

KIRKLAND

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Diversity News for the Los Angeles Office Summer/Fall 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

DIVERSITY CELEBRATED DURING 2006 SUMMER SEASON:

- The annual summer associate diversity dinner was held at Spago on May 25th.
- Corporate partner Eva Davis and the WLI sponsored a much-needed zen moment for the summer associate women with a yoga class at Gold's Gym on June 19th.
- Litigation associate Felix Lebron was the host of a dinner celebrating attorneys and summer associates of color at Bistro 45 in Pasadena on July 6th. The dinner was preceded by an attorney of color panel discussion led by Jane Park, Felix Lebron, Luke Guerra and Bettina Clark, allowing summer associates the opportunity to address specific issues faced by students and attorneys of color.
- Litigation partner Melissa Ingalls hosted a Women's Happy Hour at her home on July 13th.
- The African American Attorneys for Downtown Law Firms held their Summer Associate Dinner on July 20th at the Omni Los Angeles hotel. Litigation attorneys Tony Richardson and Bettina Clark and summer associate Shani Moore were among the attendees at this annual event.
- Restructuring partner Robbin Itkin hosted a Women's Summer Associate Tea at the Peninsula Hotel on July 21st.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE EXPLORES CAREER PATHS

On June 21, the LA Women's Leadership Committee hosted a roundtable discussion of women attorneys from several areas of the law. The panelists included former U.S. Attorney and retired District Judge Lourdes Baird; in-house counsel at Twentieth Century Fox, Laura Cook; Director of Litigation for the Alliance for Children's Rights, Laura Streimer; and our own Melissa Ingalls. The theme of the luncheon was, "Living A Conscious Career; Identifying, Embracing and Navigating Your Path." Sarretta McDonough and Jane Park planned the event and Sarretta gave a short presentation before moderating the panel.

Feedback from the women attorneys and summer associates was tremendous. Several attorneys sent emails to the committee commenting on how "enjoyable" and "eye-opening" they found the discussion. Other attorneys -- citing to comments the panelists made -- offered suggestions for future luncheon topics. One summer associate even enthused days later that "it was all we could talk about for the rest of day."

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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**

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT ONYEMA HEADS UP FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, July 23, 30 attorneys and summer associates from the Kirkland & Ellis Los Angeles office spent an evening at the Park Hyatt in support of a hospital project in Africa. The hospital is the central mission of The GEANCO Foundation (www.geanco.org), which seeks to design, develop, and manage medical, educational and athletic facilities in the African country of Nigeria. The nonprofit organization was co-founded by Afam Onyema, a summer associate in the Los Angeles office and a 2006 Kirkland & Ellis Minority Fellowship recipient. Building a state-of-the-art medical facility in Nigeria, a country where the life expectancy for males stands at a meager 47 years and where almost three million individuals are living with AIDS, has been the dream of Afam's father, Dr. Godwin Onyema, a native Nigerian who has served as an obstetrician/gynecologist in Chicago for thirty years. Afam created the foundation with his family and has led the effort to raise funds for its hospital project by holding several benefit events throughout the country and in Nigeria.

The benefit event was highly successful in raising both money and awareness of a special organization and its mission. "While most firms are eager to support legal causes, it takes special foresight and an expansive sense of generosity for a law firm to support a hospital project in Africa," stated a very grateful Afam. "I greatly appreciate how easily Kirkland & Ellis realized that we all have a crucial part to play in addressing the serious health crisis on the continent."

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES MAKE AN IMPACT

Georgetown University Law Center and University of Arizona will co-host the 2nd Annual IMPACT Career Fair for Law Students and Attorneys with Disabilities on September 15 in Washington, D.C. Litigation associate Will Grignon will attend the job fair as an interviewer for the firm, a Platinum Sponsor of the event. IMPACT was awarded the 2006 NALP Award of Distinction for "providing a meaningful, new way for students and attorneys with disabilities and legal employers to connect."

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Diversity News for the Los Angeles Office Summer/Fall 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

August:

African American Attorneys in
Downtown Law Firms Luncheon,
Kirkland & Ellis, Los Angeles
August 25, 2006

Lambda Legal Pasadena
Women's Brunch, Pacific Oaks
College, Pasadena, CA
August 26, 2006

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

September:

Kirkland & Ellis LGBT
Attorneys Dinner,
Ceiba Restaurant,
Washington, DC
September 6, 2006

Lavender Law Conference and
Career Fair
Omni Shoreham Hotel,
Washington, DC
September 7-9, 2006

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 was 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.

LAWYERS FOR LITERACY EVENT CREATES BUZZ

20 supporters (attorneys, summer associates, professional staff, family and friends) turned out for an exciting evening on June 22nd at the historic El Rey Theater in support of the Everybody Wins! LA literacy and mentoring program and their Lawyers for Literacy Spelling Bee and Auction. The event, which raised more than \$55,000, was funded by generous donations from the K&E Foundation and some of our LA partners. Kirkland & Ellis was the title/platinum sponsor of this annual spelling bee event.

Kirkland's "Team Well Bee-Haved," (including litigation associates Amanda Gregory and Andrew Neltner) battled it out with nine other attorney teams. The crowd was hooting and hollering in support of our K&E spelling bee team, and associate Cynthia Fung even provided a "lifeline" to Amanda (allowed in this modified spelling bee competition).

Founded in 1991 in New York City, Everybody Wins 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.

KIRKLAND

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Diversity News for the Los Angeles Office Summer/Fall 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

September:

Harvard BLSA Job Fair
The Charles Hotel,
Cambridge, MA
September 8, 2006

National Black Law Students
Association - Western Region
Job Fair
Pepperdine University School of
Law
September 9, 2006

California Minority Counsel
Program Business Development
Conference,
Hotel Nikko,
San Francisco, CA
September 13-14, 2006

IMPACT Career Fair for Law
Students and Attorneys with
Disabilities
Doubletree Hotel,
Crystal City, VA
September 15, 2006

LOS ANGELES OFFICE SPONSORS CAUSE LUNCHEON

On Friday, July 28, 2006, the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE) held a luncheon entitled "Paths to Power: Bridging the Worlds of Law, Business and Politics." Attendees included associates Wade Ackerman, Shelley Cordova, Brian Kim, Chris Almand, Amanda Gregory, Cynthia Fung, partner Guy Ruttenberg and summer associate Esther Kim.

CAUSE is a nonprofit, non-partisan community-based organization with a mission to politically empower the Asian Pacific Islander American community through voter registration and education, community outreach and leadership development. The aim of this event, part of CAUSE's Next Generation Project, was to provide an opportunity for networking and to inspire younger Asian Americans in the fields of law, business and politics to take the necessary steps in becoming tomorrow's leaders. Speakers included: Ronald Lew, the first Chinese-American appointed as a United States District judge in the continental United States; Debra Wong Yang, the United States Attorney for the Central District of California; Michael R. Yamaki, senior advisor to the Los Angeles County's Sheriff's Department and former Appointments Secretary to Governor Gray Davis, also known as the "Power Broker" in the Los Angeles area; and Robert Hertzberg, former Speaker of the California State Assembly, former mayoral candidate and a partner at Mayer Brown. Speaking on excellence, preparation, creating networks, the importance of volunteering, and other tips, these four drew from their own experiences and lessons they had learned to pass advice on to the next generation. Because Kirkland & Ellis was one of only a handful of sponsors of the event, Kirkland attendees had the opportunity to have Michael Yamaki sit at their table to chat and elaborate on his own experiences.

In addition, a number of other influential Asian American politicians and businessmen attended the event, giving attendees from various law firms and corporations an unprecedented opportunity to talk to and make connections with those who have experienced such success in their careers. While the event held at the Jonathan Club sought to build support from within the Asian American community, it also encouraged bridging into the community at large and aspiring to become leaders in politics, business, and the law.

PLAYWRIGHT HONORED DURING LA RAZA CONVENTION

Playwright and director Luis Valdez was the guest of honor at the Farmworker Justice Cultural Award Reception held on July 10th during the National Council of La Raza convention in Los Angeles. Litigation associate Felix Lebron and summer associates Tricia Bushnell and Shani Moore Weatherby were among the attendees on hand to enjoy good food and a performance by Latin theater group Teatro Campesino.

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September:

Black Women Lawyer's
Association Awards and
Installation Dinner
Downtown Marriott Hotel
Los Angeles
September 21, 2006

Lambda Legal's West Coast
Liberty Awards
Director's Guild of America,
Los Angeles
September 26, 2006

Asia Society of Southern
California Luncheon for the
Honorable Song Xiuyan,
Millennium Biltmore Hotel,
Los Angeles
September 26, 2006

The Women Lawyer's
Association of Los Angeles 2006
Awards and Installation Dinner,
Omni Hotel
Los Angeles
September 27, 2006

THROUGH THE HALLS.....

- Litigation associate Wade Ackerman attended the annual ABA conference in August as part of his involvement with the ABA Committee on Individual Rights and Responsibilities. Among the programs scheduled for the conference: Successful Strategies to Achieve Diversity in Your Organization, Effectively Representing Defendants with Disabilities, and Negotiating Difference: Appreciating Gender and Culture in Negotiation.
- Litigation associate Will Grignon has been asked to speak at a presentation at Pepperdine Law School on August 18th entitled "Persevering Through Adversity." In addition, Will, as an Adjunct Professor, will be teaching Trial Preparation & Settlement at Pepperdine University School of Law.
- Restructuring partner Shirley Cho has been nominated to the Executive Advisory Council of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, which is the largest organization in the country focusing on the legal needs of the Asian Pacific American community. On August 1, 2006, Shirley attended the annual luncheon for the Executive Advisory Council, which was well-attended by prominent business and community leaders in the Los Angeles region, including representatives from AT&T, Citibank, Verizon, ABC, and American Airlines.
- At the recent International Bar Association Litigation Conference, litigation associate Amanda Wong was voted in as a committee member and will be responsible for organizing and chairing the Litigation Forums at the IBA Conferences in Singapore in 2007 and Buenos Aires in 2008.
- Michael Gottfried, restructuring partner, completed his first marathon, participating in the July 30 San Francisco Marathon, and raising approximately \$3,000 for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA). In total, the race raised more than \$220,000.
- Restructuring partner Robbin Itkin has been elected to serve as the 2006-2007 co-chair for the Lawyer Representatives of the Central District of California of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.
- Litigation partner, and Diversity Committee member, Tony Richardson has been appointed as Chair-elect of the ABA's Automobile Law Committee (part of the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section) and as a Special Master by a federal district court judge in a case over which she is presiding in the Central District.

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Diversity News for the Los Angeles Office Summer/Fall 2006

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October:

MCCA Diversity Dinner Series,
Western Region
Westin Bonaventure Hotel,
Los Angeles
October 3, 2006

32nd Annual California Women
Lawyer's Dinner
Portola Plaza Hotel
Monterey, CA
October 5, 2006

The Asian Professional Exchange
(APEX) Career Fair, Omni Hotel
Los Angeles
October 14, 2006

APALC ANNIVERSARY DINNER SLATED FOR FALL

On November 14, 2006, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) will hold its 23rd Anniversary Dinner to honor corporate and community leaders who have made a tremendous impact in the Asian Pacific American community. The APALC is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1983 and provides such services as domestic violence counseling, immigration and citizenship advocacy, and legislative and litigation support to combat consumer fraud, hate crimes and worker exploitation.

Honorees for the evening include Cyrus Tang (Public Service Award), AT&T (Corporate Impact Award), and NALEO Educational Fund (Community Partner Award). Kirkland is a Bronze Circle Sponsor of the dinner.

USHER LAW GROUP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER HELD

Kirkland & Ellis LLP was proud to be a sponsor of the Usher Law Group's 5th Anniversary Scholarship Awards Dinner held on Thursday, June 15, 2006, at the City Club on Bunker Hill. Proceeds from this year's dinner will be contributed to Black Women Lawyers (BWL) Foundation of Los Angeles for the benefit of deserving law students of color. BWL Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to charitable, educational and community-based services. BWL was founded in 1975 by a small group of Los Angeles-based African-American women judges and attorneys to address the needs and concerns of African-American women in the legal profession while supporting the pipeline of future attorneys. LA partners Tony Richardson, Xanath Owens and Damian Capozzola were among the attendees.

SUMMER ASSOCIATES HIT THE RACES

The Disability Rights Legal Center held its annual "Day at the Races" summer fundraiser on June 11th at Hollywood Park. Los Angeles office summer associates and attorneys enjoyed lunch and a silent auction, in addition to some exciting horse races. Litigation partner Chris Heck is a member of the DRLC's Board of Directors.

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MCCA DIVERSITY SERIES TO HONOR EMPLOYERS OF CHOICE

Kirkland & Ellis, as a VIP Reception Sponsor, will join the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) on October 3rd in celebrating industry leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to diversity and have been successful in creating and maintaining an inclusive workplace at the 2006 MCCA Diversity Dinner Series. The 2006 Western Region Employers of Choice Honorees include Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Sempra Energy and Taco Bell Corporation.

The MCCA was founded in 1997 to advocate for the expanded hiring, retention, and promotion of minority attorneys in corporate law departments and the law firms that serve them. MCCA accomplishes its mission through the collection and dissemination of information about diversity in the legal profession.

DAVIS DISCUSSES TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES

Corporate partner Eva Davis was the keynote speaker at Deloitte & Touche's Pacific Southwest Women's Initiative Network (WIN) all-day negotiation workshop on May 19. Eva's topic "Negotiating Strategies: Tips and Tales from the Trenches" was presented to over 100 Deloitte women who practice in the areas of audit, tax, consulting, financial advisory and transactional services.

GRIGNON PENS BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Litigation associate Will Grignon, speaker at ABA Conference of Hiring Lawyers With Disabilities, has written a law firm best practices guide, an edited version of which appears in the *ABA National Conference On The Employment Of Lawyers With Disabilities: A Blueprint For Legal Employers*.

His recommendations are drawn from several different sources, including the EEOC, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, the California Business Leadership Network, as well as from his own experiences as a lawyer who is blind.

KIRKLAND SPONSORS AIPLEF

Kirkland is a Gold Sponsor of the American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation (AIPLEF). The AIPLEF promotes diversity in the intellectual property bar including educational, mentoring and employment opportunities to minority students actively working to develop a career in IP law.