

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION UPDATE

UPCOMING DIVERSITY EVENTS

5.31.2018
ANNUAL WOMEN'S EVENT

JUNE



6.07.2018 – 6.08.2018
2018 NALP/ALFDP DIVERSITY
& INCLUSION SUMMIT

6.11.2018
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
MEETING

6.25.2018
GENDER DIVERSITY
WORKING GROUP MEETING

6.26.2018
PRIDE MONTH CLE

JULY

7.19.2018
NAWL ANNUAL LUNCHEON

INCLUSION IN FOCUS - 2018 AOC CONFERENCE

The Attorneys of Color (AOC) Conference was held March 26-27 in the Minneapolis office. AOCs from all offices gathered to connect with each other, meet with firm leaders, and have candid conversations about their experiences at the firm. Highlights included a dinner with in-house attorneys of color hosted by Brandon Vaughn, a group volunteer event (turned competition) at Second Harvest Heartland, and a World Café event focused on inclusion and racial justice. The AOC Conference generated many new exciting ideas to increase our culture of inclusion that we look forward to implementing in the months ahead.

INSIGHTS FROM CORPORATE TRAILBLAZERS OF COLOR

On April 5, 2018, Sahr Brima moderated the FBA's Newer Lawyers Program panel discussion, Insights from Corporate Trailblazers of Color. The panel discussed the opportunities and challenges encountered by three Twin Cities business leaders of color as they advanced in their respective careers. The event featured Kevin Warren, COO of the Minnesota Vikings, Gaye Adams-Massey, CEO of the YWCA, and Ben Omorogbe, VP and Associate Group General Counsel of the Travelers Companies, and introductions were provided by Professor Ruth L. Okediji, the Jeremiah Smith Jr. Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

The panelists commented on the sobering diversity statistics and described their professional journeys and practical wisdom on navigating challenges and creating opportunities to beat the odds. Gaye Adams-Massey remarked on the importance of doing work that reflects one's values and developing mentors and sponsors. Ben Omorogbe recounted the challenges of emigrating to the U.S. from Africa with only a hundred dollars in his pocket. Through hard work, he found opportunity in Minnesota and has since created opportunities for other attorneys of color. Kevin Warren told an inspiring story of overcoming significant obstacles, including a near-fatal car accident. He emphasized the need for resilience, hard work, and helping others along the way, stating, "remember to send the elevator back down to get others as you ascend."

AMI ELSHAREIF RECEIVED THE HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that Ami ElShareif has been named a recipient of the Hennepin County Bar Association's 2018 Excellence Award. The Excellence Awards honor HCBA members who have made contributions to the community, the organization, and the legal profession. She is one of nine attorneys to receive this award.

ElShareif currently serves as Vice Chair of HCBA's Diversity & Inclusion group. She has also served as the co-chair of the Hennepin County 1L Minority Clerkship Program for the past three years. In these roles, ElShareif has been a vocal advocate for diverse law students and attorneys, helping to ensure they have the mentorship they need to find success in the legal industry.

ElShareif is an associate of the Business Litigation Group and a member of the firm's Racial and Ethnic Diversity Working Group, among other committees.

7.23.2018
RACIAL AND ETHNIC
DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP
MEETING

7.29.2018 - 8.02.2018
NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION

8.06.2018
LGBTQ WORKING GROUP
MEETING

8.08.2018 - 8.10.2018
2018 LAVENDER LAW
CONFERENCE & CAREER



AOC Conference – Second Harvest Team-Building Activity



Medtech Women Panel on Fearless Leadership



FBA's Insights from Corporate Trailblazers of Color Event

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT: YASIN WILLIAMS MINNEAPOLIS, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COORDINATOR

Yasin Williams joined us at the beginning of May as our new Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator. Welcome to the team, Yasin!



Q: How are you unique?

A: It does not matter what obstacle I face, I will never quit.

Q: Why is diversity important to you?

A: We are all different; understanding and appreciating that has allowed me to form the greatest relationship with people.

Q: What inspires you?

A: Selflessly standing up for what is right, especially for those who are marginalized, under-represented, and under-resourced.

Q: If you could meet any living person for a chat over a shared dinner, who would you pick and why?

A: I would choose United States Senator Cory Booker. He has been a role model of mine since high school.

ALYSSA LAWSON HOSTS MEDTECH WOMEN PANEL

We would like to congratulate Alyssa Lawson, who moderated a Medtech Women panel discussion on Fearless Leadership. The panel discussed how to give the appearance of fearlessness, developing a leadership style that aligns with your personality, how best to “show up” and speak during meetings discussing difficult topics and how to recover from mistakes.

The panelists included: Jenny O'Brien, Chief Compliance Officer, UnitedHealthcare, Karen Parkhill, Chief Financial Officer, Medtronic, Inc. and Silvia Perez, Vice President & General Manager, 3M Drug Delivery Systems. Perez shared, “Being fearless is never being defined by the box” and O'Brien quipped, “Act like you've been there. Say it with conviction.”

TRENDING ARTICLES IN DIVERSITY

“Biglaw Partner Intervenes After Witnessing Police Assault a Motorist” - Above the Law

[Read](#)

“Some Big Law Firms Applaud as Clients Get Tougher on Diversity” - The American Lawyer

[Read](#)

“For Women and Minorities to Get Ahead, Managers Must Assign Work Fairly”

[Read](#)

- Harvard Business Review