



THE  
NATIONAL BAR  
ASSOCIATION  
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100 YEARS

# Corporate Law Section **GATEWAY TO SUCCESS** Conference

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Turning Adversity Into an  
Energy Source for Success

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Friday, April 4, 2025

Texas Southern University  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



# Partners in excellence.

We help our clients succeed, embrace change, and seize opportunity to achieve exceptional results together.

DLA proudly sponsors the NBA Corporate Law Section and its continuing support of legal education and opportunities in the legal profession.

Please meet our partners, Tanya Greene, moderating the “Corporate Boards” Panel, and Kevin Nolan, speaking on the AI Panel, “Embracing AI Innovation with Compliance as Partners.”



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Thank you to the

# National Bar Association

for 100 years of making our profession more inclusive.

We look forward to the next 100 together.







## Welcome to the Gateway to Success Conference!

Hello Conference Attendees,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the annual Gateway to Success Conference, taking place this year on Friday, April 4, 2025, in the dynamic city of Houston, Texas. It is an honor to host this transformative event in collaboration with Texas Southern University, a historic pillar in higher education and home to the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

The Gateway to Success Conference was created with a steadfast purpose: to empower and elevate the careers of African American corporate lawyers. Our mission is rooted in fostering the professional development of minority attorneys and equipping them to reach the upper echelons of the legal profession—whether as general counsels, chief compliance officers, law firm partners, or board members.

This conference offers a unique opportunity to connect with and learn from leaders at the pinnacle of corporate law. Through a series of carefully curated seminars and interactive networking sessions, we will explore the challenges and triumphs of these high-level roles even in times of adversity. Attendees can expect to leave with invaluable insights, practical tools, and a fortified network, all crucial for navigating their paths to success through excellence.

Moreover, we take pride in the afternoon sessions dedicated to cultivating the next generation of African American legal professionals. These informational sessions, led by prominent legal figures, aim to inspire and guide undergraduate and law school students aspiring to enter corporate law. We are especially proud to announce that the majority of the conference proceeds will be allocated to financial support for outstanding students, helping them take pivotal steps toward their legal careers.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration of talent, ambition, and community. We could not do this work without you. Together, we will continue to build a strong pipeline of African American leaders in corporate law. Let us make this conference an experience to remember!

Warm regards,

*Sonya Olds Som & Twanda Turner Westbrook*  
Co-Chairs, Gateway to Success Conference



April 4, 2025

Dear Conference Attendees,



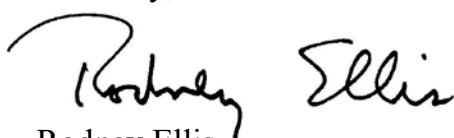
On behalf of Harris County, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Houston for the 2025 Gateway to Success Conference, hosted by the Corporate Law Section of the National Bar Association at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. We are honored to have such an esteemed gathering of African American corporate lawyers, industry leaders, and students in our city for this important event.

The Gateway to Success Conference is a critical platform for fostering career advancement, professional development, and leadership among African American corporate attorneys. The conference's commitment to increasing diversity in the legal profession and supporting future generations of lawyers through scholarships is both commendable and essential to the continued progress of our community.

As you engage in meaningful dialogue and build lasting connections, I also encourage you to take some time to experience all that Houston has to offer. From our world-class museums and renowned culinary scene to our rich cultural heritage and vibrant business landscape, Houston is a city that embodies diversity, innovation, and resilience. Whether exploring historic sites, enjoying our local parks, or visiting our dynamic downtown district, I hope you will find your time here both professionally enriching and personally enjoyable.

Once again, welcome to Houston! Thank you for your commitment to excellence and to the advancement of African American legal professionals. I wish you a successful and inspiring conference and hope that you leave with valuable insights and an expanded network of colleagues and mentors.

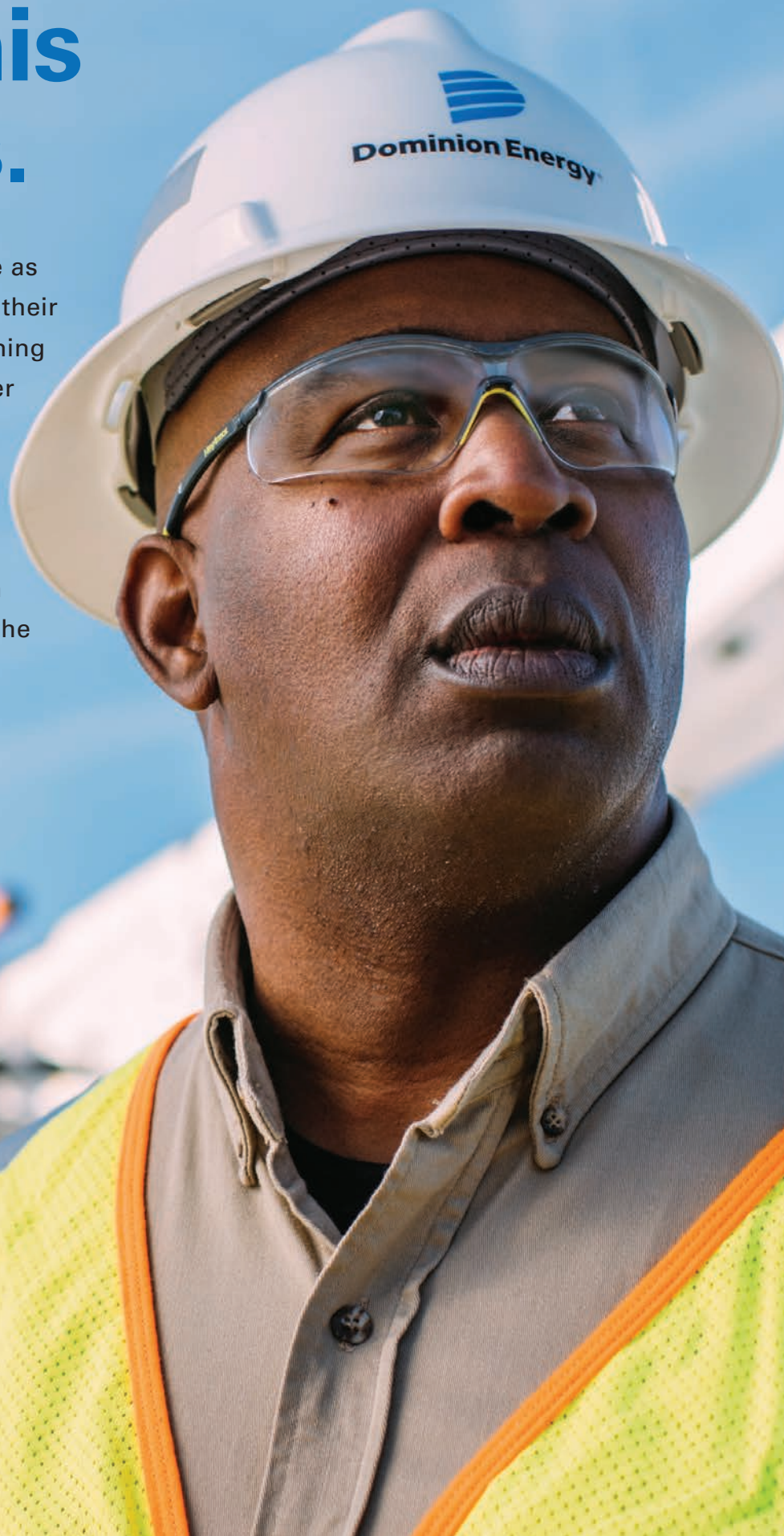
Sincerely,



Rodney Ellis  
Commissioner  
Harris County Precinct One

# Reliability rests on his shoulders.

There's a source of energy as reliable as any in the world: Our employees. It's their hard work —braving storms, maintaining solar and wind farms, servicing power lines, and building a smarter and more secure power grid — that brings our customers the dependable electricity they've come to expect. Our employees' dedication to every community they serve is at the heart of everything we do.



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**Proud Sponsor of the  
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Corporate Law Section's  
Gateway to Success Conference**







Dear Esteemed Guests, Sponsors and Corporate Law Section Members:

Welcome to our annual Gateway to Success Conference, being held this year at the renowned Thurgood Marshall School of Law, on the historic campus of Texas Southern University. Thank you for joining and supporting us at this noteworthy conference.

In synchronicity of the conference's Houston, Texas location, the energy capital of the world, and the current realities of our profession and communities, this year's theme, "Turning Adversity into an Energy Source for Success," sets the stage for an illuminating conference - equipping corporate law attorneys and law students with tools to optimally seize opportunities for success amid times of uncertainty and adversity.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the conference by engaging with thought leaders, participating in enlightening discussions and expanding your professional network.

Your presence and support are invaluable - enriching the conference experience and fostering a collaborative environment where synergies thrive. Thank you for being a part of the Gateway to Success Conference this year. Together, we elevate and energize each other towards new heights of achievement and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Otto O. Meyers III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "H" at the end.

Otto O. Meyers III

Chair, Corporate Law Section of the National Bar Association



# CITY OF HOUSTON

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John Whitmire

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

Greetings,

As the Mayor of Houston, I am pleased to welcome you to the **Corporate Law Section of the National Bar Association's 2025 Gateway to Success Conference ("Gateway")**, hosted at Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

This year's one-day conference, uniquely designed for African American corporate lawyers, provides an invaluable opportunity to advance careers and promote professional development. The event features seminars and networking activities that specifically address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by those in roles such as general counsel, compliance officers, and board members.

As a proud Houstonian, I am thrilled that **Gateway** attendees will experience all that Houston has to offer. Our vibrant metropolis is rich in history and showcases influential figures, cultural events, unique architecture, and landmarks. Houston is known for its diverse music genres, sports and entertainment scenes, and world-renowned culinary traditions.

I congratulate the **Corporate Law Section of the National Bar Association** for bringing **Gateway** to Houston, an outstanding and diverse city. I also send my best wishes to all attendees—may this conference be a successful, fulfilling, and memorable experience filled with learning, networking, and the potential for exciting new opportunities.

Houston is a great city with wonderful people, and I remain committed to making it even better every day.

Welcome to Houston!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Whitmire".

John Whitmire  
Mayor





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March 21, 2025

Dear Esteemed Attendees,

On behalf of the Harris County Attorney's Office, we are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to you as you join us in Harris County and the vibrant city of Houston for the 2025 Gateway to Success Conference, hosted by the Corporate Law Section of the National Bar Association.

Harris County is proud to be home to more than 4.8 million residents, making it one of the most diverse populations in the country, alongside a continuously evolving legal community that reflects the rich cultures, talents, and experiences of its people.

As you gather at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law for this significant event, we encourage you to take the opportunity to explore our dynamic region. Whether you choose to visit our world-renowned museums, immerse yourself in our thriving arts scene, or indulge in the diverse cuisine that makes Houston a global culinary destination, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

The Gateway to Success Conference is pivotal in advancing the careers and professional development of African American corporate lawyers. Its unwavering commitment to increasing the pipeline of diverse attorneys and investing in future leaders through scholarships and mentorship truly exemplifies the values we hold dear in Harris County: opportunity, equity, and community empowerment.

We are honored to host such an esteemed group of legal professionals and thought leaders. We hope your time here is not only enriching and productive but also inspiring. Thank you for your dedication to uplifting and strengthening the legal profession. Welcome to Harris County, Texas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Menefee".

Christian D. Menefee  
Harris County Attorney





JAMS IS A PROUD SPONSOR  
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**Corporate Law  
Section's "Gateway To  
Success" Conference**

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## AGENDA AT A GLANCE

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

**OPENING GREETINGS, BREAKFAST AND GIFTS**

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**GENERAL COUNSEL ROUND TABLE**

Leading executives will discuss what is next for major corporations. The leaders will discuss what you need to know to lead the forefront of change while weathering the waves. The discussion will also include ethical obligations attorneys will face representing the organization, the role of an attorney serving on the business side of the organization, and the application of the internal affairs doctrine in some states. Participants will be equipped with the knowledge needed to navigate ethical challenges and understand the legal framework governing corporate internal affairs.

- **Carlos Brown** - President, Dominion Energy Services and Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Dominion Energy
- **Regina Bynote Jones** - Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, ADM
- **Angelique Strong Marks** - Chief Legal Officer, Cars.com
- **Neil Wilcox** - Executive Vice President & Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Fiserv
- **Sherry Williams** - (former) Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Strategic Materials, Inc.
- **April Savoy** - Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Legal, Auto Club Enterprises

**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**THE LATEST TRENDS: INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR THE GENERAL COUNSEL ROLE, CORPORATE BOARD ROLE, AND LAW PARTNER**

This course is designed for attorneys planning for their next role as General Counsel, Corporate Director, or Law Partner or those seeking to enhance their interview skills for senior level legal positions. Participants will learn today's effective strategies, best practices, and key competencies necessary for successfully interviewing.

- **Michelle Duncan** - Partner, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
- **Lloyd Johnson** - Chief Executive Officer, Chief Legal Executive, LLC
- **Margot M. Jackson, Esq.** - Managing Director, Major Lindsey & Africa
- **Morenike Williams** - Founder & Senior Consultant, Revision Coaching
- **Monique Burt Williams** - Founder & CEO, Two Cups of Tea Career Consulting

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**EMBRACING AI INNOVATION WITH COMPLIANCE AS PARTNER**

AI tools can make legal work a lot easier, but it can be intimidating and overwhelming to get started. This session will provide real-world tips to make AI work for your law department, including how to use AI within the tools your organization already has. The session will outline tools to redline contracts, tools that make administrative work easier and more accurate, and workflows to make research efficient. Finally, what are the ethical and professional responsibility factors to consider passing the savings on to clients? (1 hour ethics applied for)

- **Teri Cotton Santos** - Chief Compliance Officer, Phillips 66
- **Kevin Nolan** - Partner, DLA Piper
- **Deonne Cunningham Nauls** - General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer, Skylar Capital Management LP
- **Lavonne Burke** - Vice President Legal Global Security & Resiliency, Digital (IT) & AI, Dell Technologies
- **Angela Downes** - Texas JAMS Neutral

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

## **GATEWAY TO SUCCESS AWARDS LUNCHEON HONOREE, CARLOS M. BROWN**

### **Welcome**

Twanda Turner Westbrook, General Counsel, SNMP Technologies

### **Introduction of Honoree**

Tanya Greene, Partner, DLA Piper

### **Acceptance of Award**

Carlos M. Brown, President, Dominion Energy Services and Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Dominion Energy

### **Gateway to Success in the Midst of Adversity**

Keynote - Benjamin Lloyd Crump, President & Founder,  
Ben Crump Law, PLLC



**Carlos M. Brown** is president–Dominion Energy Services and executive vice president, chief legal officer, and corporate secretary of Dominion Energy.

He oversees the corporate services provided to Dominion Energy’s operating companies, including information technology, security, facilities, and supply chain management as well as the law department, environmental services and sustainability. He also serves as the corporate secretary for Dominion Energy’s Board of Directors.

Brown joined Dominion in 2007. He has served in various business, operational and legal roles including general counsel, chief compliance officer and chief legal officer. He assumed his current position on January 1, 2024. Prior to joining the company, Brown was the managing partner of Brown Martin PC and previously practiced law as an associate at McGuireWoods LLP.

Brown received his bachelor’s degree and law degree from the University of Virginia where he was an Echols, Achievement, Underwood and Hardy Cross Dillard Scholar. While an undergraduate at the University, he also had the honor of serving as president of the student body. He was recognized for his contributions to the University by being initiated into the IMP, Thirteen and Raven Societies. In law school, he served as president of the Black Law Students Association.

Brown currently serves as Vice Rector on the board of visitors of the University of Virginia. He also serves on the board of directors at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, and the Dominion Energy Credit Union. Until 2018, he served as the chair of the Dominion Energy African American Resource Group.

Previously, Brown served on the boards of Feedmore, Inc.; the Virginia Small Business Advisory Board; the board of visitors of Christopher Newport University; the Richmond Virginia Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the Virginia Poverty Law Center; Boaz and Ruth, Inc.; and the transition teams of Governor Ralph Northam and Mayor Dwight Jones. He is a 2006 Richmond Style Weekly Top 40 under 40 award recipient. In 2017, in recognition of his work in the community, he was recognized as a Leader in the Law by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. In 2018, Savoy Magazine named Brown one of the most influential African American Attorneys in America. In addition, he was named to the Virginia Legal Elite for Corporate Counsel by Virginia Business Magazine and inducted as a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation. In 2019, he was named to the GC Power List. He is also a member of the Richmond Forum, the Executive Leadership Council and NACD Directorship Certified.



**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**DEI: STATE OF THE UNION**

The course will outline how to soar above the current discourse in the USA and do the right thing. It will include labor and employment and compliance. (1 hour ethics applied for)

- **Ben Crump - President & Founder, Ben Crump Law, PLLC**
- **Greg Weston - Partner, BurgherGray LLP**
- **Krystal Studavent Ramsey, Esq. - Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Blank Rome LLP**
- **David M. Dixon, Esq. - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Legal Consultant/Advisor, Truth DEI**

**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**CORPORATE BOARDS**

Experienced members of corporate boards will discuss strategic plans for a path to corporate board service for major corporations and the type of corporate boards that attorneys and leaders should consider. This section will emphasize the importance of networking in securing a corporate board position.

Networking is crucial for aspiring board members to build relationships with current board members, executives, and other influential individuals who can provide recommendations and insights. Effective networking can open doors to opportunities that may not be publicly advertised. This course will help you outline a strategic plan for the next steps.

- **Ben Wilson - Former Chairman, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.**
- **Lorraine McGowen - Partner, Orrick**
- **Phyllis Turner-Brim - Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, HP**
- **Jarvis Hollingsworth - Vice Chairman, Irradiant Partners**
- **Gregory Wilson - Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Docupace Technologies & a United States Air Force Veteran**
- **Tanya Greene - Partner, DLA Piper**

**3:30 PM - 4:15 PM**

**MY LIFE AS A LAWYER: INSURANCE**

A panel of diverse practitioners will discuss their roles and responsibilities and how to enter their respective industries.

- **James Bynoe - Chief Claims Counsel, Intact Insurance Specialty**
- **Catherine Costict - Senior Litigation Counsel, Allstate**
- **Erika Oates - Senior Counsel, Travelers**
- **Kenyon Moore - Senior Trial Attorney, State Farm**
- **T. Phillip Washington - Senior Trial Attorney, Nationwide**

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

**GATEWAY TO THE IN-HOUSE PRACTICE OF CORPORATE LAW**

Experienced practitioners, senior leaders, recruiters will discuss how to enter the practice of corporate law as a practitioner with little to no experience in-house.

- **Karen Dodson - Managing Counsel of the Alpharetta Staff Office, Travelers**
- **Dawn Tezino - Senior Corporate Counsel, CITGO**
- **Dionne Hamilton - Vice President & General Counsel, Honeywell**
- **Bert Jennings - Senior Regional Counsel, Lyondell Basell**
- **Paula Narcisse - Assistant General Counsel, Evolution Well Services**
- **Bryan Parker - Chief Executive Officer, Legal Innovators**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**NETWORKING RECEPTION**



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**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | OPENING GREETINGS, GIFTS AND BREAKFAST**

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

## General Counsel Round Table

**Description:** Leading executives will discuss what is next for major corporations. The leaders will discuss what you need to know to lead the forefront of change while weathering the waves. The discussion will also include ethical obligations attorneys will face representing the organization, the role of an attorney serving on the business side of the organization, and the application of the internal affairs doctrine in some states. Participants will be equipped with the knowledge needed to navigate ethical challenges and understand the legal framework governing corporate internal affairs.



**Carlos Brown - President, Dominion Energy Services and Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Dominion Energy**

Carlos M. Brown is president-Dominion Energy Services and executive vice president, chief legal officer, and corporate secretary of Dominion Energy.

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**Regina Bynote Jones - Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, ADM**

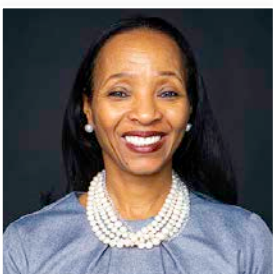
Regina Jones is senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of ADM and a member of the company's Executive Council. In this role, Jones oversees ADM's global legal and regulatory affairs, compliance initiatives, security operations and government relations efforts.

Jones joined ADM in September 2023. Before that, she served as the chief legal officer for Baker Hughes, a global leader in the energy technology sector. For the last three decades, Jones has held domestic and international legal roles with responsibility for complex legal environments across the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Middle East with expatriate assignments in Paris, France, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Jones previously served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Delek U.S. Holdings, Inc., and Delek Logistics Partners LP. Her career includes varied senior leadership roles in legal, supply chain and information technology with Schlumberger, Dynegy Marketing & Trade, Shell Oil Company and El Paso Energy.

Jones currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Manufacturers. She has previously served on Boards of Directors for the South Texas College of Law, Houston March of Dimes, Girl Scouts (San Jacinto Council), Child Advocates and the State Bar of Texas.

Jones earned her Bachelor of Business Administration, General Business from Sam Houston State University, and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law with an emphasis in computer and technology law.



**Angelique Strong Marks - Chief Legal Officer, Cars.com**

Angelique Strong Marks has been named Chief Legal Officer, effective April 4, and will lead the Company's legal, compliance, cybersecurity and privacy functions. Angelique joins CARS from NASDAQ-listed REE Automotive, a next generation electric vehicle platform, where she serves as General Counsel and was part of the core team that successfully established REE as a publicly traded company. Previously, Angelique served as General Counsel at MAHLE Industries and Behr America, global suppliers to the automotive industry. Angelique has more than 25 years of in-house experience including public corporate, M&A, financing and governance functions for national and global

companies in the automotive, mobility, manufacturing and retail sectors.

Angelique's extensive and diversified legal experience, along with her exceptional track record of managing complex business and legal strategies, adds valuable perspective on the automotive sector and the future of mobility integral to CARS' leadership in an evolving industry. In addition to her broad business experience and capabilities, Angelique is also a seasoned leader and team builder.

Angelique holds a Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University, a Master of Business Administration from Miami University and a Bachelor of Science with concentration in Finance from University of Akron.



**Neil Wilcox - Executive Vice President & Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Fiserv**  
Neil is a seasoned executive with varied experience leading teams at large financial institutions and technology companies. As Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Fiserv Neil helps lead the Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) function, Philanthropy, Corporate Citizenship, and Employee Resource Groups at Fiserv. In addition, Neil has launched a team dedicated to strengthening our relationships with our MDI and CDFI bank and credit union clients. Prior to joining Fiserv Neil served as Interim Chief Legal Officer at USAA. Prior to USAA Neil served as a division general counsel at JPMorgan and First Data.



**Sherry Williams - (former) Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Strategic Materials, Inc.**

Sherry D. Williams recently held the positions of Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, Corporate Secretary, and Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Strategic Materials, Inc., based in Houston, TX, the largest glass recycler in North America. As a key member of Strategic's senior leadership team, she managed the corporate human resources department and oversaw the company's legal portfolio, which included corporate contracting, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, compliance, risk management, environmental compliance, corporate investigations, employment and labor

matters, and litigation.

With over 25 years of experience in legal and leadership roles, Sherry has a diverse background in corporate governance, global compliance and investigations, litigation, risk management, team development, leadership development, change management, and diversity and inclusion. She is highly respected for her ability to handle complex issues, perform well under pressure, exercise sound judgment, and navigate rapidly changing situations.

Sherry serves on the Board of Trustees for Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg, FL, the Board of Directors for Brown Girls Do Ballet, which promotes diversity in the arts, and is a current member of the Executive Board for the Greater Tampa Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Miami School of Law in 1995 and a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in History from the University of Oklahoma in 1992. Sherry is licensed to practice law in Florida, New Jersey, and New York.



**April Savoy - Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Legal, Auto Club Enterprises**

April Savoy is the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer at Auto Club Enterprises, where she leads the legal, compliance, risk management, and public affairs functions for the organization. Auto Club Enterprises operates AAA clubs in part or all of 24 states – including the Automobile Club of Southern California – serving over 18 million members. April was most recently Senior Vice President & Deputy General Counsel at The Allstate Corporation, where she provided strategic legal and compliance counseling to Allstate and its subsidiaries. Prior to Allstate, April served as General Counsel, Properties,

Risk Management & Legal Operations at Norfolk Southern Corporation. Her earlier leadership positions include Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Acceptance Insurance Company and executive legal roles at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. April was Associate Chief Counsel for the American Cancer Society and Associate for Kilpatrick Townsend, LLP. April's background also includes board service in various capacities at organizations like Siloam Family Health Center in Nashville, TN, United Way of Central Ohio, The Lincoln Theatre, Seattle Art Museum and Pratt Fine Arts. April earned her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & International Affairs from Spelman College. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, the arts and spending time with her family and friends.



10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## The Latest Trends: Interview Process for the General Counsel Role, Corporate Board Role, and Law Partner

**Description:** This course is designed for attorneys planning for their next role as General Counsel, Corporate Director, or Law Partner or those seeking to enhance their interview skills for senior level legal positions. Participants will learn today's effective strategies, best practices, and key competencies necessary for successfully interviewing.



**Michelle Duncan - Partner, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP**

Michelle L. Duncan is a Partner in the Louisville, Kentucky office of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, a national law firm with thirty offices in the United States and more than eight hundred attorneys. Michelle has seventeen years of experience representing business entities and professionals in complex civil litigation and pre-suit claims. She has a concentration in employment litigation and insurance defense. Michelle has represented clients before administrative agencies and state and federal courts across the country. Most recently, Michelle successfully defended a client in a religious discrimination, hostile work environment, and retaliation case before both the U.S.

District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Michelle earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Finance from the University of Kentucky and her juris doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She is President-Elect of the Charles W. Anderson, Jr. Bar Association (formerly known as the Louisville Black Lawyers Bar Association), Chair of the Louisville Bar Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and serves on Dinsmore's Recruiting Committee. Michelle has served as a past board member for the Louisville Bar Association and the Muhammad Ali Center.

In 2024, Michelle was named an Enterprising Woman award recipient by Louisville Business First magazine, and in 2025, Michelle was awarded the Louisville Bar Association's Justice William E. McAnulty Jr. Trailblazer Award.



**Lloyd Johnson - Chief Executive Officer, Chief Legal Executive, LLC**

For more than 30-years, Lloyd Johnson has counseled senior executives at Fortune 500 companies and guided them in achieving their professional goals. Between 2011 and 2018, Johnson conducted more than 100 leadership development workshops specifically targeted to inhouse legal counsel, designed to leverage, and expand their individual strengths and leadership. Currently there are now more than 40 general counsel in Fortune 500 companies that have worked with Lloyd to further develop their leadership skills.

Johnson has created the Ascent Leadership program for women lawyers in legal departments and the Rise Up program for Black lawyers in legal departments. Both programs help aspiring in-house lawyers to gain critical



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

leadership competencies and practical insights needed to move to top roles. In three years, more than 250 women participated in Ascent, which is a year long executive leadership program. The class of 2021 presented women general counsel from Novartis, Arrow Electronics, The Department of Defense, Xylem, Texas Merchant Bank, York Defense Systems, and Spencer Stuart.

Lloyd M. Johnson Jr. is a visionary innovator at the intersection of diversity and talent development. His work brings together leadership and professional development aligned with practical strategies to create meaningful and sustainable change in the legal industry.

Lloyd Johnson is the founding member and co-chair of American Lawyer Media's DE&I Editorial Advisory Board. He is the co-chair of the advisory board of JusticeBid, an innovative start up in the space of data analytics in law. He is also a member of the Legal Operators, Advisory Group; Legal Operators is a community of leading legal operations professionals around the world. Johnson holds a J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of Law and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.



**Margot M. Jackson, Esq. - Managing Director, Major Lindsey & Africa**

Margot Jackson is a Managing Director in our In-House Counsel Recruiting group. She specializes in working with client companies to build, grow and restructure their legal departments through the acquisition of top legal talent and the implementation of strategic initiatives designed to increase efficiency and reduce overall legal spend.

She has placed attorneys at all levels within corporate legal departments nationwide. When partnering with clients, Margot aims to identify opportunities where we can assist our clients in satisfying their business needs that exist within or beyond an

organization's legal department.

Margot is a passionate advocate for increasing diversity within the legal profession. As such, she is a member of our In-House Diversity & Inclusion Committee, a group of talented recruiters dedicated to attracting, developing and retaining diverse talent for our clients and our own organization.

Margot began her legal career at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where she was a real estate attorney for several years. She also has extensive experience working as a search consultant for a national executive search firm, providing strategic counsel to associate-level candidates regarding career development and guiding them to achieve long-term career goals. She has worked with attorneys in a wide range of practice areas, from real estate, privacy, corporate and litigation to intellectual property law.

Notable recent placement and search highlights for Margot include in-house counsel positions for UCLA, Irvine Company, NiSource, Aptar, Pacific Life Insurance, ChowNow, El Pollo Loco, California Institute of Technology, South Coast Plaza, Northrop Grumman, Monster Energy, Panasonic Avionics, Boston Consulting Group, Alexandria Real Estate Equities, EMCOR, Aristocrat Technologies and City of Hope.

When she's not working, Margot spends her free time cooking classic French and Italian cuisine and traveling and spoiling her large, rambunctious dog.



**Morenike Williams - Founder & Senior Consultant, Revision Coaching**

Morenike Williams is the CEO of Revision Coaching®, a woman-owned consultancy that provides tailored coaching and workshop solutions to empower legal professionals in accelerating their professional growth, accessing untapped potential, and ascending to new heights.

Bringing more than 15 years of experience to bear, Morenike is a sought-after speaker and facilitator who curates customized experiences to propel her clients forward on their career journeys. Morenike boasts an impressive legal background, which includes

time spent in Big Law at Cravath, Swaine & Moore and Allen & Overy (London) as well as in-house at Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Vanguard.

Morenike's primary areas of expertise are emotional intelligence, relationship management, career strategy, effective communication, and leadership development. Above all, her authentic and thoughtful approach is what her clients value most.

Morenike graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Connect with Morenike on [revisioncoaching.com](https://revisioncoaching.com) and LinkedIn.



**Monique Burt Williams - Founder & CEO, Two Cups of Tea Career Consulting**

Monique is the founder of Two Cups of Tea Career Consulting, an integrative professional development firm that specializes in recruiting, career continuity consulting, and workforce engagement.

For two decades, Monique has counseled Fortune 500 companies, global law firms, and government agencies through complex workforce augmentation and talent management challenges. She formerly worked for a prominent litigation boutique, and

was subsequently asked to join the legal division of a Fortune 100 workforce solutions company. While there, she built a consulting practice to address the various concerns that corporate law departments face.

Immediately prior to launching Two Cups, Monique served as CEO of the nation's largest woman-owned search firm for in-house lawyers. In 2021, Inc. magazine named the Firm as one of the fastest growing companies in America.

She earned a B.A. with honors from the University of Michigan, and her J.D. (Order of the Barristers) from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She also studied International Business Transactions at the Sorbonne in Paris, France.

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

## Embracing AI Innovation with Compliance as Partner

**Description:** AI tools can make legal work a lot easier, but it can be intimidating and overwhelming to get started. This session will provide real-world tips to make AI work for your law department, including how to use AI within the tools your organization already has. The session will outline tools to redline contracts, tools that make administrative work easier and more accurate, and workflows to make research efficient. Finally, what are the ethical and professional responsibility factors to consider passing the savings on to clients?



### **Teri Cotton Santos - Chief Compliance Officer, Phillips 66**

Teri Cotton Santos is the Chief Compliance Officer for Phillips 66, a diversified energy company. She is responsible for the overseeing the strategy, planning, and development of the company's global ethics and compliance program, including its standards of conduct, policies, training, internal monitoring, and investigations. She has extensive experience advising companies and boards of directors on legal, compliance and risk matters in highly regulated industries including energy, pharmaceuticals, and financial services.

Prior to joining Phillips in 2023, Teri was the Chief Compliance Officer for HF Sinclair, a Dallas- headquartered global energy company. In this role she was responsible for the design and implementation of the company's global compliance program which included managing risks such as cybersecurity, data privacy, global trade compliance and ESG. Previously she served as the Senior Vice President, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer for The Warranty Group, a global provider of service contracts, extended warranties, and insurance. Before her career in ethics and compliance, Teri served as an in-house counsel for Eli Lilly and Company (Lilly), where she held roles of increasing responsibility, including General Counsel of Lilly's Asian Operations and Assistant General Counsel, Litigation and Legal Compliance. Teri is also a former criminal prosecutor.



### **Kevin Nolan - Partner, DLA Piper**

Kevin Nolan's practice focuses on the representation of institutional investors, funds of funds, and sponsors of private investment funds. He counsels US and non-US clients on issues including fund formations, secondary transactions, and investments in alternative assets.

He assists these clients with the review and negotiation of investment documentation, including limited partnership agreements, subscription agreements, side letters and private placement memoranda. In addition, Kevin negotiates and advises in secondary portfolio transactions and assists clients in all stages of the secondary transaction process.

Kevin also represents fund sponsors in all aspects of fund formation, capital raising, management company structuring, regulatory compliance and day-to-day operational issues.





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**Deonne Cunningham Nauls - General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer, Skylar Capital Management LP**

Deonne Cunningham Nauls is the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for Skylar Capital Management LP. With over 16 years of experience, her practice includes legal and compliance issues related to energy matters, including but not specifically limited to, commercial transactions related to marketing, physical and financial derivatives trading for natural gas and other petroleum products, power, and renewables, regulatory and compliance, litigation, project development and facility operations, real estate, land and corporate governance matters.

Her previous experience includes General Counsel of GlidePath Power Solution, LLC, Associate General Counsel at Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC and Lead Counsel of the Wholesale Legal Contracts team (natural gas, power, and renewables) at Direct Energy. She led the team through the 2021 closing of the \$3.6 billion sale of Direct Energy from Centrica, plc to NRG Energy, a Fortune 500 company. She has also represented other companies and organizations as counsel such as Noble Energy, Repsol, Iberdrola, and the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) in Houston, Texas.

Deonne obtained her Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston. She currently serves as a Board Member for the Texas Chapter of the Energy Bar Association and on the Advisory Board for Mercaturae Institute.



**Lavonne Burke - Vice President Legal Global Security & Resiliency, Digital (IT) & AI, Dell Technologies**

Lavonne Burke is a technology executive, award-winning attorney, speaker, author, and transformative leader. As Vice President at Dell Technologies, she leads a global team attorneys and legal & compliance professionals focused on IT & eCommerce, Data Governance, Cybersecurity, Product & Application Development & Security, Privacy/Data Protection, Supply Chain Assurance, Corporate/Physical Security, Crisis Management, Insider Threat, Enterprise Resiliency & Fraud/Security Investigations and AI Compliance. Her responsibilities include advising on the creation, development and

governance of global policies and standards, oversight and management of numerous global compliance programs, enterprise risk management, data protection, crisis management & incident response, third-party risk management, commercial contract negotiation for inbound IT transactions and customer security agreements, M&A, and AI compliance for Dell's internal use and products. Her legal experience additionally includes intellectual property & technology transactions, product development & commercialization counseling, and technology/IP acquisitions and strategic investments. Prior to joining Dell, Lavonne worked for Johnson & Johnson where she served as Senior Director and Senior Counsel for Global Technology Transactions, IT, Procurement & Supply Chain, Cybersecurity & Privacy.

While serving as outside counsel, Lavonne gained extensive experience supporting more than in \$100B+ of global commercial and business strategic transactions in the context of technology transactions, IP monetization, buy and sell-side M&AD, IPOs, VC /Private Equity transactions, financing, licensing, sourcing and procurement and strategic capital investments. Her experience further includes evaluating, acquiring, licensing, and enforcing intellectual property rights in numerous industries, including technology, software, digital media, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biotechnology, health care and energy. She has vast experience in drafting and negotiating a varied array of transactional agreements, including: IP license agreements, non-disclosure agreements, commercial purchase agreements, definitive purchase agreements, software/IT, cloud andaaS agreements, master service agreements, outsourcing agreements, franchising agreements, distribution and supply agreements, joint development and commercialization agreements.





**Angela Downes - Texas JAMS Neutral**

Angela Downes, Esq., joins JAMS in Dallas as a neutral after a distinguished career as a mediator, educator and attorney. As a professor of practice and assistant director of experiential education at the University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law, Professor Downes develops and manages the law school's clinical mediation programs, connecting students with underserved clients throughout the city.

Prior to joining the university, Professor Downes' practice included policy and legislative work in the areas of criminal justice, interpersonal violence, and child abuse and protection. She is a recognized subject matter expert in interpersonal violence issues, providing training, policy advice and technical assistance to nonprofit agencies and state and local government officials.

Professor Downes is an innovative and critical thinker committed to using creative solutions to resolve disputes.

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | GATEWAY TO SUCCESS AWARDS LUNCHEON  
HONORING CARLOS M. BROWN**

**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**DEI: State of the Union**

**Description:** The course will outline how to soar above the current discourse in the USA and do the right thing. It will include labor and employment and compliance insights.



**Ben Crump - President & Founder, Ben Crump Law, PLLC**

Listed among TIME100's Most Influential People of 2021, Attorney Ben Crump is known as "Black America's Attorney General." Crump has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social justice.

He has worked on some of the most high profile and consequential cases, representing the families of Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tyre Nichols, and Henrietta Lacks in a landmark medical reparations case. Additionally, he secured a \$626 million settlement for Flint, Michigan, residents affected by poisoned water. His recent victories include a \$310 million verdict for the family of Tyre Sampson and a \$98 million verdict for the family of Botham Jean. In 2023, he achieved a \$45 million settlement for Randy Cox, believed to be the largest pretrial settlement ever in a police brutality case. Crump's passionate advocacy before the Massachusetts Supreme Court led to them ruling in favor of a Black woman in the historic case of Tamara Lanier versus Harvard, who sued the university for the possession of the photographs of her enslaved ancestors, which are valued at approximately \$100 million.

Crump's documentary *How to Sue the Klan* highlights a pivotal 1982 civil trial against the Ku Klux Klan. Netflix featured his career in Civil, and St. Thomas University renamed its law school in his honor. As founder of Ben Crump Law, he continues to champion justice nationwide.



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#### **Greg Weston - Partner, BurgherGray LLP**

Gregory M. Weston is a Partner at BurgherGray LLP, where he advises emerging managers and other sponsors of private equity, real estate, private credit, and venture funds regarding fund formation, regulatory and transactional matters. Greg also represents institutional investors on a variety of alternative investments. Greg has extensive experience in real estate finance and investments and has represented lenders, investors, and developers in complex transactions involving office, retail, and multifamily properties. He has also worked extensively with investors and other participants on public private partnerships relating to transportation, energy, and other infrastructure projects and with

bond issuers, underwriters, and not-for-profit organizations in a variety of taxable and tax-exempt transactions involving infrastructure, housing, and higher education.

Greg serves as general counsel to the National Association of Investment Companies and is a board member of the Real Estate Executive Council and former board member of the Structured Finance Association. He also is a governor appointee to the Real Estate Board of the State of New York. Beyond his professional commitments, Greg is deeply involved in various community and nonprofit organizations. He is a trustee of Democracy Preparatory New York Charter Schools, former Board President of Weston United Community Renewal, and a board member of The Bridge. His commitment to community service extends to his role on the Investment Committee for The Riverside Church.

Prior to joining BurgherGray, Greg served in prominent senior roles including in-house positions and at AmLaw 100 firms, most recently in the role of Partner at Winston & Strawn's New York Office.

Greg received his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, and a B.A. from Howard University.



#### **Krystal Studavent Ramsey, Esq. - Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Blank Rome LLP**

Krystal Studavent Ramsey is an award-winning executive, legal business strategist, and thought leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion, business development, and legal talent innovation. As the CEO and Founder of KSR Ventures, a hybrid legal consulting, coaching, and talent agency, she partners with law firms, legal departments, legal companies, and attorneys to maximize career and business growth, develop inclusive leaders and workplace culture, and modernize operations.

A Certified Diversity Executive with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion certification from Cornell and Change Management certification from Wharton, Krystal is a recurring lecturer at University of Pennsylvania - The Wharton School and has advised and trained Fortune 500 legal teams and law firm leaders on business development, workforce transformation, and diversity, equity, and inclusion best practices.

Previously, Krystal led diversity, equity, and inclusion at Blank Rome, an AmLaw 100 firm, built the function as the firm's first dedicated leader, was on multiple firm committees and task forces, and guided firm leadership in integrating diversity equity, and inclusion into operations and culture. She also held business development leadership and advisory roles at Norton Rose Fulbright, an AmLaw 50 firm, and Axiom, one of the world's largest flexible legal talent companies. She served as General Counsel and SVP of Business Affairs for an entertainment conglomerate affiliated with Beyoncé, where she drove growth strategy, financial performance, and talent development.

A recognized legal industry leader, Krystal co-authored the 2023 State of Black Women in the Law DEIB Report and led a personal branding initiative in collaboration with the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division, serves on the board of Canaan Land Ranch, and is a steering committee member of the Texas Minority Counsel Program. She has been awarded for her leadership by Diversity Global, the Houston Business Journal, Houston Lawyers Association, National Bar Association, and Texas Lawyer.



**David M. Dixon, Esq. - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Legal Consultant/Advisor, Truth DEI**

Mr. Dixon is a diverse business and legal professional with in-depth experience researching and acting in a legal advisor capacity to diverse educational and academic organizations; passionate commitment to driving change; track record of developing and delivering Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (D&I) initiatives to help effect change; unwavering commitment to staying ahead of industry knowledge, competitive intelligence, data analysis and thought leadership; public speaker with emphasis on business development and relationship management presentations; experience working in corporate (law) as well as academic organizations; ability to communicate and influence at all levels of an organization; recognize critical value in hiring, managing and developing high performing teams.

**2:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

## Corporate Boards

**Description:** Experienced members of corporate boards will discuss strategic plans for a path to corporate board service for major corporations and the type of corporate boards that attorneys and leaders should consider. This section will emphasize the importance of networking in securing a corporate board position.

Networking is crucial for aspiring board members to build relationships with current board members, executives, and other influential individuals who can provide recommendations and insights. Effective networking can open doors to opportunities that may not be publicly advertised. This course will help you outline a strategic plan for the next steps.



**Ben Wilson - Former Chairman, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.**

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Ben joined the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice in 1979. At the Justice Department, he gained substantial trial expertise in commercial litigation matters, appearing on behalf of the government in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the United States Court of Claims, and district courts throughout the U.S. While at the Justice Department, Ben received Special Achievement Awards in recognition of his performance in 1981 and 1982. Ben joined Beveridge & Diamond in 1986 and retired from the firm in December 2021 after serving multiple terms as Firmwide Managing Partner and as the firm's first Chairman. At B&D, Ben was lead counsel in numerous complex environmental litigation and regulatory matters for major consumer product corporations, retailers, oil and gas companies, municipalities, and developers. Ben also counseled clients on environmental justice representations and is now a recognized leader on diversity and inclusion issues in the legal profession.





**Lorraine McGowen - Partner, Orrick**

Lorraine S. McGowen is a leading bankruptcy and restructuring attorney, a Partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, a member of Orrick's Management Committee and a long-time leader of Orrick's global Inclusion & Belonging Initiatives. She has held other leadership positions in the firm, including serving on the firm's Board of Directors.

Lorraine has 30+ years of experience in bankruptcies, out-of-court restructurings, bank insolvency, sovereign and municipal debt restructurings, and creditors' rights enforcement actions.

Ms. McGowen is a former Vice President and Board Member of the New York City Bar Association and currently co-chairs its Presidential Task Force on Artificial Intelligence & Digital Technologies and is a member of the City Bar Commercial Law & Uniform State Laws Committee. She serves on the Boards of Directors for the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession and the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, where she is chair of the board. She has been recognized as an MCCA Rainmaker, one of Savoy's Most Influential Lawyers, one of Savoy's Most Influential Women in Corporate America and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association's Private Practitioner of the Year.



**Phyllis Turner-Brim - Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, HP**

Phyllis T. Turner-Brim is a legal executive with an impressive record of building, leading and transforming high performing legal teams. Currently, Phyllis serves as Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at HP Inc. ("HP") where she leads legal support for HP's Global Business Units, Technology Innovation Organization and Enterprise Operations. As a Director of Adeia Inc. (NASDAQ: ADEA) Phyllis brings her leadership skills and business acumen to guiding strategy and governance of a publicly traded corporation.

Phyllis' prior roles include, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Starbucks Coffee Company, Vice President and Chief IP Counsel at Intellectual Ventures Management, and Director of RFID Licensing and Strategy at Intermec Technologies Corporation. Before entering the legal profession, Phyllis worked in product development and engineering for Procter & Gamble and General Electric.

Phyllis holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Cincinnati, and a BS Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is admitted to practice in Illinois, Texas, Washington, and before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.



**Jarvis Hollingsworth - Vice Chairman, Irradiant Partners**

Jarvis V. Hollingsworth is Vice Chairman and serves as a member of the Management Committee of Irradiant Partners, LP, an alternatives investment advisor founded in October 2021 that focuses on investments in renewable energy private equity and credit, liquid credit and opportunistic credit. Irradiant has over \$12.7 billion in assets under management and is 100% owned by its founders and employees.

Mr. Hollingsworth previously served as General Counsel/Corporate Secretary and was on the Board of Directors and the five-member Executive Committee of Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P., a leading alternatives investment management firm with approximately \$30 billion in assets based in Los Angeles. As General Counsel/Corporate Secretary, he advised the firm on all legal mat-





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ters, including private fund formation/management and securities regulatory/compliance. Mr. Hollingsworth is a former Partner of the law firm Bracewell LLP in Houston, Texas where he served on the firm's Management and Finance Committees.

Mr. Hollingsworth previously served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS), a Texas state agency which manages a \$200 billion-plus pension trust fund and administers an array of benefits for retirees and active employees of education-related institutions. He served two terms on TRS' Board of Trustees, 2002-2008 and 2017-2024, serving as Board Chair during both terms. Under his leadership, TRS underwent many transformative changes, including reallocating the alternative assets portfolio from 4 percent to 35 percent, doubling the portfolio's hedge fund allocation, and revamping the investment governance structure to become a leader amongst its large institutional peers.

Mr. Hollingsworth is currently an Independent Director of Vital Energy, Inc. (NYSE: VTLE), a diversified energy company, where he has provided oversight for multiple acquisitions over the last 12 months as a member of the Audit Committee and as Chair of the Nominations/Governance committee. He is a Director of the Memorial Hermann Health System and the National Association of Corporate Directors, TriCities Chapter. Mr. Hollingsworth is also a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Financial Sector Advisory Council.

Mr. Hollingsworth is a former director of the following companies: Frost Bank, and its holding company, Cullen / Frost Bankers, Inc. (NYSE:CFR), where he served on the Audit and Nominations/Governance committees; Core Scientific, Inc. (NASDAQ: CORZ), a Blockchain infrastructure, hosting provider and digital asset mining company where he served as the Lead Independent Director, member of the Audit Committee, and Chair of the Nominations/Governance committee; Blockcap Inc., an independent digital currency and Blockchain mining operator; and Infogroup, Inc., a private equity-backed digital marketing company. He previously served from 2009-2015 as a gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Regents of the University of Houston System where he served as Chair of the Board and Chair of the Audit, Endowment, Finance, Executive and Compensation committees during his 6-year tenure.



#### **Gregory Wilson - Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Docupace Technologies and a United States Air Force Veteran**

Prior to joining Docupace, Wilson served as the Chief Information Security Officer at Pioneer Natural Resources and was the Head of Information Security at Ist Global. Wilson led the IT Compliance and Security function at TPG Capital and the IT Compliance and Security group at Lehigh Hanson.

Wilson serves as an Advisor for Menlo Ventures, YL, and Vation Ventures and on EveryIncome, LC corporate Advisory Boards, and Dallas Innovation Advisory Council.

Wilson also serves on several professional and community boards, including Dallas CISO Executive Committee and SecureWorld Dallas.

Wilson graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Oklahoma. Wilson holds a certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School cyber security executive program and holds the CISSP, CISM, CGEIT, CDPSE, PSM, and PMP certifications as well as his Series 7, 24, and 66.



**Tanya Greene - Partner, DLA Piper**

Tanya Greene is a seasoned litigator who represents prominent corporations and businesses globally in complex, large-scale litigation. With extensive experience in managing consumer class actions and intricate single- and multi-plaintiff litigation, Tanya serves Fortune 500 clients across heavily regulated industries, including finance, technology, utilities, and petroleum. Tanya also specializes in advising companies on challenges related to wildfires, including the development and implementation of wildfire mitigation plans and policies.

In the realm of class actions, Tanya has successfully litigated and resolved a wide array of consumer-related claims, including those involving improper fee charges, breach of contract, product liability, and violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), the Rosenthal Act, the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, the Unfair Competition Law, and various other state consumer protection statutes. Tanya also devotes a substantial portion of her practice to appellate matters and has argued cases before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and several courts throughout California.

**3:30 PM - 4:15 PM**

## My Life as a Lawyer: Insurance

**Description:** A panel of diverse practitioners will discuss their roles and responsibilities and how to enter their respective industries.

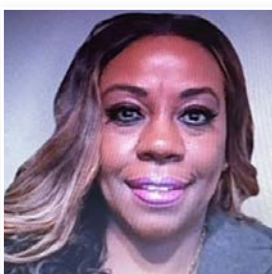


**James Bynoe - Chief Claims Counsel, Intact Insurance Specialty**

James G. Bynoe serves as Chief Claims Counsel for Intact Insurance Specialty Solutions. The Claims Legal group sets the direction and implementation of claims litigation strategy and coverage determination. The group also provides advice and counsel regarding Intact's insurance policies and any litigation arising from coverage disputes. Jim monitors existing coverage litigation, including extra contractual exposures, and his team is responsible for the negotiation all extra contractual exposures. As Chief Claims Counsel, Jim is also responsible for the management and development of Intact's in-house staff counsel program, its internal coverage litigation

group, as well as the company's outside panel counsel program.

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Jim received his B.A. in English from Dartmouth College. He went on to earn his law degree from Boston University School of Law and his MBA from Sawyer School of Management at Suffolk University.



**Catherine Costict - Senior Litigation Counsel, Allstate**

Catherine Costict has been Senior Litigation Counsel at Allstate Insurance Company for more than twenty-five years. At Allstate, she manages matters involving claims litigation, regulatory, privacy, auto and health. Catherine handles claims litigation through trial. She gives regulatory opinions nationwide on whether there has been a privacy violation as member of the Privacy & Cybersecurity Incident Response Team. She also manages matters involving risk management, responses to the Department of Insurance, marketing, and contracts. During her career, she has created business

development opportunities for retained counsel from corporate law departments, such as the Cofounder of the Gateway to Success Conference. In 2022, she was the recipient of the Cora T. Walker Award, which is the highest award given to a corporate law department attorney in the NBA. She was Chief of Staff appointed by nationally known attorney Benjamin Crump while he was President of the NBA. She was Chair of the Civic Justice Town Hall Meetings moderated by talk show host Sheryl Underwood and Attorney Ben Crump. She is a native of Moss Point, Mississippi, a graduate of Jackson State University and the University of Memphis Law School. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



**Erika Oates - Senior Counsel, Travelers**

Erika C. Oates joined Travelers Staff Counsel in June 2019 as a Senior Counsel. Her primary areas of practice are workers' compensation defense and private sector liability claims. Erika is a native of Florence, Alabama. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Tuskegee University; followed by a J.D. from Indiana University School of Law. Upon graduation from law school in 2000 Erika moved to Atlanta, Georgia and began pursuing her legal career at a prominent defense firm. Erika continued working in defense litigation for over 9 years and made a move to Plaintiff's practice. Erika spent 3 years handling workers' compensation for injured Employees and handling liability claims

before returning to defense litigation as staff counsel at a national insurance company again handling workers' compensation claims. Erika spent several years in this position, before returning to private practice in both defense and plaintiff's practice. Erika is affiliated with several local and national bar associations. Currently, Erika is the Secretary of the National Bar Association-Insurance Law Section. She is admitted to practice in all Georgia state and appellate courts, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia. Erika has over 25 years of legal experience and has been a panelist and guest speaker on various legal issues relating to workers' compensation, employment law, and diversity and inclusion



**Kenyon Moore - Senior Trial Attorney, State Farm**

Kenyon Moore is native of Atlanta, Georgia, and proud alumnus of Kennesaw State University where he earned a bachelor's in political science. Kenyon obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law and Master of Laws in Health Law from the University of Houston Law Center.

Professionally, he is a licensed attorney, member of the State Bar of Texas, and a member of the Texas Bar College, an honorary society of lawyers who are recognized as being among the "best trained in Texas." He is also admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. He is a member of the National Bar Association, Houston Lawyers Association, and served on the Law School Admissions Council's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion committee. Kenyon was named to the National Black Lawyers Top 100 list in 2021. He has over 15 years of legal experience which includes representation of family law clients in matters involving custody, modification, and child support in Harris, Fort Bend and Contiguous counties. He has extensive experience in Civil Litigation and has expanded his legal knowledge to include matters of Insurance Defense and Tort Law. For over 10 years, Kenyon ran his own law firm and served as the Director of Admissions for one of Houston's most diverse law schools, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He has worked as a Senior Trial Attorney for Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company before joining the State Farm team in September of 2022. He has handled a variety of cases for Allstate including first and third party auto accidents and premise liability cases.





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Kenyon actively serves his community by dedicating his free time to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association and Houston Food Bank. He is active and serves on many committees within the NBA (National Bar Association) Corporate Law Division. In trying to serve his community further and cossetting his fascination for the political realm and local politics, he was a candidate for City Councilman in Houston's 2019 election for District D. While his political aspirations did not come to fruition, the experience gained has only made him a better Attorney and Advocate.



#### **T. Phillip Washington - Senior Trial Attorney, Nationwide**

T. Philip Washington is a Board Certified Personal Injury Attorney that loves creative writing, travelling, competing in triathlons and running events, and using every opportunity he can to make new memories with Family and Friends.

T.'s currently practices Commercial Insurance Defense at Nationwide Insurance Company. His representative matters include Premises Liability, Products Liability, Wrongful Death/Survivor actions, Dram Shop, Commercial Motor Vehicle and Personal

Lines auto accident cases. An Educator at heart, T. has developed and facilitated multiple legal presentations and trial skills courses for national audiences of Attorneys and Claims stakeholders. T. cut his legal teeth as Assistant District Attorney in Galveston County, Texas, where he tried cases ranging from DWI to Murder and authored post-conviction appellate reply-briefs.

In addition to his legal work, T. is aa Alum of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's Pathfinder program. He is a proud Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and is the President of the Zeta Tau Lambda Educational Foundation. T. will celebrate 25 years of marriage to his Wife on July 22nd and looks forward to continuing their epic journey of parenthood—raising two teenagers.

**4:15 PM - 5:00 PM**

## **Gateway to the In-House Practice of Corporate Law**

**Description:** Experienced practitioners, senior leaders, recruiters will discuss how to enter the practice of corporate law as a practitioner with little to no experience in-house.



#### **Karen Dodson - Managing Counsel of the Alpharetta Staff Office, Travelers**

Joined Travelers in 1999 as an attorney in the Staff Counsel organization. Karen was named Manager of the Staff Counsel First Party Office in Melville, New York on October 1, 2004 thereafter she was also named Manager of the New York City First Party Office in 2006. She joined Auto Claim Legal Team along with her team in November of 2008 and continued her leadership of 92 attorneys and support staff members of the Metro First Party Group with office locations in Melville, New York; Lexington Avenue, New York City; and Morristown, New Jersey until January 2013. Presently, Karen serves as Managing Counsel of the Alpharetta Staff Counsel Office which comprises of 30

attorneys and support staff members. The office specializes in the areas of auto, construction liability, workers compensation, public sector, subrogation, general liability, and trucking cases.

She is a graduate of Syracuse University, where she received a B.A. in Policy Studies\Public Administration and a graduate of Hofstra University School of Law. During her career Karen has litigated and tried numerous

bench and jury trials. Prior to joining Travelers, she was an Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, thereafter she was hired as a Special Assistant Corporation Counsel with the Administration for Children Services whereby she prosecuted child abuse and neglect cases, thereafter she was hired as an Associate with the medical malpractice defense firm of Costello, Shea and Gaffney.

Karen is admitted to the New York State Bar and the Georgia State Bar. She is the current Chair of the Insurance Law Section of the National Bar Association.



**Dawn Tezino - Senior Corporate Counsel, CITGO**

Ms. Tezino has represented companies in the energy sector all her legal career. At CITGO, she leverages deep expertise in the oil and gas industry, with a high degree of ethical consideration and a focus on risk management to protect and advance the company's business interests. With a robust background in labor and employment law, union relations, benefits, internal investigations, complex commercial matters and HR compliance, she has honed a strategic approach to advising her clients, ensuring compliance and fostering ethical corporate conduct.

In her role as Senior Corporate Counsel, her primary responsibilities include counseling multiple HR and Business Unit partners including: C-Suite Executives, Vice Presidents, General Managers, and senior HR business partners on a wide range of commercial and labor and employment issues and grievances under the Company's collective bargaining agreements.

Moreover, Ms. Tezino works in close partnership with the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer and his team to supervise privileged investigations and efficiently manage external counsel and their budgets to guarantee compliance with the Company's fiscal policies, core values and ethical standards. Her dedication to meticulous legal service has been instrumental in navigating intricate legal landscapes, reinforcing CITGO's corporate integrity.



**Dionne Hamilton - Vice President & General Counsel, Honeywell**

Dionne Hamilton, joined Honeywell in 2020, where she is the VP and General Counsel for three Honeywell businesses - Smart Energy, Thermal Solutions and its Sensors business. Dionne has over 20 years of experience in global fortune 100 companies, including Boeing and United Technologies Corporation. She's a graduate of the University of Texas school of law. She's married with four daughters, two of which are following her into the legal field. She considers Houston home.



**Bert Jennings - Senior Regional Counsel, Lyondell Basell**

Mr. Bert Jennings has experience in intellectual property, especially patents, from the private practice, government service, and major corporate perspectives. He is especially valuable in building and maintaining intellectual property portfolios. His ultimate goal is to lead an intellectual property team at a fortune 500 company and to become a start-up company expert in the area of intellectual property. He also has aspirations of teaching on the college/university/law school/business school level.

Specialties: He maintains a wealth of knowledge and experience in acquiring and maintaining intellectual property protection on inventions, especially related to computer science. He has experience in merger and acquisition activities. He considers himself a specialist in trademark and patent prosecution.



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## Corporate Law Section **GATEWAY TO SUCCESS 2025**

### **CONFERENCE AGENDA**



#### **Paula Narcisse - Assistant General Counsel, Evolution Well Services**

As Assistant General Counsel at Evolution Well Services, LLC, Ms. Paula Narcisse's focus is on steering legal strategies to align with business objectives and fostering robust customer and vendor relationships. Her expertise in business and complex contract negotiation, and vendor sourcing, as well as being a trusted legal and business advisor to management and other stakeholders within the company, is instrumental in navigating the complex landscape of oilfield services, thereby ensuring compliance, and mitigating risks.

At her previous role with Worldwide Oilfield Machine, she led the legal department, overseeing contract negotiations and executions that supported innovative solutions in surface production systems. Her commitment to integrity and excellence underpins my approach to legal operations, contributing to the organization's growth and reputation in the industry.

In short, she is a performance driven legal professional with over 15 years of commercial legal experience in the oil and gas industry, including upstream and downstream operations. She is passionate about the oil and gas industry and committed to delivering high-quality legal services and solutions.

(She has worked for Fortune 500 companies, including Schlumberger, Cameron International Corporation, and ConocoPhillips. She received her J.D. from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and her B.S. in Accounting from Xavier University of Louisiana.)



#### **Bryan Parker - Chief Executive Officer, Legal Innovators**

As CEO, Bryan runs the day-to-day operations of Legal Innovators. He understands the challenges of running corporate law practices and law firms. Not only is he trained in the law, he is also a leader in business. Bryan served has served in various leadership roles in public and private companies, including DaVita and Affinity Media, and also has a background in investment banking. One of his passions is helping clients find innovative solutions to their hiring, pricing, diversity and inclusion challenges in an efficient and cost-effective manner. He can relate to the pressure today's businesses face to reduce costs, while preserving quality. Bryan leads our team with this dual focus in mind.

With a background in law, finance, and business, Bryan is skilled at managing and revitalizing large companies with very large budgets. Bryan started his career with Shearman & Sterling LLC on the M&A team, where Legal Innovators Co-Founder Jonathan Greenblatt was his mentor (during his summer clerkship). This relationship inspired Jon and Bryan to found Legal Innovators. Bryan went on to take leadership roles in investment banking and other businesses. Most recently, Bryan served as the CEO for DoubleDutch (now part of Cvent), a venture-backed, community-based technology company in California.

Outside of the workplace Bryan is very involved in his community.

As a Commissioner with the Port of Oakland, California he led fiscal reform efforts including reducing the Port's debt, cracking down on financial fraud, revitalizing the Oakland Army base (including the consideration of a stadium for the Oakland Athletics), and job creation through smart land use. Prior to that appointment, Bryan served as the Chair of Oakland's Workforce Investment Board, a Member of the Cal Alumni Association Board, a Member on the Board of Trustees for Holy Names University, and a Board Member of the Bay Area Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.





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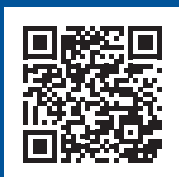
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- National Bar Association
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  - Chair (Region XI), 2021-2022
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    - Increased membership
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# Congratulations

**To Twanda Turner Westbrook and the Gateway to Success Planning Committee of the National Bar Association's Corporate Law Section on convening the 2025 Gateway to Success Conference, a remarkable gathering dedicated to empowering the legal community and inspiring the next generation of students.**

Your vision and unwavering commitment to excellence have fostered a transformative platform for collaboration, education, and professional growth and excellence.

---

**Angelique Strong Marks**

Chief Legal Officer, Cars.com

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# THANK YOU TO THE

## Gateway to Success Planning Committee

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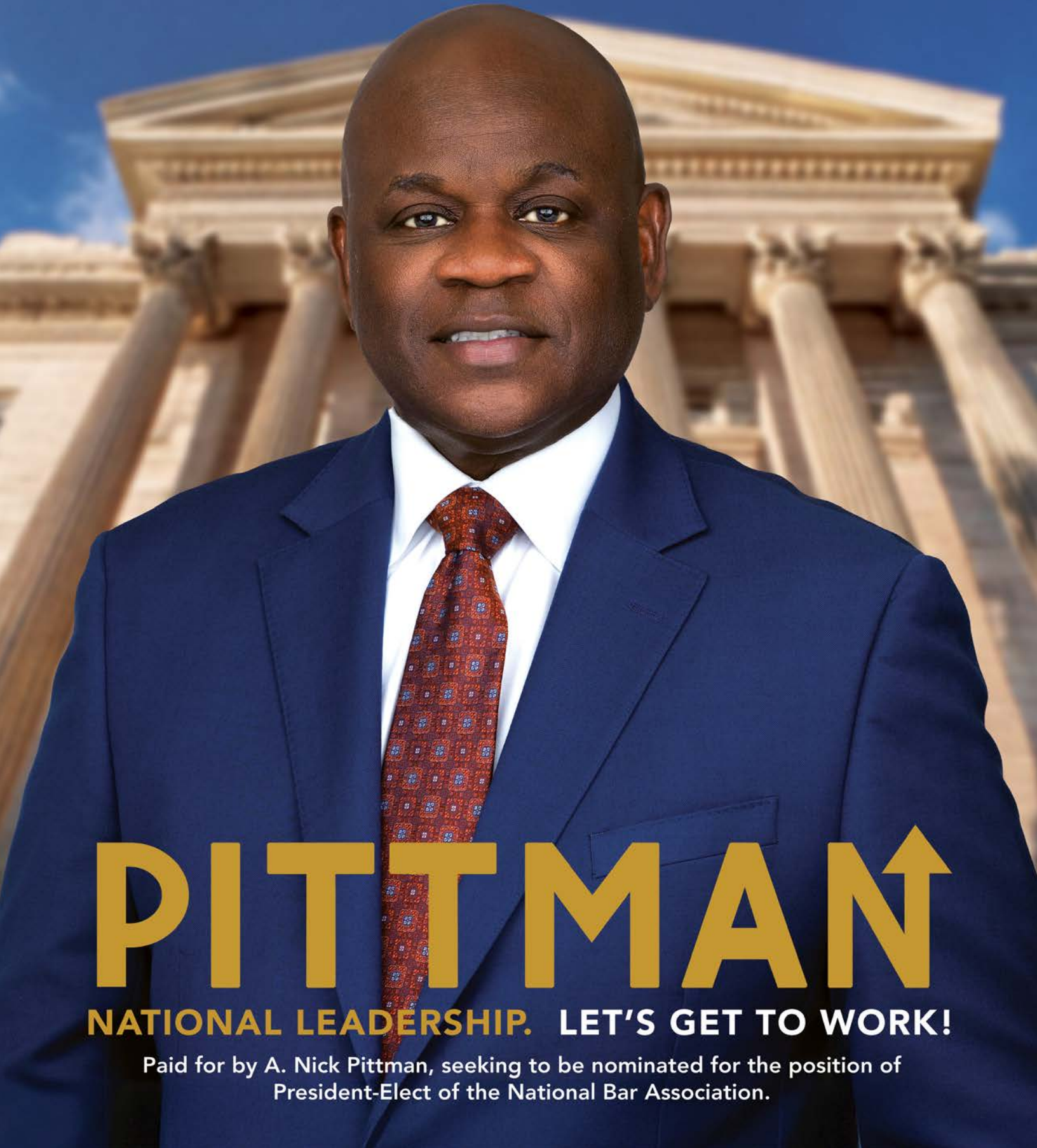
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- Former Vice Chair/Current Commissioner of the globally significant Port of New Orleans
- Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum Member
- Admitted to practice in various courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court
- Received 2022 Gertrude Rush and Power 50 Awards
- Received Honorary Doctorate degrees from Grambling State University & University of New Orleans
- NBA & NBI Lifetime Member
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#### *Academia*

- Howard University School of Law (HUSL) Alumnus
- Civil Trial Litigation Adjunct Professor at HUSL
- Member of Howard University Law Board of Visitors
- Former Chair of University of Louisiana System Board
- Participant in a study of divided leadership at Oxford University Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict
- Lectures globally on legal and cultural topics

#### *Government & Civic Affairs*

- Former New Orleans City Councilman
- First African American Criminal Justice Commissioner
- Established Police Monitor to combat brutality
- B2T NBA Wall Street NASDAQ Initiative



## PLATFORM

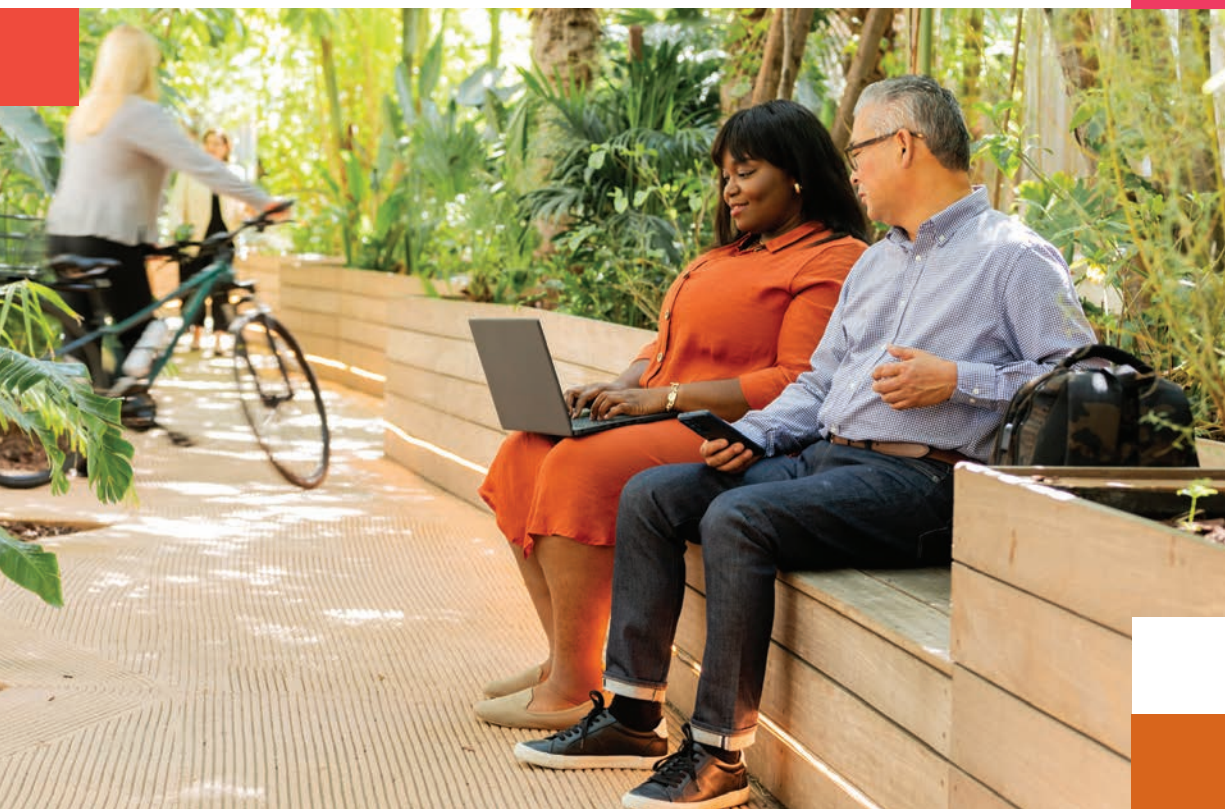
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