



COMMITTEE ON
DIVERSITY PIPELINE INITIATIVES

MEMBER DIRECTORY

2012-2013



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Paula Edgar, Esq. is currently an Associate Director of Career Services at Seton Hall University School of Law, where she is responsible for providing comprehensive career counseling to law students and alumni. Paula is also a member of the law school's Diversity Council, where she serves on the Diversity in the Profession Committee.

Paula previously served as the Executive Director for Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program, Inc. (PALS), a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing diversity in the legal profession and providing mentoring, academic support, and networking opportunities to law students and junior attorneys of color. As Executive Director, Paula focused on the areas of professional development and career-related programming. In addition, Paula provided counseling to students and attorneys on alternative career options, networking, and social media strategy. Prior to working at PALS, Paula practiced law as an Attorney in the Law Enforcement Division of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Paula is an active member of the legal community. Paula is the Chair of the Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee at the New York City Bar and she is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the New York County Lawyer's Association. Paula is also dedicated to the important work of specialty bar associations and diversity-focused organizations such as the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the National Black Law Students Association.

Paula was a participant in the New York City "Strength Through Diversity" Young Professionals Leadership Program; a program designed to identify and energize emerging community leaders committed to promoting mutual understanding among New York City's diverse ethnic populations. Paula served on the founding Board of Directors of Teaching Firms of America Schools, a developing nonprofit focused on creating unique elementary charter schools for low income inner city communities.

In 2012, Paula was honored by New York Law School during their Black History Celebration, in 2011, Paula was awarded the Distinguished Alumni award from the Black Law Students Association at CUNY Law School and in 2010, Paula was awarded the Ruth Whitehead Whaley Service Award by the Association of Black Women Attorneys (ABWA), for her work with law students and attorneys of color.

A regularly sought after speaker and panelist, Paula's areas of expertise include: topics related to diversity within law schools and law firms, pipeline, and networking and mentoring for law students and young attorneys.

Ms. Edgar received her B.A. in Anthropology from California State University (Fullerton) and her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law.



SARAH E. O'CONNELL

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Sarah O'Connell joined the New York location of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP in 2002. As a senior associate, her practice is focused on a wide range of commercial litigation matters, including business and corporate litigation, class actions, international disputes and arbitrations. She has represented clients in white collar cases ranging from internal company investigations to probes and formal investigations by the SEC and Department of Justice, and competition-related matters and actions relating to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA").



GABRIELLE LYSE BROWN

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Gabrielle Lyse Brown is the Director of Diversity Pipeline Initiatives for the New York City Bar, where she leads the Association's efforts to enhance diversity in the legal profession through developmental support for high school, college and law students of color who want to pursue a legal career. In this role, she creates, develops, and administers comprehensive programming that provides inner-city students with academic support and enrichment, professional and substantive skill development, networking/mentoring opportunities and exposure to the legal profession.

Gabrielle is committed to the professional development of diverse youth and is active in several like-minded organizations. She is a member of Board of Directors of Practicing Attorneys for Law Students, Inc. (PALS) and the Bronx School of Law and Finance Advisory Board. She has spoken on numerous panels about professional readiness, mentoring, and developing diversity pipeline initiatives.

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BRYNA BECKLER-KNOLL

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Bryna Beckler-Knoll is the Attorney Recruiting and Development Manager in the New York office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP where she manages all aspects of attorney recruiting, professional development, attorney compensation, diversity and women's initiatives. She is a member of Akin Gump's Firmwide and local Diversity Committees and a member of the NY office's Women's Initiative Committee. Ms Beckler-Knoll has over 15 years of experience in the field having also been the Director of Recruitment and Professional Development at Parker Chapin as well as Jenkins & Gilchrist. Prior to her transition into legal recruiting, Ms Beckler-Knoll was a corporate associate at Parker Chapin focusing on mergers and acquisitions and securities transactions.

Ms. Beckler-Knoll received a B.S. in Industrial & Labor Relations from Cornell University and a J.D. from Hofstra Law School, where she was a Staff Editor of the Hofstra Law Review. She is a member of the National Association of Law Placement, the NYC Bar Association Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee, the New York City Recruitment Association, the Professional Development Consortium and the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals.



RICHARD R. BEST

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Richard R. Best is a Chief Counsel in FINRA's Department of Enforcement. FINRA is the largest independent regulator for all securities firms doing business in the United States. It oversees nearly 4,400 brokerage firms, 162,780 branch offices and 629,865 registered securities representatives. FINRA's chief role is to protect investors by maintaining the fairness of the U.S. capital markets.

As a Chief Counsel in the Enforcement Department, Mr. Best has supervisory responsibility for securities regulatory matters conducted by a team of regulatory professionals who are located in New York City. Mr. Best has also served as a Director and Senior Trial Attorney in the Department of Enforcement where he supervised regulatory investigations and litigation.

Prior to joining FINRA, Mr. Best was an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney. He was a supervisor in the Rackets Bureau and the District Attorney's Liaison to the New York City Department of Correction. In these positions, he supervised the investigation and prosecution of public corruption, organized crime, firearms trafficking and all crimes occurring at New York City Department of Correction facilities in Bronx County, including Rikers Island. Mr. Best was also an adjunct lecturer at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Mr. Best earned his undergraduate degree in Computer Science from the State University of New York, College at Old Westbury and his law degree from the Howard University School of Law.



TRACEY BING

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Tracey Bing, a proud graduate of CUNY School of Law, has devoted her entire legal career to the empowerment, education and culturally competent representation of low-income NYC residents in family law proceedings. She is the Director of the Family Law/Domestic Violence Unit at Manhattan Legal Services, formerly Harlem Legal Services. She supervises staff and volunteers in family law matters including, divorce, custody, visitation, order of protection, child support and child abuse and neglect. As the Coordinator of the Upper Manhattan Domestic Violence Services Collaborative, she works with eleven agencies to provide a single point of entry for services provided to victims/survivors of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

Interestingly, she began her career as an IOLA Legal Services Fellow at Harlem Legal Services where she implemented the domestic violence project into the family law/domestic violence unit that she now supervises. Her previous experience includes working at the Legal Aid Society of NYC. She practiced as an attorney for children at the Juvenile Rights Division where she represented juveniles in abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, custody, adoption, person in need of supervision (PINS), order of protection and delinquency matters. She was a staff attorney for in the HIV/AIDS Representation Project of the LAS Volunteer Division, Community Law Offices. She represented HIV infected, affected or at risk clients in housing, disability, consumer, benefits, wills, advanced medical directives, family and matrimonial matters.

Tracey has received numerous awards including the 2012 NYC Bar Association Legal Services Award, the 2011 Midtown Community Court's Dads United for Parenting Program Appreciation Award and the 2002 NYS Department of Health Outstanding Service Award.

She is a member of the National Women of Color Network Policy Task Force. She is a member of the NY State Bar Association's Children and the Law Committee and the NYC Bar's Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee. She is a Legal Outreach mentor and summer internship supervisor. As a former mentor for Practicing Attorneys for Law Students, she continues to volunteer on panels and work with law students. Tracey enjoys presenting legal workshops in the community, encouraging young people to pursue their dreams, traveling, working out, and using trauma stewardship principles for self-care.



COURTNEY BROWNE

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Courtney Browne is an associate at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York, New York. At Skadden, she has worked on matters representing a wide range of organizations, including Apax Partners, Pfizer, Grupo Mexico and Fortress Investment Group, in both domestic and cross-border capital markets and M&A transactions.

Moreover, throughout her life, Courtney has prioritized civic engagement and volunteerism. She currently provides assistance to the New York State Permanent Sentencing Commission, established by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and co-chaired by the Hon. Barry Kamins and the Hon. Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., on legislative policy matters. She has dedicated considerable time, recently, serving as a "Big Sister" for the Young Mothers Program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Additionally, Courtney sits on the board of directors of the Columbia Law School Association.

Prior to attending law school, she spent three years working as a financial analyst in the Investment Advisors Group of Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati, Ohio.

She studied Economics, Spanish and Art History at Vanderbilt University and received a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School in New York, New York.



HEATHER M. BUTTS

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Heather Butts JD, MPH, M.A is an Integration of Science and Practice (ISP) Instructor and Faculty Advisor of the Part-Time Health Policy Management students at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health where she teaches Bioethics and Public Health Law. She also serves as an adjunct professor in Health Law and Bioethics at St. John's School of Law. She is the co-founder and Board Member of the non-profit H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Inc., and the founder of L.E.A.R.N for Life Consulting, L.L.C.

She previously served as Regulatory Specialist at Columbia University Medical Center's Institutional Review Board and focused on compliance audits, training, education and privacy issues. Prior to her work at Columbia, Ms. Butts served as Senior Associate in the Healthcare Regulatory Group of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLP where she focused on regulatory compliance issues.

Ms. Butts received her BA from Princeton University, her JD from St. John's University School of Law, her MPH from Harvard University School of Public Health and her MA in Education from Teachers College. She currently sits on the Council for Certification of IRB Professional and has participated in several seminars and conferences on public health and the law, research ethics and compliance. She serves on several non-profit boards has been honored by the National Council of Negro Women and Los Padres Foundation.



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Shabbir Chaudhury is an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department, where he defends the City in a variety of civil suits. Prior to joining the Law Department, Shabbir clerked for the Hon. Christine M. Nugent of the Tax Court of New Jersey. Shabbir is a 2010 graduate of Fordham Law School, where he served as the Fordham Fellow to the Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Program sponsored by the New York City Bar Association. He received his B.A. in Politics and Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies from New York University.

In addition to the Committee on Diversity Pipeline Initiatives, Shabbir sits on the New York City Bar Committee on Civil Rights.



CASSANDRE L. CHARLES

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Cassandra L. Charles is an associate at Chadbourne & Parke LLP in New York City. As of September 2012, Ms. Charles is seconded from Chadbourne to serve as an interim career counselor in the Office of Career Services at the New York University School of Law.

At NYU Law, Ms. Charles provides general career counseling for J.D. students. At Chadbourne, Ms. Charles' practice focuses on litigation, with a particular focus on the defense of products liability lawsuits. Additionally, Ms. Charles is active in Chadbourne's pro bono program and is a member of the Firm's Recruiting and Diversity Committees.

In addition to the New York City Bar Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee, Ms. Charles is a member of the American Bar Association (Products Liability Committee; Women in Products Liability Sub-Committee; Products Liability Newsletter Committee) and is active in Practicing Attorneys for Law Students, Inc. ("PALS").

Ms. Charles is admitted to practice in the State of New York and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.



TINA G. COCO

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Tina Coco joined the staff of the Starr Career Development Center at Baruch College in November 2011. She is a cum laude graduate of St. John's University and St. John's School of Law. After working for several years as a Staff Attorney for both the NYC Bar and CT Corporation System, she earned a certificate in Adult Career Planning & Development from New York University. Tina served as the Assistant Director of the Career Development Office at Pace University School of Law for over 6 years. She works part-time during the semester counseling students interested in attending law school.



PAULA B. DONALDSON

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Paula Donaldson began her tenure as the Executive Director of the Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program, Inc. ("PALS") in August 2011, with over 15 years of experience as a practicing attorney in New York City, working for major law firms, a government agency, and establishing and building a successful private practice.

As the Executive Director of PALS, Paula is responsible for developing and implementing the PALS mission of enhancing the skills and careers of minority law students and early career attorneys. In this role she manages and fulfills the overall administration, operations, membership, programming and fundraising of PALS. Initially she participated in PALS as a student at Fordham University School of Law. Later, as a practicing attorney, Paula was appointed to the PALS Board of Directors where she served as an active member and Executive Board member for many years.

Paula's varied professional legal experience includes, establishing and practicing as an attorney at a minority & women-owned boutique real estate law firm; practicing corporate real estate law as a senior associate at the international law firm of TORYS LLP, and working as the Director of Large Scale Development, and as the Director of New Development Programs and Initiatives at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). Paula received her B.A. in Political Science from Hampton University and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. She is a member of the New York State Bar.



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Bernard Dufresne is a Staff Attorney at Advocates for Children of NY, a non-profit organization that works on behalf of children who are at greatest risk for school-based discrimination and/or academic failure due to poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigration status, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems.

Mr. Dufresne is a 2011 graduate of Fordham University School of Law, where he served as the Fordham Law Fellow at the NYC Bar Association for two years. In that role, he coordinated the Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program and helped launch a mentor program that matches Thurgood Marshall alumni with law student mentors.



ABE GEORGE

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Abe George is a first-generation American -- the son of Indian immigrants who grew up in India. Abe was born and raised in Brooklyn. He was a product of the New York City public school system. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from New York University and later went on to Hofstra University in Long Island for law school. Upon graduating law school, Abe was honored to be hired by then Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. Abe served in that office as an Assistant District Attorney for the last eight years working in the Narcotics Gang Unit, Homicide Investigative Unit and the Trial Division. Abe has been a volunteer trial advocacy instructor with the NITA program at the Hofstra University School of Law. Abe is currently in private practice and is a political candidate for Brooklyn District Attorney in 2013.



SHAWN GRANT

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Shawn Grant is an adjunct Professor at the Baruch College Zicklin School of Business (CUNY) and an LSAT instructor and Director of Law School Admissions Counseling for Nelson Test Prep. Formerly, Shawn was a Pre-law Advisor and corporate and securities attorney.

Shawn graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brooklyn College (CUNY) and received her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Shawn is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association.



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Kendrick Harris is an associate with Bryant Rabbino LLP. Kendrick provides advice on a wide range of real estate transactional matters, including on acquisitions, dispositions, leasing and financing transactions. He also focuses his practice on helping clients create, realize and maintain condominium projects, and registration with New York state and city agencies. Kendrick also helps clients obtain approval of applicable New York City real estate tax benefits for condominium, rental, residential, commercial, community facility and mixed-use buildings.

Prior to joining the Firm, Kendrick served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York where he assisted the Office of the Attorney General with the investigation and litigation of securities cases under the Martin Act. Previously, Kendrick served the office in the Real Estate Finance Bureau where he assisted in the review of offering plans for the offer and sale of real estate securities in or from the State of New York.

Kendrick is a 2008 graduate of Hofstra University School of Law, where he graduated with a distinction in Real Estate. After completing law school, Kendrick attended Columbia University earning a Masters Degree in Real Estate, in 2010. He serves on the Urban Land Institute Young Leaders Group Programming Committee, NYU Alumni Board, the board of the Brooklyn Style Foundation and is a founding member of the Brooklyn Vanguard. Kendrick is admitted to the New York Bar, and is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.



CYNARA HERMES

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Cynara Hermes joined the New York Law School faculty in fall 2011 to teach Legal Practice. Her teaching interests include professional skills, legal method, and writing, and her research interests include education law and policy and pipeline initiatives and diversity in the legal profession. Prior to NYLS, Professor Hermes worked at St. John's University School of Law as an adjunct professor of law and as a fellow in the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development. As an adjunct, she taught a seminar course, Interviewing and Counseling, in which she introduced students to interviewing, counseling, and negotiation

skills through the use of simulations and collaborative exercises. As a fellow, she advised undergraduate and law students regarding the legal profession, law school applications, exams, and curriculum.

Previously, Professor Hermes was a litigation associate at Proskauer Rose LLP, where she worked on general commercial litigation in both state and federal courts, represented clients in corporate defense and investigations, and worked on human rights and immigration cases. She is currently co-authoring a work in progress on the decline of minority enrollment at the 15 New York State law schools.



VIELKA V. HOLNESS

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Vielka V. Holness is the Director of the Pre Law Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The Pre Law Institute prepares John Jay College students to successfully enter law school and the legal profession by crafting academic skill-building programs and professional development initiatives and by emphasizing early and intensive student engagement in developing the analytic and critical writing skills that students will need to perform optimally as law school applicants and as law students. Ms. Holness is the President-Elect for the Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors and has previously served on the Board of Directors. She is also a member of the New York City Bar's Diversity Pipeline Committee.

Prior to joining John Jay College, Ms. Holness was the inaugural Director of the Master's College at the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University, a Director for Equal Employment and Affirmative Action at Columbia University and managed career development programs at area law schools including the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and Pace Law School where she served as Dean for the Center for Career Development. Ms. Holness practiced litigation and employment law in Detroit and New York City.

She received her B.A. from New York University, an M.P.A. from Columbia University, and a J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law.



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Elise Jaffe is the Director of Pre-Law Programs at Hunter College, where she arranges programming and events that offer students insight into planning for legal careers, educate them about the law school admissions process, and prepare them for law school. She works closely with students in the law school application process, and she also teaches classes relating to the American legal system in the Political Science Department.

Ms. Jaffe received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and her M. Phil. (ABD), in Political Science from Yale University in 1999. In 2007, she received her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

Prior to joining Hunter, Ms. Jaffe was a corporate associate specializing in employee benefits at the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. In that capacity, she represented clients in connection with tax, securities, and related matters bearing on employer-sponsored benefits and compensation programs. Earlier in her career, Ms. Jaffe taught classes in political science at the University of Pennsylvania and Yale University, and was active with the Medicare Rights Center and the IRB at the Hospital for Special Surgery.



KELLI R. JOHNSON

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Kelli Johnson is the Assistant Dean for Preprofessional Advising at the NYU College of Arts and Science (CAS). In her role, she oversees the application process for pre-law students University-wide seeking to enter law school, and supervises the implementation of pre-law advisement services and programming.

Prior to joining CAS, Kelli was the Assistant Director in the Office of Career Services at NYU School of Law, where she provided career and professional development counseling to J.D. students, advised the minority student population on career-related diversity initiatives, and coordinated and presented several large-scale career educational events. Before relocating to New York, Kelli served as a legal recruiter at a large Washington, D.C.-based law firm, managing law school campus recruitment, and coordinating the summer associate program for the DC office. She also spent several years working as the Career Counselor and Diversity Liaison in the Office of Career & Professional Development at American University, Washington College of Law.

Kelli received an undergraduate degree in Journalism and Government & Politics from University of Maryland, College Park, and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She has been active in many initiatives aimed at increasing diversity in the legal profession, including a term as the Diversity Committee Co-Chair of the Washington Legal Recruitment Administrators Association (WALRAA), and serving as a member of both the New York City Bar Association Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Lawyers, and the New York City Bar Association Committee on Diversity Pipeline Initiatives.



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Alfreida Kenny is a graduate of Columbia Law School, class of 1975. She has extensive experience in trusts and estates and fiduciary matters. Ms. Kenny represents clients in estate planning, probate and administration proceedings, adult guardianship proceedings, real estate transactions and commercial litigation.

Ms. Kenny is a member of the panel of mediators for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the Alternate Dispute Resolution Program of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County. She has mediated cases that cover diverse areas of law in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and commercial cases in the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York. Ms. Kenny also is a neutral on the panel of arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association.

Ms. Kenny is active in a number of bar associations. She served as a member of the Committee on Trusts, Estates and Surrogate's Courts of the New York City Bar. She also served as a member of the New York County Lawyers' Association's Estates, Trusts and Surrogate's Court Practice Section and as Co-Chair of the Trusts and Estates Legislation and Governmental Affairs Committee of the New York County Lawyers' Association, the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Section of the New York State Bar Association, and the Executive Committee of the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Ms. Kenny continues to serve as a member of bar association committees, including the Dispute Resolution Section of the New York State Bar Association and the Arbitration (ADR) Section of the National Bar Association. Ms. Kenny is a frequent lecturer for bar associations and other continuing legal education programs on issues pertaining to adult guardianships and trusts and estates.



SUPRIA KUPPUSWAMY

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Supria Kuppuswamy is the Manager of Diversity Initiatives at Chadbourne & Parke LLP in New York. She is charged with creating and implementing initiatives designed to promote the recruitment, retention and promotion of women, LGBT and diverse attorneys at the firm.

Before joining Chadbourne, Supria was Associate Director of Career Services at Emory University School of Law. At Emory, she worked extensively with diverse and women's student organizations, supporting for their career-related programming, coordinating participation in interview programs, and connecting group members with members of corresponding diverse and women's bar associations in Georgia. She also helped plan Emory Law's inaugural symposium, "No More Early Exits," based on the 2006 ABA Commission on Women in the Profession report, "Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms." Before her work at Emory, Supria was a litigation associate at two Atlanta law firms.

Supria has spoken at several diversity events, including the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's (MCCA's) "Creating Pathways to Diversity" Conference. She was a member of a working group in the ABA Presidential Initiative Commission on Diversity that assisted in the publication of the April 2010 report, "Diversity in the Legal Profession: Next Steps." Supria is a member of the NY City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee, the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals, NALP and the State Bar of Georgia. Supria received her B.A., *cum laude*, in English from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.



RACHEL LITTMAN

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Rachel Littman serves as the Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development and External Relations at Pace Law School in White Plains, NY, where she oversees several departments, counsels students and alumni, and develops career and professional development related programs and resources. Rachel comes to Stratus Foundation through her work with the New York City Bar Association Diversity Pipeline, Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program. She loves meeting and working with the dynamic and motivated high school students, helping introduce them to and prepare them for the legal profession.

Prior to being appointed as Assistant Dean at Pace, Rachel practiced securities and structured finance law at Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP. She also taught Criminal Law/Legal Analysis & Writing and coached high school girls' field hockey and lacrosse. She received her BA in Art History from Yale University, where she played varsity field hockey and lacrosse, and her JD, cum laude, from Seton Hall University School of Law, where she served as a managing editor of the Constitutional Law Journal.

Rachel is an active member of various professional organizations and served as an appointed member of the New York State Bar Association Task Force on the Legal Profession and the NALP Law School Employment Outcomes Task Force. She has been focusing her academic interests on improving the structure and assessment of legal education. She is very much looking forward to collaborating with others to address the socioeconomic and diversity gaps in access to higher education.



EDWINA FRANCES MARTIN

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Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., is a public interest lawyer specializing in Government Relations, Non-Profit Management, Strategic Communications and Fundraising. In March 2012 she became the Legislative and Budget Director for New York City Councilwoman Debi Rose (49th Council District), responsible for, among other things, coordinating the Councilwoman's budget priorities and implementing the Councilwoman's public policy and legislative platform. For 11 years prior to this appointment she was the Director of Communications and Government Relations for Legal Services NYC, responsible for the development and management of communications tools and programs that promoted Legal Services NYC's image and educational messages to target audiences and various media entities. Prior to Legal Services NYC, Ms. Martin was in private practice with Shearman & Sterling and the Harlem firm of Van Lierop, Burns & Bassett, LLP; she was also a law clerk to the Hon. Lawrence W. Pierce in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Ms. Martin is a recipient of the Staten Island African-American Political Association 2005 Community Service Award, a 2008 Emerging Leader Award from the New York State Chapter of the American Association of University Women, the 2010 Women's History Month Woman of Distinction Award from New York State Senator Diane Savino and New York State Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis, and a 2012 Ruby Award from the Staten Island Chapter of Soroptimist International. In 2006 she was selected to participate in Leadership New York XVII, a civic leadership development program for mid-career professionals from across the public, non-profit and private sectors of New York City. Ms. Martin is President of the Staten Island Women's Bar Association and is a member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association. She is also a member of the New York City Bar Association and the Richmond County Bar Association, and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Ms. Martin holds a B.A. from Williams College (Art History) and a J.D. from NYU School of Law.



TANISHA S. MCKNIGHT

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Tanisha S. McKnight is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School, 04'. She began her legal career with The Legal Aid Society where she worked both in their Criminal Defense Division and Juvenile Rights Practice. In 2009, Ms. McKnight became The Children's Law Center of New York's (CLCNY) first Director of Paralegal and Volunteer Services. In addition to managing the paralegal staff city-wide, she practices law in a number of areas including custody, visitation, domestic violence and child protective proceedings.

She is also responsible for developing and managing CLCNY's volunteer programs, which includes forming internship partnerships and recruitment with local high schools, universities and law schools, the development of CLCNY's pro bono practice and law firm relationships and managing fellows both legal and non-legal based. She presents at local schools on the current issues facing family law practitioners and provides motivational talks to students considering entering the legal profession.



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Carolyn Nelson is the founder and President of Nelson Test Prep, a commercial entity that focuses primarily on providing affordable LSAT instruction to those who traditionally underperform on the LSAT. Carolyn started her LSAT instruction career almost 20 years ago at Princeton Review. There, her growing expertise with the LSAT was utilized to train other LSAT instructors. Subsequently, she taught LSAT courses for New York University (NYU) and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF), both while still practicing as a New Jersey commercial litigator.

Carolyn has provided LSAT instruction and consulting services to many New York based Pipeline and Pre-Law programs including: The Pre Law Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Fried Frank Pre-Law Scholars Program; LAWbound; Skadden, Arps Honors Program in Legal Studies and the Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Prep Program. In addition to the courses she provides to undergraduate pipeline programs, Carolyn is currently the instructor for the CUNY Law School Pipeline Program. Carolyn is the author of the inaugural edition of Barron's LSAT Logic Games study guide that will be published in 2013.

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Shawn O'Connor founded The Stratus Foundation to ensure that all Americans have an equal opportunity to compete for entry into the nation's law schools, business schools, and graduate schools. The Stratus Foundation, which awards scholarships for vital test preparation and admissions counseling services to economically underprivileged applicants as well as applicants from traditionally under-represented populations, strives to ensure that the next generation of America's leaders reflects the nation's rich diversity.

Shawn received his Master in Business Administration with Highest Honors from Harvard Business School and his Juris Doctor cum laude from Harvard Law School. In addition to his work with The Stratus Foundation, Shawn is the Founder and CEO of Stratus Prep and Stratus Careers. Admitted to the bar in New York and Massachusetts, Shawn represents clients on a pro bono basis in international human rights and political asylum matters.



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Katelin holds a B.A. from Boston College and a J.D. from New York Law School, and is admitted to practice in New York state courts, as well as before the U.S. District Court in both the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.



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Swati Parikh has a background in law school and pro bono administration, as well as practice experience in poverty law. She was the Assistant Director of the Center for Public Service Law at Cardozo Law School, where she counseled students and administered programming on careers in public service law. Previously she was the Pro Bono Coordinator for the law firm Chadbourne & Parke, where she served as the firm liaison to over forty legal services agencies and managed the pro bono program for the firm's three domestic offices. She began her career as a tenant's rights attorney at the affordable housing non-profit, Housing Conservation Coordinators.

Swati has also had five years of experience in the leadership of a minority bar association. She served as the President and on the Board of Directors of the South Asian Bar Association of New York. She graduated from the American University Washington College of Law in 2005.



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Helen Pundurs was most recently the Director of Legal Services at The Door – A Center of Alternatives, Inc. Previously, Ms. Pundurs served as a Court Attorney in both Criminal Court and Family Court; represented children and teens for The Children's Law Center and the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice; supervised the HIV/AIDS Law Unit at Harlem Legal Services (now Manhattan Legal Services); and represented the City of New York in the Office of the Corporation Counsel, Family Court Division.

Ms. Pundurs received her J.D., cum laude, and M.S.W. with a concentration in child welfare from the combined degree program at the University at Buffalo, and her B.A., summa cum laude, from Fordham University.



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Nate is also the Chair of the Morgan Stanley Legal and Compliance Division's Diversity & Inclusion Committee (LCDDIC). He has been an active member of the LCDDIC for several years, helping to enhance the firm's annual Outside Counsel Diversity Survey, coordinate the firm's summer intern programs, and increase the firm's involvement with diversity and inclusion initiatives with law firms, bar associations and other organizations. Nate also sits on the Advisory Council for the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF), the Board of Directors for the Alliance of Securities and Financial Educators (ASAFE), the Advisory Board for Legal Outreach and is a 2009 Council of Urban Professionals (CUP) Fellow. Nate sits on the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Minorities in the Profession and is also the Chair of the Selection Committee for the City Bar Association's Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award. Nate graduated from Duke University and received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was on the Journal of Gender and the Law, Barristers' Council and served as President of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA).



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Zakiyyah Salim-Williams currently serves as the Chief Diversity Officer at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. She was most recently the Director of Diversity with the Association of the Bar of the City of New York's Office for Diversity. Zakiyyah previously practiced as an associate with Heller Ehrman and Willkie Farr & Gallagher. She also clerked for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Carl Stewart in the Fifth Circuit and for U.S. District Judge Sterling Johnson in the Eastern District of New York. Additionally, she has worked as an intern for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and for the White House Office of Counsel to the President. Zakiyyah is a *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Howard University ('98) and a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar graduate of Columbia Law School ('01). Zakiyyah is active in her community and is deeply involved in youth-based programs throughout New York City and Brooklyn, New York.



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Amee Sampat currently serves as a labor and employment associate with the law firm of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker. Prior to joining Wilson Elser, Ms Sampat worked as a staff attorney at the Workers' Rights Law Center of New York, where she litigated on behalf of indigent clients with civil rights and employment claims. Ms. Sampat has also worked at Ernst and Young, LLP and Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP.

Ms. Sampat is committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession. To that end, she is actively involved with Practicing Attorneys for Law Students (PALS), Fordham Law School's Minority Mentorship Program, and Legal Outreach (where she also serves as a member of the Mentor Leadership Council). Ms. Sampat received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in 2006, where she was a member of the Fordham International Law Journal and Vice-President of the South Asian Law Students Association. She received her B.A., *cum laude*, from New York University in 2002.



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Lynnore Lawton Thames, Esq. is the Associate Director of ABC News's Rights & Clearances and Permissions Department. Ms. Thames negotiates and licenses third party content deals for network news programming on multiple media platforms, and she advises editorial producers and talent on various intellectual property matters. She manages a staff of five rights professionals and also counsels on rights matters for the ABC Daytime division's shows, *The Chew* and *The View*. She previously worked for the company as an associate managing rights issues for *20/20* and other news magazine and long format shows. Prior to re-joining ABC, Ms. Thames worked at its sister company, ESPN, Inc., in the Legal Department and attended New York Law School where she earned her Juris Doctor in the school's Evening Division.

Ms. Thames has also served as the Director of Communications for the Women's Sports Foundation and as the Media Center Manager at the Field Hockey venue during the Centennial Olympic Games in 1996. Other companies Ms. Thames has worked for include Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, Lanier Worldwide, and Abraham & Strauss. She has volunteered with a number of organizations including the New York City Bar Association, the Walt Disney Company, the New York City Sports Commission, the NBA, Reebok, the Black Women in Sport Foundation, the Lupus Foundation of America, and Ithaca College. Ms. Thames earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications, Television, and Radio from Ithaca College in NY where she also minored in Sociology and Music.

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Venetta Amory is the Diversity Administrator at Kelley Drye & Warren and has primary responsibility for developing, implementing and overseeing the Firm's diversity initiatives. Venetta has worked on the law school side for many years. She worked at Columbia Law School as the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Director, Minority Student Recruitment. As such, she had many responsibilities, including identifying relationships with pipeline institutions, serving as primary contact for minority students, tracking demographics, and working with affinity student groups. Venetta has also worked on the corporate side, managing staff development for the business-to-business division of Reed Elsevier. She holds a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Columbia University and a master's degree in education from Columbia's Teacher's College.



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Steve Buchman, a former partner at Chadbourne & Parke LLP, currently serves as the Firm's Ombudsman and Attorney Advisor. As Ombuds, Mr. Buchman works with the Firm's offices around the world, dealing with issues including civility, harassment and discrimination, new employee evaluation practices, quality of life concerns, and other matters that any employee thinks require attention.

Mr. Buchman joined Chadbourne in 1987 as a partner practicing real estate law, with an emphasis on representing lending institutions such as Chemical (now JP Morgan Chase) Bank, The Royal Bank of Canada and Barclays Bank in construction, interim and permanent loan financing and restructuring. In addition, he served on the Firm's recruitment committee and was coordinator of the summer associate program several times. When Mr. Buchman retired from active practice in June 1994, he became Of Counsel to the Firm. In November of that same year, he joined Columbia Law School's Career Services Office – where he continues to work – as a career consultant and counselor to both current students and alumni.

Mr. Buchman is a member of the New York City Bar Association and its Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Lawyers, the American Bar Association, and the International Ombudsman Association.



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Sonji Patrick is the Director of Education at LatinoJustice PRLDEF. As the current director, she works to carry out the organization's mission to nurture the next generation of civic leaders by increasing access to the legal profession. She manages all pre-law and pipeline programming, and oversees the new Cesar A. Perales (CAP) Leadership Institute. Programs include the LSAT Prep Course, *LAWbound*[®], LSAT-to-JD workshop series, one-on-one counseling services, and the organization's signature event, LatinoJustice PRLDEF's Annual Law Day. Ms. Patrick makes regular presentations at NY area colleges on law school admissions and is a member of the Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors (NAPLA). She serves on the New York State Bar Association, Diversity Committee's Youth Law Day planning group and the New York City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee. She has contributed to college pre-law guides and written articles for the CLEO Edge and the NYSBA Pro Bono Newsletter. Additionally, Sonji collaborates with corporations, law firms, Latino bar associations and Latino law student associations (LALSAs) to offer programs and internship opportunities to current law students.

Ms. Patrick earned her Bachelor's degree in Black & Puerto Rican Studies with a minor in chemistry at Hunter College. At Hunter, she was a writing tutor and worked primarily with English Language Learners. She was also managing editor of *The Shield* newspaper, and co-authored *The Guide* a pullout step-by-step preadmission manual for pre-medical students.



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Ray Reyes received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Rowan University and his Master of Arts degree in Higher Education from New York University. His interest in higher education began as an undergrad working as an Admissions Ambassador, giving tours to prospective students. It was during this time that he understood how some students did not have the same access to college as others. With the guidance of his many mentors, Ray was inspired to begin his life-long mission to serve underprivileged students. As a grad student at NYU, Ray was responsible for reading and making decisions on applications to the Stern School of Business. This experience has greatly enhanced his knowledge of the complex college admissions process.

After graduation, Ray was an Assistant Director and Career Counselor at NYU's Wasserman Center for Career Development. There, he helped blue-chip employers with their recruitment strategies of NYU students. In this capacity, Ray also worked directly with the students to help them make informed career decisions. Ray was also responsible for all multicultural career development programming including diversity breakfasts, networking events and internship programs.



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Sarah Vandermark is a Senior Manager in the New York Analytics practice of Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP which provides assistance to clients and their legal counsel to collect, preserve and analyze disparate data to support or refute allegations in investigations and litigation. Much of her experience to date has focused on Anti-Fraud and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance, Bankruptcy Claims Administration, Product Diversion / Parallel Trade, the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the development of related analytical tools. Ms. Vandermark has assisted the Office for Diversity at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York with their annual diversity benchmarking survey for the past three years, and continues to support women and diversity initiatives, especially related to law and finance.



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Born and raised in New York, Mr. Watson studied Art History and Economics at Vanderbilt University. After college, Mr. Watson worked briefly at Lehman Brothers. He received his graduate degree in Business Administration at New York University Stern School of Business. He is currently going in his third year as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Fordham University School of Law.

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Veronica Dunlap is a third year JD/MBA student at Fordham Law and she was the NYC Bar Association's 2011 Thurgood Marshall Fellow. Prior to law school Veronica danced professionally for several years and founded both a childbirth assistant business and a body care product line. In addition, Veronica is a CLEO Fellow and she is committed to ensuring diversity in the legal field. At Fordham, Veronica serves on the board of the Committee on Diversity in Business Law and on the board of the Black and Hispanic MBA Association at Fordham's Graduate School of Business administration. Veronica is excited to serve as the law student member on the Committee for Diversity and Pipeline Initiatives where she hopes to help college students successfully navigate from college to law school.



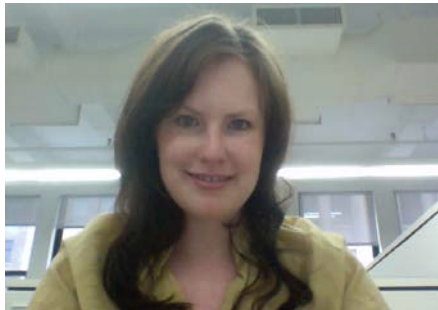
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Amanda Gayle is a second year law student from Brooklyn, New York. She attends New York Law School where she serves as both the Co-Director of the Street Law Project as well as a co-chair of BLSA's mentoring committee. Committed to civil rights and social justice, Amanda is an affiliate of NYLS' Justice Action Center. Upon completion of her studies, Amanda plans to pursue a career as a civil rights attorney with a focus in impact litigation. Amanda also seeks to continue on her path toward criminal public defense. Profoundly affected by racial disparities within the criminal justice system, Amanda recently completed a summer internship with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and looks forward to working at Bronx Defenders next summer where she will continue to facilitate her interests in racial justice.

Amanda also maintains strong community ties through her volunteer work. Devoted to assisting minority youth achieve their goals, in 2010 Amanda co-founded a mentoring program for young women in her neighborhood. The program, F.I.E.R.C.E., which stands for Finding Inspiration and Empowerment to Realize Character Enrichment, works with young women between the ages of 15-18 to build their self-esteem, prepare for college and discover their purpose. Amanda received her Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from John Jay College of Criminal Justice where she also minored in English.



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Melissa Martin is a current Brooklyn Law School student. At Brooklyn Law, she co-chairs the Education Law & Policy Society and is a member of the Journal of Law & Policy. Prior to law school, Melissa was a Teach for America corps member in Brooklyn, before teaching for two years at Excellence Boys Charter in Bedford Stuyvesant. Melissa is passionate about education issues, particularly bridging the gap between high school and college for low-income students. As an Upward Bound alumna herself, Melissa has seen the positive impact of programs like Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program.



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Shanice Naidu graduated from Columbia University in May 2010 with a BA in Dance. After completing the Thurgood Marshall Summer Law internship in 2005 at the New York City Bar Association, she interned at the Kings County District Attorney's office, the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn, and Viacom International Inc. For the past two years, she worked as a Legal Assistant for Viacom Media Networks. Currently, she attends Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.