, from Howard University School of Law, and her LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Session B2: Leading Deals & Matters:
The Mid-Level Blueprint for Ownership,
Delegation & Team Leadership**

OBREA POINDEXTER

PARTNER
COOLEY

Obrea Poindexter is a partner at Cooley. She is one of the most sought-after and highly regarded payments and lending lawyers in the financial services industry. Obrea specializes in financial services regulation, privacy, and payments systems, and she counsels clients on complex regulatory issues related to credit, debit, and prepaid cards, as well as emerging payment systems. Obrea is the go-to Regulatory and Transaction Counsel for emerging companies and large financial institutions, retailers, and technology companies, including institutions and companies with a focus on private equity. She is known for providing innovative solutions and value to her clients, who benefit from her strategic insights, deep financial services experience, and understanding of the industry. Obrea is recommended by Chambers USA, where she has been lauded for her expertise in legislative and regulatory consumer finance matters. She earned her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and her Bachelor of Arts from Howard University.



**Session A3: How to Navigate
Law Firm Culture, Staffing & Expectations
as a Junior Associate**



ADRIENNE CLAIR

PARTNER
THOMPSON COBURN LLP

Adrienne Clair is a partner at Thompson Coburn LLP and actively shapes the firm's direction through her roles on the Management and Executive Committees. Her distinguished career includes 14 years at Stinson Leonard Street LLP, where she served as a partner and Division Co-Chair. Her legal skills as an energy lawyer focused on federal regulatory matters including compliance and enforcement have been widely recognized, earning her a place on the Lawdragon "500 Leading Energy Lawyers" list and the honor of "Lawyer of the Year for Energy Law" in the 2025 Best Lawyers in America rankings. Adrienne provides invaluable pro bono counsel to individuals navigating the complex Social Security Administration system at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. She holds a B.A., cum laude, from Hampton University and a Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School.

**Session A3: How to Navigate
Law Firm Culture, Staffing & Expectations
as a Junior Associate**

FEATURED SPEAKERS



MAJA D. HAZELL

FOUNDER AND CEO
CAREER PREP COACHING SERVICES LLC

Maja D. Hazell is the Founder and CEO of Career Prep Coaching Services LLC and a trained Life and Executive Leadership Coach. She is a Society for Human Resources Management Senior Certified Professional with deep expertise in talent management and organizational development. In 2021, Maja joined D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. as a Managing Director and Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She later served as Head of Engagement Strategy and an internal Executive Coach before the firm became a client of Career Prep Coaching Services in 2026. Previously, Maja led global diversity and inclusion initiatives at White & Case LLP and Fried Frank. She also served as Assistant Dean for Career Development at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, following a seven-year legal career at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Maja serves on the board and investment committee of the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. She earned her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and her B.A. in English from Yale University.

**Session B3: Cracking the Partnership Code:
Insider Metrics, Behaviors & Pathways for
Advancement**

MARSHA DIXON-HERBERT

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRINCIPAL GENERAL COUNSEL
NASDAQ, INC.

Marsha Dixon-Herbert is the Associate Vice President and Principal General Counsel at Nasdaq, Inc., where she oversees the North American Markets legal division and delivers strategic policy and legal guidance on a broad spectrum of securities matters to senior executives responsible for the company's regulated U.S. markets. Previously, Marsha served as a Principal Legal Advisor to Nasdaq's executive leadership team. Before joining Nasdaq, she served as Special Counsel in the Division of Trading and Markets at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, supervising the regulation of self-regulatory organizations. Marsha has also served as an elected Council Member in Riverdale Park, Maryland. An engaged volunteer and mentor, she contributes her expertise as a member of the Georgetown University Board of Governors. Marsha holds a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.



**Session A4: From Contributor to Key Player:
How to Build Influence and Earn Credibility**

NITHYA NAGARAJAN

PARTNER
HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP

Nithya Nagarajan is a partner at Husch Blackwell LLP with experience working with various federal government agencies, providing a critical perspective on U.S. trade and trade remedies. Her prior roles at the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, and the U.S. Court of International Trade give her an insider's perspective on administrative and regulatory acts. She currently focuses on trade remedy strategy, advising foreign manufacturers worldwide, including in Europe, India, China, and countries in South and Southeast Asia. Nithya's legal career has been non-traditional, and she has had to navigate the path to equity partnership and developing a client base that has grown organically. She serves as Co-Chair of APISWANA, the firm's Asian, Pacific Islander, Southwest Asian, and North African Employee Resource Group. Nithya holds a Juris Doctor from American University Washington College of Law, as well as an MBA and a B.A. in political science and business from The George Washington University.



**Session A4: From Contributor to Key Player:
How to Build Influence and Earn Credibility**

FEATURED SPEAKERS



KAREN ROSS

VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
CAPITAL ONE

Karen Ross is Vice President and Senior Associate General Counsel at Capital One, where she leads the Enterprise Products and Emerging Payments legal team within the TechReg Legal organization. Her team partners with product and technology leaders across emerging payments, customer identity and core, and experience design. Karen advises on products and initiatives supporting experiences, including Capital One's mobile app and website, identity management, customer core platforms, marketing tools, digital wallets, and virtual card numbers. She also supports transactions involving payment integrations and collaborations across the payments ecosystem. Karen serves on leadership teams supporting these initiatives. She joined Capital One in February 2015 after practicing as a Fintech Attorney at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. Karen is an alumna of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellows Program and holds a B.S. in finance from Georgetown University and a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School.

**Session A4: From Contributor to Key Player:
How to Build Influence and Earn Credibility**

CANDACE ALI BLYDENBURGH

PARTNER
MCGUIREWOODS

Candace Ali Blydenburgh is a partner in the firm's Environmental and Mass Tort Litigation department, representing corporate defendants in complex matters in state and federal courts and advising on insurance recovery issues. She has tried multiple cases to verdict in jurisdictions including Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Puerto Rico. Her trial experience spans personal injury, product liability, intentional tort, toxic exposure, and breach-of-contract matters. Candace has experience in the medical, energy, and automotive industries. She defends medical device manufacturers and distributors in litigation involving surgical and nonsurgical products, and handles environmental nuisance and groundwater contamination cases. She advises clients on litigation strategy, risk mitigation, witness preparation, discovery coordination, and trial consistency. Her experience includes defending automotive manufacturers in matters involving electronic stability control, seating systems, restraints, and child safety. Candace earned her B.A. from the University of Richmond and her Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law.



**Session B4: Becoming the Associate
Clients Ask for by Name: Delivering
Value & Building Trust**



MARYAM CASBARRO

SENIOR PRODUCT COUNSEL
UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Maryam Casbarro is the Senior Product Counsel for Uber One, Uber's global membership product. She advises on product launches, consumer protection and regulatory issues, and commercial partnerships. Before joining the membership team, Maryam was Product Counsel for new verticals. Maryam started her career as a Securities and White-Collar Litigator at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP before transitioning to cybersecurity and privacy at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, where she worked on several privacy-related litigation matters, helped companies navigate breaches, and assisted businesses in implementing privacy compliance programs. Maryam was formerly Co-Chair of the Privacy and Data Security Committee for the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA — The Tech Bar). She has also received recognition for her pro bono work with victims of domestic violence, including being spotlighted by the Washington Council of Lawyers. She holds a B.A. from the State University of New York at Binghamton and a Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School.

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FEATURED SPEAKERS



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LIZA CRAIG

PARTNER
GOODWIN

Liza Craig is a partner in Goodwin's Washington, D.C. office, where she leads the firm's Government Contracts and Grants Team. She advises clients on mergers and acquisitions involving government prime and subcontractors and provides counsel on all aspects of the government procurement life cycle. Liza has significant experience advising clients on sensitive national security matters, complex weapons systems contracts, commercial and developmental IT procurements, and the acquisition of supplies and services in the U.S. and overseas. Prior to entering private practice, Liza was a civilian attorney for 15 years with the Department of the Navy's Office of the General Counsel. In addition to her current law practice, Liza also serves as a professorial lecturer in law at The George Washington University Law School, where she teaches classes on mediation, government contracts, and field placement. She earned her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.