

# NEWSLETTER

ROBINS KAPLAN LLP

## OCTOBER 2022 | 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: STEPHANIE CHEN



#### What is one fun fact about you?

One of my art pieces was featured in the 2016 University of Southern California's Women's Conference. It was surreal to see an entire conference planned around my art piece. I am a hobbyist artist, in which I paint and draw for fun and take on graphic design projects. I was surprised to be contacted by the university, end up in a licensing agreement, and see the piece on marketing materials, backdrops, wine bottle labels, and next to big sponsor names like Bank of America, with people posing for photos with the art. Here's a [photo](#) (additional photos can be found in that same Flickr album).

#### What inspires you?

Joy. It's cliché, but it's true. Life is too short. I am inspired and motivated by finding and cultivating joy in whatever I'm doing.

#### Why is diversity, equity and inclusion important to you?

I think it is foundational for success and well-being. Without diversity, equity, and inclusion, there is no sense of belonging. Without a sense of belonging, it is very difficult to grow and succeed as an individual. I grew up in a predominantly white community where kids who I thought were my friends insisted that I be nicknamed "stir fry" and my mom was referred to as "the little Asian lady." I would feel frustrated, angry, and lonely without realizing why, until I moved to Los Angeles for college in a much more diverse environment. I began to learn and embrace my identity, while also learning ways to stand up for myself. Today, I strongly advocate for diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments because everyone—but especially BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people—absolutely needs a safe and supportive environment to succeed and find happiness.

#### What are you looking forward to most in the next few months?

Traveling and celebrating! As I'm writing this, I will get married in a couple of days. We will travel to Greece for our honeymoon. One of my best friends since middle school will travel to my hometown near Portland. My dad turns sixty years old that same month, so we will have fun celebrating this milestone.

DEI SPOTLIGHT



**Mansfield Rule**  
Certified *Plus* 2022 Powered by DIVERSITYLAB

Robins Kaplan achieved Mansfield 5.0 Certification again, and for the second time achieved Plus status for 2022. The Plus status indicates that, in addition to meeting or exceeding the baseline diversity certification requirements, the firm reached at least 30 percent underrepresented lawyer representation in a notable number of current leadership roles.

## CONGRATULATIONS



KELLIE LERNER



ANNIE HUANG



MEEGAN HOLLYWOOD

Congratulations to **Kellie Lerner**, **Annie Huang**, and **Meegan Hollywood** for being named Notable Diverse Leaders in Law by [Crain's New York Business](#). This list features top law professionals from underrepresented groups.



SHERRY ROBERG-PEREZ

Congratulations to **Sherry Roberg-Perez** for receiving *Minnesota Lawyer's Diversity and Inclusion Award*. This award recognizes organizations and individuals who are significantly advancing diversity, inclusion, and justice for all within Minnesota's legal community.

# RECAP OF SUMMER EVENTS



Thank you to all who attended the Juneteenth luncheons at each participating office. A huge thanks to the **Black Firm Members Group** for hosting the luncheons, and we hope participants learned a new fact about Juneteenth.



This year, the **LGBTQ** and **WoRK** Resource groups hosted NYU Professor Melissa Murray for a discussion on the implications of the Supreme Court's decision in the abortion rights case.

To commemorate the month of Pride, offices gathered to celebrate with a sweet treat, and the bakery donated 10% of the net proceeds to the LGBT Community Center in New York City. Thank you to everyone who helped make Pride month memorable.



**Rashanda Bruce** moderated the WoRK webinar, *How to Chart Your Own Path*, in which attendees heard from a panel of women attorneys at Robins Kaplan who shared their experience in navigating the different options they have for growing within the firm. Thank you to Rashanda, the planning committee, and all panelists.

## RECONNECTING + RECHARGING

### ATTORNEYS OF COLOR CONFERENCE

The 2022 Attorneys of Color (AOC) Conference brought together attorneys from offices across the firm to *Reconnect and Recharge*. The planning committee (**Chair Brandon Vaughn, Rita Holmes-Bobo, Annie Huang, Teddy Keller, Esther Mignanelli, Mike Pacelli, Eric Sem, and Li Zhu**) worked diligently for several months to plan and execute an agenda that attendees would find beneficial to advance their careers and offer opportunities to build community within the firm.

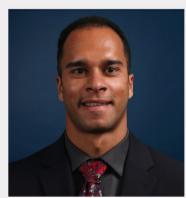
After welcomes from Board Chair **Ron Schutz** and Managing Partner **Steve Schumeister**, the conference continued with a panel discussion of Robins Kaplan alums **William Rocha**, General Counsel at Gold Medal Bakery and Founder of Rocha GC LLC; and **Elizabeth Le**, Associate General Counsel at ICANN. **Annie Huang** facilitated the panel discussion and led the Q&A session with Keynote Speaker **B. Todd Jones**, SVP and Special Counsel, NFL (also a Robins Kaplan alum). His candid discussion regarding his career trajectory, time as a law firm partner, and thoughts on diversity in law was both enlightening and humorous.

AOC community-building efforts included opportunities to provide their thoughts on what would be helpful or needed as they build their legal careers. Additionally, attendees shared stories about the challenges of being a diverse attorney.

While there were important topics addressed during the conference, there was also time set aside for fellowship at the Union Rooftop restaurant, the Board sponsored small group lunch outings, and the closing reception with executive board members, partners, and others.



NICOLE MOULIA



JACQUES FORBES



NICOLE TETZLAFF



BRANDON REDMON

We wish the best of luck to our summer associates Nicole Moulia, Jacques Forbes, Nicole Tetzlaff, and Brandon Redmon as they return to law school. Thank you for sharing your talents with us this summer!