

TOTAL COMMITMENT[®] TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

ATTORNEYS OF COLOR



Our Broad View On Diversity

At Thompson Coburn we take a broad view on diversity and value the myriad contributions individuals with different backgrounds and experiences bring to our Firm. At its core, diversity is about recognizing, respecting, accepting, and valuing differences based on ethnicity, gender, color, age, race, religion, ability, national origin, sexual orientation, and veteran status. But diversity also includes recognizing, respecting, accepting, and valuing differences based on an even broader spectrum of unique individual characteristics and experiences, such as communication styles, learning methods, work styles, life experiences, cultural and educational background, geographic location, economic status, career path choices, position with our Firm, marital and family status, military experience, and numerous other variables that influence each individual's perspective.

Because of these individual characteristics and differences, we react and think differently, approach challenges and solve problems differently, provide input and make decisions differently, and see different opportunities for our Firm and our clients. We value these differences in approach and believe they strengthen our Firm, both as a service provider to our clients and as a place of employment.



— Roman Wuller, Chair

About Thompson Coburn LLP

For over 90 years, Thompson Coburn has provided the legal services and counsel our clients need to realize their most critical goals. Throughout our history, we have been guided by our philosophy of giving our clients straightforward, practical and economical solutions to their legal challenges and business demands, no matter how complex. We put this philosophy into practice every day, for every client, whether a private individual, a closely held business, a professional or a multinational corporation. Our Firm is built upon a tradition of combining a corporate practice that is capable of handling highly sophisticated transactions with our powerful litigation practice. Because of our strong roots and experience in these areas, we have been able to keep pace with the changing demands of our corporate clients and advance their causes efficiently and effectively. Since the Firm's founding in 1929, we have represented clients from every industrial and corporate sector, including manufacturing, retail, professional services, energy, banking, health care, transportation and communications. We have earned the trust and loyalty of our clients by consistently meeting their expectations for premier legal representation without the high-maintenance character of a typical big firm. Now, with more than 400 attorneys and more than 40 practice areas, we can continue to service clients throughout the United States and beyond.

Steven Aquino

Associate

New York

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- Brooklyn Law School, J.D., 2012
 - Northwestern University, B.S., 2008
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Steve has experience in all facets of complex commercial litigation in federal and state courts at both the trial and appellate levels, and has contributed to briefs in the New York State Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.



PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

What inspired you to become an attorney?

Learning about our country's history. When you look at it, a common thread is the extraordinary power of the law to bring justice – and, unfortunately, injustice – to the people. Another thread is the presence of people fighting to bend the arc of our history towards justice – a never-ending responsibility. That always inspired me to use the law to do my part, however small.

Who are your heroes?

My grandmother, Lola. She was a Mexican immigrant who endured struggle and loss, including the death of my grandfather while my father and uncles were serving during the Vietnam War. She persevered and always showered me with love.

Talar Berberian

Partner

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- University of Michigan, J.D., 2012
Master of Urban Planning, 2012
- University of California, San Diego,
B.A., 2009



Talar helps property owners, developers, and real estate purchasers secure timely zoning approvals for both residential and commercial developments, drawing on Thompson Coburn's longstanding relationships with city and municipal officials to successfully navigate the complex zoning process.

Talar closely monitors the frequent changes made to city and municipal zoning laws across Chicago and works proactively to ensure that clients are aware of new restrictions or opportunities that could affect future developments. She has been particularly involved in recent projects involving transit-oriented development and affordable housing.

PRACTICES:

- Real Estate Land Use and Zoning

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I was inspired to become a lawyer when I realized how pervasive the law is. Every profession, field and discipline is reined in by the legal framework in which it operates. I wanted to study Urban Planning and Land Use, but was consistently confronted with how lofty ideas and policy positions were reduced into comprehensive ordinances and I knew that if I wanted to see my studies applied practically, I would have to master the legal aspects of the field. Eventually, this shaped my current practice in Real Estate and Land Use law.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is working on multidisciplinary teams and seeing projects come to fruition because of the expertise of architects, appraisers, traffic engineers, lawyers, etc. I enjoy providing a piece of the puzzle of a real estate development project.

Simran Bindra

Partner

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- Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, JD, May 2001
 - Occidental College, B.A. Politics (Minor - Economics), cum laude, 1998
-

Simran provides strategic banking and finance counseling to clients and represents owners and developers of commercial real estate in the acquisition, disposition, and financing of assets.

Simran has previously served as general counsel and senior director for the commercial and specialty finance group at Capital One, N.A., and as senior counsel with a publicly traded real estate investment trust. In those roles, he oversaw the origination and management of the banks' real estate and asset-backed lending platforms. Simran has also represented numerous institutions as counsel in all manners of commercial financing transactions.



PRACTICES:

- Banking
- Corporate Finance & Securities

What is the best part of your job?

I like the way the law intersects with every aspect of business, life and society. It is almost like a window into every industry. There is no area that the law and legal constructs do not impact and affect, and it's exciting to be able to use that platform to gain insight into so many industries.

Share some great wisdom you've received.

Always try to make your actions reflect the person you want to be.

Alfred D. Blue III

Associate

Dallas

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-
- University of North Texas at Dallas
College of Law, J.D.
 - University of North Texas,
B.A., Economics
-



Alfred represents clients in all phases of state and federal litigation and helps develop litigation strategies to resolve disputes in a timely and effective manner.

Alfred has led depositions of lay and expert witnesses, defended motions in oral arguments, and participated in hearings and mediations.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I wanted to join a profession that allowed me to help people in a number of ways. While other professions may allow this also, very few compare to being an attorney. My parents were very involved in the nonprofit arena and we often interacted with individuals, families, and organizations who could have greatly benefited from having the basic knowledge or assistance that attorneys can provide. Things like starting a business, running a nonprofit, adopting kids, navigating the criminal justice system and so many others can seem like insurmountable tasks without the right help. Being an attorney affords me the opportunity to point people in the right direction when they need it.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part about being an attorney to me is being able to call the client and let them know we have been successful in accomplishing our goal for them. I also enjoy the collaborative process of working with other attorneys to create solutions for our clients.

Adrienne Clair

Partner

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- The George Washington University, J.D., 1996
 - Hampton University, B.A., cum laude, 1992
-



Adrienne represents clients primarily in applications, litigation, and rulemaking proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding RTO markets; open access transmission service and transmission planning; terms and rates for electric capacity, energy, transmission, and ancillary services; related transactions; and proceedings involving natural gas pipeline rates and services.

PRACTICES:

- Regulatory
- Energy

With 20 years of experience, she has also assisted clients in compliance matters, including enforcement actions and auditing existing compliance programs.

What is the best part of your job?

Colleagues and clients, of course! As an energy lawyer, the thrill/relief of understanding some of the technical and complex ratemaking aspects of our work has been a reward throughout my career.

Share some wisdom you've received.

1. *Don't let anyone steal your joy.*
2. *Be yourself.*
3. *Work hard and play fair.*
4. *Life is like Legos: You can build a better one (from my son at age six).*
5. *Be your own best friend.*

Ashton Dietrich

Associate

Dallas

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-
- Saint Louis University School of Law, J.D., 2020
 - Saint Louis University, B.S. Health Management, 2017
-



Ashton is committed to helping clients navigate the complex world of business and tort litigation. She demonstrates adaptability across a number of industries as she helps to develop and execute strategy at all stages of litigation. Her experience includes product liability, pharmaceutical devices, alleged fraud in health care disputes and contract disputes.

Ashton employs her written and oral advocacy skills by drafting legal memoranda and assisting with trial teams. She additionally drafts pleadings, supports case management and assists with client communications.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Who are your heroes?

My mother and grandmother, who immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam. My Ba taught me confidence. My mother worked incredibly hard as a nurse to support her three girls. When I was little, she worked nights on an oncology floor while also going to school full time. She went back to school and got her doctorate while I was in law school. I'm still not sure how she did it all. I'll always be her biggest fan.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

A college professor told me that the day he showed up to class on the first day of the semester and he wasn't scared, was the year he'd know he needed to quit teaching. That resonated with me. I fell in love with litigation, and specifically trial work, for the constant challenge.

Jose Fernandez

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- Fordham University School of Law, J.D., 2014
 - Florida International University, B.A., Cum Laude, 2011
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Jose focuses on litigation involving financial services, complex commercial, securities, lender liability and insolvency-related matters.

Jose served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eileen Bransten in the Commercial Division of New York State Supreme Court, New York County, and to the Honorable Claire C. Cecchi, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. During law school, Jose interned at Morgan Stanley and at the Queens County District Attorney's Office, and served as an Associate Editor of the Fordham International Law Journal. Jose is admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I always enjoyed rhetoric and writing, and after taking law studies classes in high school I knew that a legal career would combine my interests while providing the opportunity to help people navigate their most important and complex problems.

Who are your heroes?

My parents are my heroes. We immigrated to America when I was a child, and I watched the sacrifices they made to provide their children incredible opportunities. Emulating their work ethic and grit has always served me well.

Ed Gray

Partner

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- Columbia Law School, J.D., 1970
 - University of Chicago, B.A., 1967
-

Ed advocates for his clients across the country, focusing on intellectual property, trade secrets, corporate technology, licensing, patent strategy, trademark prosecution, IP litigation, and government contracts.

Drawing on over 20 years of computer technology experience, and having served as Vice President of Information Services at R.R. Donnelley & Sons, Ed

has the ability to simplify technical jargon in a way that can be easily understood during litigation. With extensive experience in the areas of computer software and hardware, internet and e-commerce, and electronics, Ed has focused much of his practice on the misappropriation of software data and computer-related intellectual property.



PRACTICES:

- Copyright
- Intellectual Property
- IP Litigation
- Trademark
- Government Contracts

Who are your heroes?

Among lawyers, my heroes include David Boies and Theodore Wells – they are two of the most outstanding trial lawyers of our time.

Share some great wisdom you've received.

"Ask for what you want. Take what you get. Use what you get to get what you want."

Viviana Boero Hedrick Counsel

Los Angeles

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- Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, J.D., 2005
- University of California at Los Angeles, B.A., 2001



PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Viviana is a versatile litigator with experience representing a wide range of clients from emerging businesses to national corporations in a variety of industries and involving diverse legal issues from business, complex commercial, and real estate disputes

to wrongful termination and discrimination matters. Undaunted by a courtroom, Viviana has prosecuted and defended multidistrict litigation (MDLs) and mass tort actions, and successfully tried bench trials as well as first-chaired a jury trial.

An experienced litigator, Viviana supports clients from matter inception through resolution. She skillfully drafts and argues substantive motions and counsels clients on liability exposure, methods for mitigating damages, and settlement.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

My dad inspired me to become an attorney. We immigrated to the United States as a family when I was six, and in so doing, my father made the difficult choice made by so many immigrants to put his children and their futures ahead of his career as an attorney. While he could not practice law here in the U.S., my dad often shared his "war stories" from his practice, from which I learned the power and value of words and how their precise usage can transform disputes, issues, and lives.

Share some wisdom you have received.

Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right. Never dull your shine for anyone. Comparison is the thief of joy. And as the illustrious Elle Woods said: You must always have faith in people. And most importantly, you must always have faith in yourself.

Wil Holtz, Ph.D.

Partner

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-
- Washington University in St. Louis, J.D., 2007
Ph.D., Molecular Cell Biology, 2004
 - University of Missouri-Columbia, B.S., Biochemistry, 1997
-



Wil has a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology and experience as research scientist working for a major biotechnology company.

As a doctoral candidate, he studied molecular mechanisms of cell death in a model of Parkinson's disease. He now assists clients seeking patent protection for biotechnology and pharmaceutical innovations. Having earned both his J.D. and Ph.D. from Washington University, Wil has developed a deep understanding of the needs, goals, and concerns of his clients, and has the scientific foundation to understand the complex nature of their work as well as their legal issues.

PRACTICES:

- Intellectual Property
- Patent Prosecution
- Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Litigation

What is the best part of your job?

Interacting with scientists and inventors and feeding off of their enthusiasm for their work, as well as learning about their inventions years in advance of the general public.

Share some great wisdom you've received.

To be successful, you need to constantly remind yourself of your sense of purpose.

Fatima Khan

Partner

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-
- American University Washington College of Law, J.D.
 - Saint Louis University, B.A.
-



Fatima has practiced exclusively in the area of immigration and nationality law for nearly two decades, helping employers in a broad range of sectors address the immigration status of foreign national employees, including I-9 compliance and the E-Verify program. She works closely with HR

personnel, managers, and executives, providing all types of business immigration services for a wide variety of clients, ranging from large multi-national corporations, publicly traded and closely held corporations, nonprofits, religious institutions, hospitals, and universities, to small employers and start-ups.

Fatima strives to provide highly personalized service to meet the unique needs of her clients while helping them navigate a myriad of increasingly complex immigration processes, often counseling corporate clients who have no prior experience in sponsoring foreign national employees.

PRACTICES:

- Immigration
- Labor and Employment

What is the best part of your job?

Making a difference in the lives of others. In my practice, this means helping my clients achieve the American dream. Lawful immigration status and work authorization are vital to helping individuals lay down roots, gain a sense of security and importantly, and call this country home. To have played a small role in that process and accomplishment never loses its charm and is a constant reminder of gratitude.

Share some wisdom you have received.

Be humble and stay grounded. Help others without expecting anything in return. It is better to give than to receive. Everything you want is on the other side of fear. Speak your truth.

Sonette T. Magnus

Partner

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- Emory University School of Law, J.D.
- Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Management
- University of Toronto, St. George, Hon. B.A.

Sonette is a highly experienced litigator and business advisor who counsels corporate clients on all phases of commercial litigation in state and federal courts throughout the United States.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation
- Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy

She represents clients across a wide spectrum of industries during pre-suit evaluation, discovery, mediation, expert witness preparation, trial preparation and when advisable, trial. Sonette is skilled at creating and implementing litigation strategies that take into consideration all external factors that can influence a trial, such as geography, socio-economic realities, and jury composition.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I was introduced to "the practice of law" by Clair Huxtable. Phylicia Rashad's character was exactly who I wanted to be when I grew up. I wanted to use my skills and abilities to help people, and I wanted to be a present mother, a supportive wife, a good friend, and a leader in the community. I strive every day to be my version of this, and to embody these qualities. I kept that inspiration as I've seen the power that attorneys have to shape the lives of the people they interact with. I'm proud to be an attorney and I continuously seek practical opportunities to improve our community.

Share some wisdom you have received.

I'm not sure that it is wisdom, but my mother once told me something to the effect of: in this world, anyone can get anywhere – but the question is – can they stay there? Focus on your foundation and the fundamentals of your craft my child. Hard work and dedication always pays off. As a child she was made to recite (and in turn made my brothers and I recite) the following "The heights of great men reached and kept was not achieved by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept were toiling through the night". We read and repeated that poem all the time growing up. Truer words have never been spoken.

Adrian Mehdirad

Associate

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- Saint Louis University School of Law, J.D.
 - Saint Louis University, B.S.
-



Adrian represents clients in a multitude of business litigation matters.

He advocates for clients by drafting motions, briefs and memoranda. Additionally, he supports litigation teams by assisting with document review and by thoroughly researching legal issues that help support trial strategy.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Who are your heroes?

My mom, Maryam, is my biggest hero. She sacrificed a lot to take care of me and motivated me to achieve the goals I set for myself. Without her, I would not be where I am today and I am forever thankful for her continued support.

What is the best part of your job?

Getting to work with my colleagues at Thompson Coburn. In my time here, I've met many incredibly supportive and friendly attorneys and staff members, and I would not be the attorney I am today without their help.

Martha Mendez-Fischer

Associate

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- University of San Diego School of Law, LL.M.
 - Universidad Iberoamericana School of Law
 - Universidad de Baja California School of Law
-

Martha practices exclusively in the areas of immigration and nationality law focusing on employment-based and family-based immigration cases.

She has experience representing large multinational corporations, emerging growth companies, institutions of higher education, and individuals in immigration law matters, handling all aspects of nonimmigrant and immigrant visa processing, including consular processing, physician immigration matters and citizenship.

PRACTICES:

- Human Resources
- Immigration

Who are your heroes?

My parents for their unconditional love and dedication to family, and their work ethic, resilience, and tenacity in times of adversity.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

Always show respect to all individuals you come in contact with through the course of your life.

Dremain Moore

Associate

Chicago

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-
- The George Washington University Law School, J.D.
 - The George Washington University, B.A.
-



Drew represents clients in state and federal litigation and works diligently to help clients achieve favorable outcomes that align with their specific business priorities.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Drew assists business clients in a variety of litigation matters including complex multi-district litigation, intellectual property, tort, and breach of contract disputes. Drew has experience instituting and coordinating collections proceedings against judgment debtors on behalf of clients in order to satisfy their claims. He is also active in pro bono matters and has assisted with prisoner rights cases involving conditions of confinement claims.

What is the best part of your job?

Being a part of a team that's able to resolve issues that may be festering in the background and preventing the client from moving forward with new business. Victory in the litigation context is not always found in the courtroom. Winning a motion that guides a case to a favorable settlement while containing costs is a victory that is often not glamorized in law and order TV shows, but it can actually carry the same thrill as a judge or jury verdict.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

"Seek discipline and find your liberty" is a saying that has always stuck with me. Often, accomplishing important goals means being willing to sacrifice short-term comfort and the easy answers. Never be afraid of taking the more difficult path if it leads to someplace worthwhile.

Sartouk Moussavi

Partner

Chicago

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- University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D., 2012
 - University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.S., Electrical Engineering
-



Sartouk represents intellectual property clients in a number of industry sectors. He litigates IP suits, advises clients on brand protection matters including IP enforcement, counsels clients on licensing, and assists in prosecuting patent applications before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

PRACTICES:

- Intellectual Property

He has an electrical engineering background, with substantial experience in communications systems and location-based services.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

In a rule-of-law society, knowledge of the law is a powerful tool that can be used to help those who you believe need it.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

Keep your moral compass true to yourself.

Emily Wang Murphy

Partner

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-
- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 2004
 - Emory University, B.A., magna cum laude, 2000
-



Emily counsels company owners and executives on day-to-day corporate matters, as well as their long-term business objectives. She has negotiated and closed a variety of complex and strategic transactions, including mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, equity and debt financings, and commercial finance transactions, representing both lenders and borrowers.

Many of Emily's corporate transactions are in regulated industries, such as government contracts and higher education. She also represents public and private issuers in connection with various securities offerings, including debt and equity offerings, in both private placements and public transactions.

PRACTICES:

- Mergers & Acquisitions
- General Corporate
- Corporate Finance & Securities
- Corporate Governance & Securities
- International Commerce
- Higher Education
- Transportation

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is working collaboratively on a great team to solve problems for our clients.

Who are your heroes?

Michelle Obama and Elle Woods.

Shoko Naruo

Partner

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- Washington University School of Law, J.D., 2009
 - Keio University, B.A, Law, 2006
-



PRACTICES:

- Trademark
- Copyright
- Licensing

Shoko provides intellectual property counseling to both domestic and international companies, with a focus on IP portfolio management, enforcement, trademark selection, brand protection, and domain name disputes.

Shoko is licensed in the States of New York and Missouri. After graduating from Keio University, majoring in law, she earned her J.D. and LL.M. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

My high school ethics teacher would encourage our class to explore difficult ethical questions and form arguments on either side. I enjoyed the process of looking closely at both sides of an issue or problem, and then crafting a clear, coherent argument for and against it. The law was the perfect place to use those skills to help clients.

Who are your heroes?

Fukuzawa Yukichi – he’s known as the Benjamin Franklin of Japan, a brilliant and intellectually engaged scholar and philosopher who opened Japan up to the world. He’s also the founder of my university, Keio University.

Spenser Owens

Associate

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-
- Washington University School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 2018
 - University of New Mexico, B.A. Philosophy and Political Science, magna cum laude, 2015
-

Spenser helps real estate clients navigate complicated transactional matters, including commercial acquisitions and sales, tax credits, and real estate finance. He supports case management, conducts legal research, assists with client communication, and drafts legal documents.



PRACTICES:

- Real Estate

What is the best part about your job?

I love to learn about the history of the businesses and properties that I deal with on a daily basis. It's fascinating to get to know how the deal developed and got to be the way it is.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

Watching Sidney Poitier portray Thurgood Marshall in the movie "Separate But Equal" instilled a desire for justice in me.

Michael Parks

Partner

Chicago

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-
- DePaul University College of Law, J.D., Dean's Scholar, 1993
 - Northwestern University, B.S.E.E., 1986
-



PRACTICES:

- Intellectual Property

Michael counsels clients on patent and trademark issues and represents them in federal courts across the United States. He has significant experience litigating patents in a wide variety of technical disciplines, and has successfully handled matters related to the litigation of complex electrical engineering and software-based technologies such as mobile computing, cellular communications, global positioning, and interactive television applications.

Michael also has significant experience with patent reexaminations and with counseling clients on proposed technologies. On the trademark side, Michael's experience includes trademark clearance, as well as representing clients in trademark litigation and in adversarial proceedings within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Michael also has significant copyright and right-of-publicity experience.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I was working at AT&T as an electrical engineer, and was beginning to get bored with the work. I wanted a career change, but wanted to maintain use of my engineering background and training. Becoming an intellectual property attorney allowed me to focus a large part of my practice on patent and technology law.

Share some great wisdom you've received.

Always maintain your professionalism, no matter what. Don't give an instigator the pleasure of a reaction.

Mona Patel

Associate

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- St. John's University School of Law, J.D.
 - New York University, B.A.
-

Mona represents banks and other financial institutions in a variety of commercial finance transactions.

Mona has experience in a broad range of domestic and cross-border transactions, including acquisition financings, asset-based loans, cash-flow loans, receivables purchase transactions and bankruptcy exit financings.



PRACTICES:

- Banking and Commercial Finance

Who are your heroes?

My parents – they taught me the value of hard work and persistence and dedicated their lives to providing me with every opportunity possible. I would not be where I am today without their efforts.

What is the best part of your job?

I am fortunate that I get to work with, and learn from, incredibly intelligent and fun colleagues and clients, which makes even the most challenging parts of my job enjoyable.

Raymond Perkins

Associate

Southern Illinois

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-
- University of Illinois College of Law, J.D.
 - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, B.S. Economics
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Ray protects clients across the country from consumer class actions. He works effectively to help guide his clients through complex litigation and translate state and federal consumer protection laws. As a commercial litigator, Ray defends companies from a wide variety of allegations, including consumer fraud, product defects, unfair trade practices and more.

Ray handles all aspects of litigation, including analyzing complaints, conducting internal company investigations to determine relevant litigation facts, taking and defending depositions of fact and expert witnesses, and preparing and arguing dispositive and discovery motions. He also prepares legal briefs, legal memoranda, and client presentations.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Who are your heroes?

My mother and grandmother have always been and forever will be my heroes. Together, they made many sacrifices to give me the opportunity to be successful in life.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" The practice of law can be an all-encompassing endeavor. To be successful, it will require a lot of time and hard work. But as part of that journey, it is important to leave time for yourself to focus on your individual growth, and to develop and maintain relationships with the important people in your life.

Fred Richards III

Partner

Chicago

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- University of Notre Dame Law School, J.D., 1991
 - University of Southern California, B.A., 1988
-



PRACTICES:

- Real Estate

Fred represents clients in the sale and acquisition of complex properties and develops innovative strategies to significantly minimize the real estate tax liability of prospective transactions and existing real estate. Fred has extensive experience representing clients that

own or operate all types of commercial, industrial, and special purpose properties, as well as national hotel chains.

As a member of Thompson Coburn's highly connected Real Estate Tax Assessment group, Fred has led successful tax appeals on behalf of national corporations and hospitality entities, and appeared before assessors and Boards of Review throughout Illinois and other jurisdictions.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

The ability to make a change at micro and macro level.

What is the best part of your job?

Working with an amazing, diverse, dynamic team and being able to collaborate on best practices.

Liz Rocha

Associate

Dallas

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- DePaul University College of Law, J.D.
 - University of California, Los Angeles, B.A.
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PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Liz has researched relevant statutes, regulations, and case law to draft opinions for both dispositive and non-dispositive pretrial/post-judgment motions in various areas of federal and state law including §1983, trade secret, social security, ERISA, FHA claims.

What is the best part of your job?

The intellectual challenge required to find creative solutions to complex legal issues never gets tiring or less interesting. Not only do I work in a position that is intellectually rewarding, but I have the opportunity to work on cases that can have a positive impact for others.

Share some wisdom you have received.

Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Because you will never know the answer to everything and you will never have as much time as you would like to try to find the perfect answer. All you can do is put forward your best effort with the time that you have.

Diona Rogers

Associate

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- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, J.D., Dean's List, 2014
- Loyola University Chicago Quinlan School of Business, MBA, cum laude, 2014
- Northern Arizona University, B.S., B.A., summa cum laude, 2011



PRACTICES:

- Banking
- Corporate Finance & Securities
- Real Estate Financing

Diona represents financial institutions in commercial finance and secured transactions. On behalf of major national financial institutions and regional banks, Diona assists in the

documentation and closing of syndicated and single-lender secured and unsecured credit facilities. She has worked on complex loan transactions that have financed corporate M&A activity throughout Chicago and across the U.S. and Canada.

Diona works closely with bankers on the legal and financial terms of proposed lending transactions, and drafts and negotiates the resulting credit agreements, subordination agreements, and other loan documents, ensuring in each case that her client's interests are protected. In this fast-paced industry, Diona manages multiple high-value deals while addressing specific client needs on each distinct transaction.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I have always liked being a "problem-solver." When I imagined a career in the law, I hoped it would provide the opportunity for me to help people by solving problems. I was pleased to learn that not only was this the case, but that it is also an intellectually rewarding career that presents new challenges and learning opportunities every day.

What's the best part of your job?

The team I work with and the clients we serve. My practice group has been extremely supportive of me and my legal career. I have also found our clients to be very kind and fun to be around. When you connect with clients on a personal level, it makes providing legal services that much more enjoyable.

Jayna Rust Counsel

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- The George Washington University Law School, J.D., With Honors
 - Loyola Marymount University, M.A.
 - University of Missouri-Columbia, B.J., magna cum laude
-

Jayna advises companies, transportation authorities and other entities through all stages of the contracting process and litigation. In doing so, she works with her fellow

attorneys to help the clients recover money owed under federal contracts, protest problematic contract awards, and challenge adverse agency actions.

She also counsels clients on contract- and grant-administration matters, including analyzing and negotiating subcontractor and subrecipient agreements, following small business requirements, and complying with domestic preference policies, such as the Buy American Act, the Trade Agreements Act, the Military Cargo Preference Act, and the Civilian Cargo Preference Act.

What is the best part of your job?

Using my education and experience to help clients run their companies, nonprofits, and transportation authorities. In my practice, this means helping people do things that protect the country, transport people, and serve the public in many other ways.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

Take the job and kill it. You may get the job based on your gender, but you'll succeed in the job based on skills, which you have.



PRACTICES:

- Government Contracts
- Transportation Regulation
- Transit

Sonthonax SaintGermain

Associate

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- University of Illinois College of Law, J.D.
 - Florida State University, M.S., B.S.
-



Prior to joining the Firm, Sontho served as a law clerk to the Honorable Mary W. McDade, of the Third Judicial District of Illinois Appellate Court. He also worked as an Assistant Appellate Defender for Illinois' Office of the State Appellate Defender where he independently handled multiple

appeals for indigent clients on various issues of constitutional law, statutory construction, sufficiency of trial evidence and other trial errors. He has significant experience advocating and orally arguing cases before the Illinois Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court.

Sontho received his J.D. from the University of Illinois, College of Law in 2014, where he was the Production Editor for the University of Illinois Journal of Law, Technology, and Policy. While in law school, Sontho was also an executive board member of the Black Law Students Association. He received his Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Master's of Science in Applied Economics from the Florida State University in 2008 and 2009 respectively. His masters' thesis was on the impact of business development districts on the crime rate in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

PRACTICES:

- Railroad Litigation

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I was always attracted to research and writing that was aimed at resolving difficult problems. After working closely with attorneys with the State of Florida, I was mesmerized by how most of their work involved assisting others to express, and solve, their problems. Those attorneys taught me how complex questions can be resolved when approached properly.

Share some wisdom you've received.

Since I was admitted to the bar, I've spent most of my time researching how the law can address a particular question, even when the law does not always have the answer. What is most fulfilling for me is being able to answer such questions, and be an advocate on behalf of clients.

Stacey Wells Salters

Associate

Dallas

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-
- Thurgood Marshall School of Law, J.D.
 - University of South Florida, B.S.
-



PRACTICES:

- Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy

Stacey brings a diverse range of complex commercial litigation experience that spans across various industries, including advertising, cannabis, energy, telecom, healthcare, mortgage banking and insurance. Prior to joining Thompson Coburn, Stacey clerked for The Honorable Jeffrey P.

Norman, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Texas and served as briefing attorney to The Honorable Chief Justice Carolyn Wright (Ret.) for the Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

For me it wasn't as inspirational as it was inevitable. I grew up in the Hillsborough County Courthouse in Tampa, Florida. My mom was a court administrator and my dad was a prosecutor turned criminal defense attorney. Law and critical thinking were an integral part of my upbringing, and I loved it! My dad encouraged me to get a legal education by emphasizing its diverse applicability to just about any other discipline, while my mom took me to "Take Your Child to Work Day" nearly every year growing up.

What is the best part of your job?

The challenge of predicting the unpredictable and anticipating the unexpected. There are so many variables that may influence the outcome of any given legal issue. My practice pushes me to use what I know to assess the situation, analyze and narrow the range of potential solutions, and develop and execute a strategy to achieve the best possible result for my client.

Claire Schenk

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-
- Syracuse University, J.D.
 - University of Missouri-St. Louis, B.A.,
summa cum laude
-



As a former Assistant United States Attorney, Claire advocates for clients in the areas of health care fraud and abuse, False Claims Act litigation, and other complex white-collar litigation.

Drawing upon her 14-year history with the Department of Justice and service as a Chief, Claire represents and advises health care providers, registrants under the Controlled

Substances Act, and government contractors. Claire enjoys guiding physician groups, hospitals, pharmaceutical groups and others through the maze of complex and overlapping government regulatory schemes and assisting with the resolution of compliance concerns.

PRACTICES:

- Health Care Fraud and Abuse
- False Claims Act and Whistleblower Litigation
- Government Contracts
- Business Litigation

What's the best part of your job?

Part of my job is serving on the boards of great organizations such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis. My grandparents Ignacio and Vera Villatando came to Missouri from Mexico and Spain, respectively, and owned two Mexican gift stores. They worked incredibly hard, and I wish back then they had access to an organization like the Hispanic Chamber, which supports small and large businesses.

Share some wisdom you've received.

If you're frustrated with what you're doing now, take a big picture view. The people you're working with now could be the people who could connect you with new opportunities years into the future.

Booker Shaw

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-
- Catholic University of America, J.D.
 - Southern Illinois University, B.A.
 - National Judicial College
 - American Academy of Judicial Education
 - University of Missouri Center for Dispute Resolution
-

PRACTICES:

- Appellate Litigation
- Business Litigation

Retired Judge Booker Shaw is a skilled litigator and appellate advocate who brings valuable insight and perspective gained from his more than 25 years on the bench. His knowledge of current judicial thinking at the trial and appellate levels on a wide range of issues enhances his ability to argue a client's case more persuasively and to craft the most effective strategy.

Judge Shaw served on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, for seven years, including one year as chief judge. While on the appellate bench, he participated in more than 1,000 cases and authored 141 appellate opinions on a variety of cases, from medical negligence and nuisance/sovereign immunity to commercial transactions, contracts, and personal injury. He also served as a Special Visiting Judge of the Missouri Supreme Court. As a former trial judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, from 1983 until 2002, Judge Shaw presided over more than 500 trials.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

My brother, Judge Charles Shaw, was in law school while I was an undergraduate student. We both wanted to have careers where we helped people. After he invited me to come visit him in Washington, D.C., where he was living, I knew law was a great fit for me. Without his encouragement, I don't think I would be in the position I am today.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

You must expect great things of yourself before you can do them.

Kayla Siam

Associate

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- Emory University School of Law, J.D.
- Emory University's Goizueta Business School, M.B.A.
- Governors State University, B.A.



Kayla brings a keen insight to assess corporate transactions from an analytical and economic perspective.

Clients look to Kayla to guide them through strategic transactions and to

maintain corporate compliance with state and federal laws. Her experience spans all areas of corporate law, including mergers & acquisitions, establishing new business entities, memorializing joint ventures, drafting commercial contracts, and guiding clients through their strategic growth. She also has experience drafting corporate and organizational documents such as operating agreements and bylaws, shareholder agreements, and stock and asset purchase agreements, among others.

PRACTICES:

- Corporate and Securities

What inspired you to become an attorney?

As a business major in undergrad, I saw how integrated the law is with many aspects of running a business. Whether a company is just being formed, hiring and managing employees, protecting its intellectual property, or communicating its performance to stakeholders, there's always some aspect of the law that a company must comply with. I knew that obtaining a more in-depth knowledge of these rules and regulations would enable me to assist business owners and managers to achieve their business goals.

Who are your heroes?

Michelle Obama grew up in the same neighborhoods as I did on the South Side of Chicago, went to the same high school I attended, and based on the stories she told in her book "Becoming," had similar experiences as I had in my childhood. She's my hero because she's a living example of the great accomplishments that can be achieved from someone with the same upbringing as I had.

Ali Siller Associate

Dallas

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-
- SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D.
 - Southern Methodist University, M.B.A.
 - University of Texas at Austin, B.A.
-



Ali represents financial institutions in the full range of commercial financing transactions.

Ali prepares and negotiates loan documents for originations, modifications, and refinancings of secured and unsecured financing transactions. She drafts credit agreements and supporting documentation for revolving lines of credit and term loans secured by accounts receivable, inventory, and equipment. Ali seamlessly collaborates with lenders, borrowers, borrower's counsel, and escrow agents throughout the closing process. She has represented national and regional lenders in commercial real estate transactions and new development, including distribution facilities, Class-A multi-family complexes, pre-leased retail strip centers anchored by national credit tenants, Class-A office parks, and medical office buildings.

PRACTICES:

- Banking and Commercial Finance

Who are your heroes?

Sonia Sotomayor – the first Latina on the Supreme Court. Before her nomination to the Supreme Court, I had never considered a career in law. I didn't know any attorneys growing up and the only times I saw Hispanic women depicted on TV and movies, they had service jobs. Justice Sotomayor opened my eyes to see that a Latina could have any job she wanted.

Share some wisdom you have received.

There's a saying in Spanish, "el flojo trabaja doble" ("the lazy person works double"). It means that cutting corners doesn't work – you'll most likely have to start all over again. My dad used to say this to me a lot growing up and I still live by these words.

Gia Twine Counsel

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- Education: University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, J.D., 1997
 - University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., 1992
-



PRACTICES:

- Corporate Law

Gia is an experienced corporate and securities lawyer who consistently provides the highest-quality legal services to her clients. Gia regularly advises clients on mergers and acquisitions, securities law compliance, corporate governance and general business matters.

She routinely counsels privately held and public companies, as well as individuals, on stock and asset transactions, entity formation and maintenance, federal and state securities law compliance, shareholder agreements and other general corporate matters.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

Since I was a child, fairness has always been of paramount importance to me. In law, I saw an opportunity to look out for the interests of others and help assure that they were being treated fairly.

Who are your heroes?

My mother is one of my heroes because she sacrificed so much to take care of me, show me positivity and beauty in the world, and open my eyes to the endless possibilities available to me in life. My mother-in-law is another of my heroes because she has been such a wonderful example of strength, grace, and steadfastness in the face of challenges and adversity.

Bob Wallace, Jr.

Partner

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-
- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1981
 - Yale University, B.A., 1978
-



As chairman of the Firm's Sports Law Group, Bob represents teams, prospective buyers of sports teams, companies interested in sports marketing, and civic and government entities facing team relocation or facility issues. Bob has cultivated more than 30 years of experience in both the St. Louis business community and the national sports arena through his past executive and legal work for the Philadelphia Eagles and the St. Louis Football Cardinals.

PRACTICES:

- General Corporate
- Higher Education
- Mediation/Arbitration
- Sports Law

He spent 16 years with the St. Louis Rams, serving as the team's executive vice president and general counsel. During his 30-year career in professional football, Bob was one of the highest-ranking African-American club executives in the National Football League. He led the Rams' operations and business departments during two Super Bowl appearances, managed the team's \$200 million budget and served as lead negotiator in the renaming of the Rams' stadium to the Edward Jones Dome.

What inspired you to become an attorney?

It allowed me to combine my passion for sports with a professional career that touches every aspect of that passion.

Share some great wisdom you have received.

Be an engaged listener. Take the time to return calls and messages. Your timetable may not be the same as someone else's. Be patient as you may not know what another person is dealing with.

Jessica Wang

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-
- Fordham University School of Law, J.D.
 - New York University Stern School of Business, M.S.
 - New York University, B.S.
-

Jessica represents financial institutions in secured commercial lending transactions.

Prior to attending law school, Jessica became a Certified Public Accountant and has worked in both the public and private sectors: first in the financial services tax group of a “Big Four” international accounting firm and later at a multinational publicly traded corporation. She is proficient in Mandarin.

PRACTICES:

- Banking and Commercial Finance

Who are your heroes?

I really admire Frida Kahlo for being a trailblazer, remarkably resilient and able to carve a space for herself in a male-dominated art world. I'd be remiss if I didn't also say my parents, who came to America with \$300 and were able to create a life for our family despite countless obstacles and challenges.

Share some wisdom you have received:

“Whomever writes to a stranger should observe three points;

- 1. That what he proposes be practicable.*
- 2. His propositions should be made in explicit terms, so as to be easily understood.*
- 3. What he desires should be in itself reasonable. Hereby he will give a favorable impression of his understanding, and create a desire of further acquaintance.”*

— Benjamin Franklin, on writing letters to strangers.

I wonder what Benjamin Franklin would say about e-mails, but this quote makes me laugh and reminds me to keep my correspondence succinct.

Kristi Weisner, Pharm. D.

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-
- University of North Texas at Dallas
College of Law, J.D.
 - The University of Texas at Austin,
B.S.
-

Kristi represents clients in both state and federal proceedings as an associate in the firm's business litigation and financial restructuring & bankruptcy practice groups.

While maintaining her pharmacy practice throughout law school, Kristi worked in the Joyce Ann Brown Innocence Clinic and served as a Staff Editor in Law Review.

Since joining the firm, Kristi has researched relevant statutes, regulations, and case law to draft motions and opinions to seek positive outcomes for firm clients in healthcare, corporate finance, class action, civil rights, ERISA, breach of contract, and false advertising.



PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

What inspired you to become an attorney?

I've always been a problem-solver, whether it was solving a complicated math equation as a Chemical Engineer or finding favorable health solutions for my patients as a Pharmacist. As an attorney, I knew that I would have the opportunity to apply a similarly methodical approach to obtain a favorable outcome for clients in a myriad of service areas. The problem-solving aspect is what drives me.

R. Nelson Williams

Partner

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- Washington University in St. Louis, J.D., 2010
- Duke University, B.A., Cultural Anthropology, 2007, B.A., Spanish, 2007



Nelson represents employers in various aspects of employment law and litigation. His work for clients covers several industries, including telecommunications, software development, banking, and agriculture.

Nelson has developed a special focus on defending class and conditional certification actions under the FLSA.

In multiple jurisdictions, he has handled class litigation for both large and small companies. His work has resulted in the dismissal of class claims as well as the denial and decertification of wage and hour class and collective actions, including claims filed in California courts. In 2013, Nelson contributed to a major victory for a global computer software company when it obtained decertification of a collective action under the FLSA, and concurrently defeated the plaintiffs' motion for Rule 23 class certification.

PRACTICES:

- Employment Litigation
- HR Counseling
- Class Action

What inspired you to become an attorney?

My high school English teacher once created a criminal mock trial based on a novel we read. I was tasked with the defense's closing argument. Our legal position was weak, but I could not fathom allowing this fictional client to be punished. At the end of my impassioned argument, my teacher looked at the class and said, "The defense won the trial, and Nelson's closing argument is what won it." I will never forget that moment. It was incredible to see the power of robust advocacy, particularly when advocating on behalf of a cause or position you believe in.

Share some great advice you've received.

Kindness is free and invaluable. Treat everyone with dignity and grace. Advice given to me by our Chairman Tom Minogue: "Make your clients your friends."

Jasmine Wynton

Partner

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-
- Duke University School of Law, J.D., 2011
 - Spelman College, B.A., 2008
-



Jasmine is an experienced litigator who focuses on high-stakes business litigation, employment law and white collar criminal defense. She helps clients in a range of industries manage civil disputes involving breach of contract, fraud, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty and tortious interference with contracts and prospective business relations.

Jasmine has guided clients through government investigations and litigation involving allegations of consumer, health care, and securities fraud. She has helped corporate clients respond to state and federal False Claims Act *qui tam* actions.

PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- White Collar Litigation

What is the best part of your job?

Finding creative solutions to significant and complex legal problems for clients. I get to help a client tackle a tough issue while exercising my creative muscles at the same time.

Who are your heroes?

My parents, from whom I inherited my drive and work ethic. Because of their hard work and sacrifices, I was able to turn my dream of becoming an attorney into a reality.



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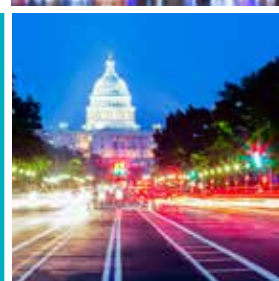
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The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

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