

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Los Angeles Diversity Digest

Diversity News for the Los Angeles Office

Winter/Spring 2006

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006 MINORITY FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Rebecca Olson (Tulane '07)
K&E San Francisco

Darah Smith (Chicago '07)
K&E Chicago

Jessica Kiser (Columbia '07)
K&E New York

Tarica Chambliss (Howard '07)
K&E Washington

Kelly Guzman (Michigan '07)
K&E Chicago

Manoj Viswanathan (NYU '07)
K&E New York & San Francisco

Ketan Shah (Northwestern '07)
K&E Chicago

Afam Onyema (Stanford '07)
K&E Los Angeles

Furqan Nanji (UCLA '07)
K&E San Francisco

Jesse Fu (USC '07)
K&E San Francisco

KIRKLAND & ELLIS NAMED EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR 2006

In recognition of our work/life/family balance, Kirkland & Ellis Los Angeles has been named "Employer of the Year 2006" by the Beverly Hills Bar Association. The award will be presented on April 8th at a symposium co-sponsored by the BHBA and Pepperdine Law School: "Balancing Career & Family: A Work-Life Symposium." Kirkland was considered for this award after the Los Angeles Business Journal wrote its article: "In Pregnant Pause, Kirkland & Ellis Thinks Best of Moms." This article was written following a February women's networking lunch hosted by the Los Angeles women partners for our women clients and referral sources.

DIVERSITY EFFORTS ACKNOWLEDGED AT UCLA RECEPTIONS

UCLA School of Law recently provided law firms and students the opportunity to network with two receptions honoring diversity. On March 13, Tina Hernandez, Jonathan Phillips and Cherie Conrad attended the UCLA Law Firm Diversity Reception at UCLA. The event was very well attended and was a fantastic opportunity to meet both current diverse UCLA students, as well as diverse students who have been admitted to UCLA for the Fall of 2006.

The following day, Melissa Ingalls, Mark Cramer, Tina Hernandez, Chris Almand and Felix Lebron represented K&E at the Dean's 2006 Honors Reception at UCLA. This event recognized the Firm for the K&E Minority Fellowship Program at UCLA as well as Kirkland's 2006 UCLA Fellow, Chaz Nanji (spending his summer with K&E SF). This event afforded us the opportunity to meet the incoming and outgoing chairs of BLSA as well as several active students in the Latino Student Association.

SEXUALITY AND THE LAW EXAMINED AT SYMPOSIUM

The Columbia Journal of Gender and Law held its Spring 2006 Symposium, "Sexuality and the Law," on February 24. Sashi Athota, an incoming fall associate for the restructuring group, served as a co-chair of the symposium, which included topics such as "Children and Education," "The Interplay Between Disability and Sexuality" and "Prison and Punishment." The event was sponsored in part by Kirkland.

Litigation associate and attendee Wade Ackerman noted that a highlight of the event was a thought-provoking discussion of the prioritization of gay marriage over other basic rights by keynote speaker William Eskridge, Jr., a professor from Yale University.

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MINORITY FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Kirkland & Ellis LLP will support 14 Minority Fellowships for 2007 for \$15,000 each during the recipients' third year of law school, as well as employment as a summer associate for the summer of 2007. The fellowships will apply to the following schools:

**Boalt
Chicago
Columbia
Georgetown
Harvard
Howard University
Michigan
Northwestern
Notre Dame
NYU
Stanford
UCLA
USC
Yale**

CARLOS SANTANA HONORED AT CRLA DINNER

Carlos and Deborah Santana and the Milagro Foundation were honored by California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) at the Third Annual Tequio Celebration Dinner on March 1, 2006. The Santanas founded Milagro in 1998 to benefit underrepresented and underprivileged children in the areas of health, education and the arts. Attendees Tony Richardson, Orlando Villalba, Nadia Janjua, Luke Guerra, Felix Lebron, Peter Massumi, Becca Wahlquist and Pantea Yashar enjoyed a special musical performance by Los Lobos.

CRLA is a statewide, nonprofit legal services and social justice organization dedicated to correcting the inequities impacting thousands of rural low income and farmworker residents in California.

WLI CELEBRATES FELLOWSHIP

Winter was a busy season in the LA office for the Women's Leadership Initiative. On February 8, the WLI hosted a luncheon for the Los Angeles women partners and clients, with the focus being on good company and good food.

Former litigation associate Laura Probst, now serving as Managing Director of StepUp Women's Network, was the featured speaker at the WLI Holiday Luncheon on December 7, 2005. StepUp is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to strengthening community resources for women and girls through hands on mentoring and community service.

SOUTH ASIAN BAR BESTOWS TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The South Asian Bar Association of Southern California Public Interest Foundation held its Third Annual Banquet on March 9 and awarded the Trailblazer Award to the Honorable Sanjay Kumar of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Kumar, a 1990 graduate of Pepperdine Law School, is the first South Asian appointee to the Superior Court. K&E was a Gold Sponsor of the event.

"Judge Kumar encouraged attendees to make it a point to encourage more qualified applicants from under-represented communities to apply for judicial positions." remarked intellectual property associate Nadia Janjua, who attended the event with incoming Fall associate Shaun Paisley.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March:

Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association's 31st Annual Awards & Installation Dinner, Empress Pavilion Restaurant, Los Angeles
March 17, 2006

Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center Conersity Awards Dinner, Los Angeles
March 22, 2006

Los Angeles Office Diversity Luncheon
March 24, 2006

NYU LaLSA 2nd Annual Banquet, Greenberg Lounge, NYU Law School
March 26, 2006

University of Southern California Law School's La Raza Students Association Judges & Lawyers Night
March 28, 2006

ABA 2nd Annual "Women in Law Leadership Academy," Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL
March 30-31, 2006

DIVERSITY TRAINING TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AT MINI RETREAT

Following the success of last May's All-Attorney Retreat, the Los Angeles office has scheduled an afternoon of meetings, training sessions, and a reception on Friday, April 21, 2006, beginning at noon, at the Windows Restaurant in Downtown Los Angeles.

The afternoon will kick-off with a lunch and state-of-the-office discussion and information exchange. Lunch will be followed by a Diversity Training Workshop entitled "Enhancing Work Relationships in a Diverse Environment," presented by Angela Vallot and Mitchell Karp. Angela was Chief Diversity Officer at Texaco and Colgate-Palmolive (after stints at Jones Day and another DC law firm, and also after being on the Clinton-Gore transition team as Acting Director of the Office of White House Liaison); Mitchell is also a former lawyer (civil rights attorney) who, before beginning his own consulting firm, was the founding director of the New York City Commission on Human Rights Training Institute. He's also an adjunct professor at Cornell.

The day will conclude with a happy hour to give attorneys a chance to unwind and reconnect.

HARVARD BLSA HOSTS AFRICA SUMMIT

On February 11 and 12, Kirkland was proud to be a Symposium Sponsor of the Harvard Black Law Students Association's summit entitled "Ethiopia-Prospects for a Stable Multi-Party Democracy." This annual conference was launched in response to vibrant student interest in the legal, political and human rights conditions in African countries undergoing a tumultuous transition to democracy.

Litigation associate Bettina Clark took a trip to Cambridge on March 10 to attend Harvard BLSA's 23rd Annual Spring Conference, which included a youth summit, alumni luncheon and keynote banquet.

WOMEN PROFESSIONALS NETWORK IN WINE COUNTRY

Litigation partner Melissa Ingalls attended Navigant Consulting's Women in Business Leadership Forum, in Napa Valley on February 23-26. The Forum brought together over 100 women professionals from all kinds of businesses and backgrounds for two days of seminars, networking, and fun. The highlight of the event was the keynote address by and discussion with Gail Evans, former Executive Vice President of CNN Newsgroup and best-selling author of "Play Like a Man, Win Like a Woman."

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April:

Boalt Hall La Raza Law Students Association 4th Annual Cruz Reynoso Social Justice Fellowship and Alumni Dinner
April 14, 2006

National Association of Women Lawyers Series "Taking Charge of Your Career," Millennium Biltmore, Los Angeles
April 19, 2006

Harvard Law School's 9th Annual Latino Law and Public Policy Conference
April 20-22, 2006

LA Office Mini Retreat and Diversity Training Workshop, Windows Restaurant in Los Angeles
April 21, 2006

Step Up Women's Network Inspiration Awards, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills
April 27, 2006

FIRM SUPPORTS LAMBDA WEST COAST BENEFIT

Controversial and ribald comic Kathy Griffin was among the honorees at Lambda Legal's West Coast Liberty Awards held at the Egyptian Theater on September 28, 2005. The lively evening, sponsored in part by Kirkland, included a reception, silent auction and entertaining acceptance speech by perennial "D-lister" Griffin.

Restructuring partner Michael Gottfried serves on Lambda's Leadership Council and is co-chair of the Silent Auction committee for the West Coast Awards event in Los Angeles this year.

NBA "RAISES THE BAR"

Litigation partner and LA Diversity Committee member Tony Richardson was a speaker and panel moderator at the National Bar Association's 19th Annual Commercial Law Section's Corporate Counsel Conference. Kirkland was also a Bronze sponsor of the Conference, whose theme was "Raising the Bar: Advancing Justice and Equality."

The conference provided the opportunity for private practice attorneys to meet, network and interview with representatives of national and multi-national corporations who are actively seeking attorneys for outside retention.

BOALT HALL LA RAZA ASSOCIATION TO AWARD FELLOWSHIP

On April 14, 2006, UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law and the La Raza Law Students Association will hold its fourth annual Cruz Reynoso Social Justice Fellowship and Dinner. The fellowship was created to grant a summer scholarship that will enable students to work in a public interest job that supports the Latino community.

Litigation associate and 2004 Boalt alum Felix Lebron was instrumental in this fellowship's creation. Lebron will be on the Boalt campus on April 5th to provide an informational presentation regarding the Kirkland Minority Fellowship.

NAWL SERIES TO EXPLORE "BEST PRACTICES FOR WOMEN LAWYERS"

The National Association of Women Lawyers will host its nationwide series "Taking Charge of Your Career" on April 19, 2006, at The Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Scheduled speakers and panelists include Elizabeth Atlee, Senior Counsel of BP America, Inc., Georgann Grunebach; Assistant General Counsel of DIRECTV; and Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Kenealy.

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May:

California Association of Black Lawyers' 29th Annual Conference, "Continuing a Legacy of Excellence,"
Downtown Marriott, Oakland, CA
May 4-7, 2006

Lambda Legal at the de Young Fundraiser, The New de Young Museum, San Francisco
May 18, 2006

California Women Lawyer's 18th Annual Southern California Judicial Reception, Los Angeles
May 19, 20-06

ABA National Conference on Employment of Attorneys with Disabilities in Washington, D.C.
May 23, 2006

Summer Associate Diversity Dinner, Spago Restaurant
May 25, 2006

"EVERYBODY WINS" WHEN EVERYBODY READS

New fall associates Cindy Fung, Matthew Hollander, Jim Rodriguez, and Betsy Zedek have signed on as the latest volunteers of Everybody Wins, the volunteer reading literacy program. Founded in 1991 in New York City, the organization now sponsors volunteer reading programs in elementary schools in over 50 U. S. cities, including Los Angeles and Washington D.C., where Kirkland provides volunteers and administrative support. We sponsor at any given time about 25 volunteers (including partners, associates, paralegals and administrative personnel) who spend one lunch hour a week reading with second through fifth graders at Tenth Street Elementary School, an inner-city school whose student body is over 95 percent Hispanic and African American.

Corporate partner Eva Davis serves on the Board of Directors, as well as participates as a volunteer reader. The program is always looking for new volunteers; please contact Eva if you are interested in getting involved.

MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA SPEAKS AT MALDEF GALA

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was the keynote speaker at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's (MALDEF) 31st Annual Awards Gala on November 10, 2005. Mario Obledo, MALDEF's first General Counsel, was honored with the lifetime achievement award and Univision anchor Maria Elena Salinas served as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, the nation's premier Latino civil rights organization, promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, higher education scholarships and when necessary, through the legal system. Litigation associate Felix Lebron was in attendance.

GRIGNON TO SPEAK AT ABA CONFERENCE

Congratulations to litigation associate Will Grignon, who has been asked to speak at the American Bar Association National Conference on Employment of Attorneys with Disabilities on May 23, 2006.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August:

The Hispanic National Bar Association 2006 Annual Convention, San Francisco
August 30-September 2, 2006

UPCOMING MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATIONS

NYU School of Law
Lipton Dining Room
March 27, 2006

USC School of Law
Room 103
March 31, 2006

Stanford Law School
Room 79A
April 4, 2006

Boalt Hall Law School
Room 105
April 5, 2006

SAMAD APPOINTED TO APADRC BOARD

Congratulations to litigation associate Olivia Samad, who was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center.

USC LA RAZA STUDENTS HONOR COMMUNITY LATINOS

On March 28, 2006, the University of Southern California Law School's Law Raza Students Association will hold its annual Judges & Lawyers Night. In addition to providing a great opportunity for law students, attorneys and judges in the Los Angeles to network, La Raza will present awards to two distinguished USC alumni who have contributed significantly to the Latino community.

Among the honorees will be Raul Vargas, former Director of the Mexican American Alumni Association, who will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award. Vargas retired at the end of 2005 after 34 years as executive director of the Office for Mexican American Programs.

Kirkland is proud to be a Platino sponsor of the event.

DIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS:

- On September 9, 2005, litigation associate Wade Ackerman participated in a Harvard Law School panel discussing issues facing gay and lesbian lawyers.
- Tony Richardson and the Los Angeles office played hosts for the African American Attorneys in Downtown Firms monthly luncheon on October 21, 2005. Legal recruiter Carl Reece, the featured speaker, discussed long-term career strategies.
- Kirkland was a sponsor of Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice's Symposium on "Gender & Migration," held on November 18, 2005.
- The firm is proud to be an official 2006 sponsor of the Stanford Latino Law Students Association (SLLSA). Current and former SLLSA members include corporate associate Luke Guerra and incoming 2006 fall associate Tony Lopez.
- Corporate partner Eva Davis was an invited speaker at the annual Duke Business Law Society ESQ Symposium on February 10. "Beyond the Case Study in Corporations Class" and "Women in the Law in the 21st Century" were her panel discussion topics.

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THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Have you attended a function that might be of interest to the Diversity Digest? Are you a member of a bar association or organization that strives to foster diversity in the legal workplace? We would love to feature your story in the next Diversity Digest. Please send a description of the event or organization along with any pertinent details to Cherie Conrad or Vicki Spencer.

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT HRC GALA

On March 25, 2006, Kirkland will be a sponsor of the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) annual Los Angeles Gala Dinner at the Century Plaza Hotel. The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. Former Vice President Al Gore will be the Keynote Speaker for the evening. Awards will be presented to Al Franken, new television network Logo and Torie Osborn and the Liberty Hill Foundation.

INCOMING LA SUMMER ASSOCIATE CHAIRS NYU LALSA EVENT

On March 26, NYU School of Law's Latino Law Student Association (LaLSA) will hold its 2nd annual banquet. LaLSA is an organization whose goals are to support Latina/o students and to provide opportunities to serve the wider Latina/o community. Their primary goal is to provide their members with the tools, access, and information they need to succeed in law school. By providing mentoring, and a network of current students and alumni, LaLSA makes the transition into the law as smooth as possible. At the same time, the Latino community looks to LaLSA as a source of dedicated Latino students who can give back to the community. From mentoring Latino children in lower income neighborhoods to using language skills to help attain progress for the community.

Incoming Los Angeles office summer associate Tricia Bushnell serves as a co-chair of this event. The firm is proud to be an Oro Sponsor of this annual banquet.

BLIND JUSTICE PROMOTED AT NBLSA CONVENTION

"Blind Justice: Promoting Equality Under the Law" is the theme of this year's National Black Law Students Association National Convention, being held in Washington, D.C. on March 22-26, 2006. Kirkland & Ellis is a Diamond Level Sponsor of this event that includes a Career Development Expo, Hall of Fame Dinner and hours of seminars and programming. Elaine Jones, former president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, is the schedule Keynote Speaker at the Awards Banquet.