

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023 | INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Robins Kaplan is committed to attracting, retaining, and advancing top diverse talent who will help drive innovation and success. Diverse teams are more creative, nimble, and generate stronger results. Through our efforts, we leverage the power of our collective diversity. By doing so, we redefine and expand the possibilities of success for our clients and ourselves.

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT: **WALEED ABBASI**



What is one fun fact about you?

I perform spoken word poetry at open mic nights in NYC.

What inspires you?

Honoring the efforts that my parents have made in making everything I do possible. I was blessed with two incredible role models and ensuring that I do everything in my power to make them proud constantly drives me forward.

Why is diversity, equity and inclusion important to you?

There is so much value in connecting with people who are “different” like you. Seeing a sea of heterogeneity when you look out into a room is special in so many ways. The exchange of ideas that it births, the perspectives that come from those differences, and the ability to better hone your craft are what makes DEI special to me. I recently worked on an Afghan Asylum case where my background as a Muslim was absolutely critical to serving our clients. I was able to use my understanding of the very nuanced elements of Sunni and Shia Islamic practices to better state our clients’ case for asylum based on religious persecution. I was uniquely situated and equipped with the understanding needed to serve a family in need.

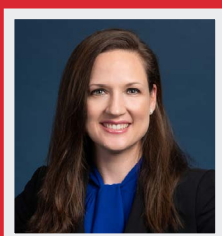
What are you looking forward to most in 2023?

Professionally, I am very excited for my second year at Robins Kaplan. I look forward to further honing my craft and continuing to deepen my connections with my colleagues. Events like the All Attorney Meeting and the Attorneys of Color Conference were wonderful opportunities for me as a Robins Kaplan newcomer. Personally, I recently moved to a new apartment on the Jersey City waterfront area that I am very excited to be in. I’m looking forward to settling in and making it feel like home.

DEI SPOTLIGHT

WoRK

WOMEN OF ROBINS KAPLAN



CHRISTINA LINCOLN



TAYLORE KARPA
SCHOLLARD



HOLLY DOLEJSI

We welcome **Christina Lincoln** and **Taylore Karpa Schollard** as the new co-chairs of the Women of Robins Kaplan resource group. We thank **Holly Dolejsi** for providing a space for all members to support and connect with one another as well as her tremendous leadership as the Chair of WoRK. We are excited to embrace the future of the WoRK resource group!

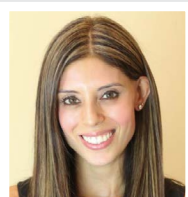
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Understanding the Sikh American Experience and How Lawyers Can Help Webinar

Congratulations to **Manleen Singh** who facilitated an excellent discussion with a panel of attorneys who helped educate firm members about the experiences of Sikhs in America. Thank you to our panelists, Amrith Kaur Aakre, Amardeep Singh, and Amandeep Sidhu for taking the time to discuss the legal efforts to combat religious-based discrimination against the Sikh community.



MANLEEN SINGH



AMRITH KAUR AAKRE



AMARDEEP SINGH



AMANDEEP SIDHU

WoRK Gathers at the 2022 All Attorney Meeting

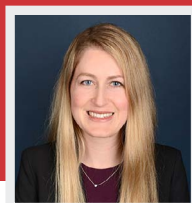
On the final day of AAM, members of WoRK gathered to hear from keynote speaker, Donna Crane. Donna is a legislative strategist, lobbyist, and one of the nation's top experts on women's reproductive rights. A special thank you to **Rayna Kessler** and **Lauren Birkenstock** for co-hosting the WoRK event and highlighting Donna.



DONNA CRANE



RAYNA KESSLER



LAUREN BIRKENSTOCK



Hispanic Heritage Month Webinar

Thank you to the Los Angeles office for hosting the Hispanic Heritage Month Webinar with José Padilla, facilitated by **David Martinez**.

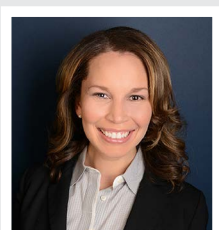
THE 2022 ASSOCIATION OF LAW FIRM DIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS (ALFDP) CONFERENCE

The Annual ALFDP Conference attracted 250 law firm diversity professionals who gathered to enhance their knowledge of DEI best practices and research. Pictured here is Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion **Rita Holmes-Bobo** engaged with a speaker regarding neurodiversity and how to support our attorneys who are differently abled.

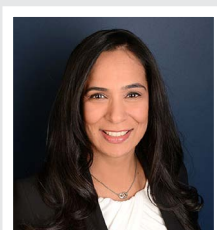


Please find [here](#) a list of 2023 Diversity Observances that may be useful when planning firm activities. The list will be modified as needed to reflect corrections and new information. Note: the observances are for information only and do not reflect official [firm holidays](#).

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Congratulations to **Michele Detherage** for being named a 2022 Top Lawyer by Boston Magazine!



Congratulations to **Manleen Singh** who was selected to the Massachusetts Lawyer's Weekly 2022 Top Women of Law list!