

Robinson+Cole

Spectrum

Our Diversity + Inclusion Newsletter



March 2018

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MESSAGE FROM NUALA E. DRONEY AND JOHN B. LYNCH, JR.



As the heads of the firm's Women's Committee and Diversity Committee, we are proud to re-launch Robinson+Cole's *Spectrum*, a joint diversity and inclusion quarterly newsletter. *Spectrum* will highlight the work that the firm's lawyers and staff do to make sure Robinson+Cole is a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming firm. The Robinson+Cole community has been very busy

strengthening the firm through our diversity and inclusion efforts. We want to thank all of our fellow committee members for their efforts in carrying out their individual roles and increasing awareness, both internally and externally, of the diversity issues we face as a firm as well as the legal community at large.

We can't cover all of the great events and initiatives of 2017, but this provides a snapshot of 2017 and early 2018, as well as a listing of upcoming events. As always, if you have any thoughts or ideas on how our Diversity Committee and Women's Committee can better serve the needs of the firm, please do not hesitate to contact us or another member of the committee.

PAST EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Robinson+Cole Lawyers Support Annual Bryant University Women's Summit®



Robinson+Cole was a bronze sponsor of the Bryant University Women's Summit® held on Friday, March 16, 2018, in Smithfield, Rhode Island. With over 1,000 women in attendance, Robinson+Cole was the sole law firm sponsor. The mission of the Women's Summit is to empower women professionally, personally, and financially. The event features nationally recognized keynote speakers as well as breakout sessions led by experts in their fields, helping attendees experience renewed confidence and enthusiasm in approaching their personal and professional lives. Data Privacy + Cybersecurity Team lawyer [Linn F. Freedman](#) was

among the summit's speakers and presented the session "Take Control of Your Personal Information: Understanding the Risks and Rewards of Using Smartphones, Mobile Applications, and Social Media." Ms. Freedman provided practical tips for protecting against identify theft. This is the sixth year that Robinson+Cole has sponsored this event. Attendees included the following lawyers: [Nuala E. Droney](#), [Patricia J. Igoe](#), [Dana M. Horton](#), [Michele L. Maresca](#), [Kathryn M. Rattigan](#), and [Lisa C. Riccio](#) along with their respective guests.

Robinson+Cole Supports AALDEF and AABANY



Robinson+Cole New York lawyers supported and attended the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) 2018 Lunar New Year Gala and Justice in Action Awards Celebration in New York City on February 15, 2018, as well as the Asian American Bar Association of New York's (AABANY) 2018 Annual Dinner on February 28, 2018. Firm lawyers [Crystal Kay](#), [Soo Y. Kim](#), [Noel B. Vales](#), and [Anna Jinhua Wang](#) attended both events and [Gilbert L. Lee](#) joined them for the AABANY event. The

AALDEF is a national organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans. The AABANY is an affinity association focused on Asian-Americans in the legal profession in New York.

Robinson+Cole Sponsors Hartford Stage's Production of *Feeding the Dragon*



Robinson+Cole demonstrated its continued commitment to diversity, education, and community at a private reception prior to the Hartford Stage performance of *Feeding the Dragon* on January 24, 2018. For the past few years, Robinson+Cole has made a contribution to an organization whose mission aligns with the theme of the Hartford Stage show being sponsored by the firm.

In recognition of *Feeding the Dragon's* storyline of a little girl who grew up in the custodial apartment of a Manhattan library, [Eric D. Daniels](#), the Partner in

Charge of Robinson+Cole's Hartford office, presented a check for \$2,500 to the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut to support the United Way's efforts to improve early childhood literacy.

Robinson+Cole Presents YWCA's Stand Against Racism Event



Robinson+Cole proudly sponsored YWCA's Stand Against Racism event on Friday, April 28, 2017. The theme, Women of Color Leading Change, was highlighted by remarks from keynote speaker, Reverend Sharon Washington Risher. Reverend Risher shared her personal experience of losing her mother, Ethel Lee Lance, who was killed along with eight others, including two cousins and a childhood friend, in the Charleston, South Carolina shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015. In her remarks, Reverend Risher touched upon gun violence, racism and hate in America, and the path to forgiveness.

Robinson+Cole Hosts Program on Law Firm Diversity Efforts



On October 19, 2017, Robinson+Cole co-presented a program with the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity (LCD) entitled "Client Perspectives on Law Firm Diversity Efforts." Moderated by Environmental, Energy + Telecommunications lawyer and past LCD Board Member [James P. Ray](#), who also developed the program, the panel of speakers included An-Ping Hsieh (Vice President, General Counsel, Hubbell Incorporated), Catherine E. LaMarr (General Counsel, State of Connecticut Office of the Treasurer), Wendy

Hufford (Vice President of Litigation and COO, Legal Department, Boehringer Ingelheim USA), and Jeanette W. Weldon (Executive Director, Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority). The roles held by the panelists made them uniquely situated to evaluate the efforts of law firms to build more diverse and inclusive environments. Each of the speakers offered insight on best practices for diversity and inclusion and ways to measure success to over 50 attendees from law firms and legal departments.

Robinson+Cole Honors Jackie Robinson Foundation Founder with Giving Cup Award for Longtime Community Service



Robinson+Cole honored Rachel Robinson, founder of the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF), with its third Giving Cup Award during a reception at The Palace Theatre in Stamford, Connecticut on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Mrs. Robinson is a longtime Stamford resident, philanthropist, and the widow of national American icon Jackie Robinson. She has spent a lifetime giving back to her community, inspiring generations of youth, and enabling others to realize their full potential.

Accepting the award on Rachel Robinson's behalf was her daughter, Sharon Robinson. Along with a commemorative set of Jefferson Cups, the firm presented Ms. Robinson with a check for \$5,000 to support the Jackie Robinson Foundation. Over \$1,300 in donations to the JRF was also collected from guest contributions made during the reception.

At the reception, Ms. Robinson spoke about the foundation's work which supports about 250 scholars each year and has a nearly perfect graduation rate.

RECENT DIVERSITY ACCOLADES

- Kelly Frye Barnett Among the Honorees at the 100 Women of Color Gala & Awards 2018
- Michele Maresca Appointed to Aurora Foundation Board of Directors
- Evan Seeman Appointed to Hartford's Camp Courant Board of Directors
- Kathryn Mullin Appointed to Discovery Center Board of Directors
- Emilee Mooney Scott Appointed to Auerfarm Board of Directors
- Britt-Marie Cole-Johnson Appointed to Association of Workplace Investigators Board of Directors and Teach for America – Connecticut Advisory Board
- Joey Lee Miranda Appointed Secretary of New England Women in Energy & the Environment
- April Condon Appointed to NAIOP Connecticut & Suburban New York Board of Directors
- Dan Brody Elected to Children's Law Center Board of Directors and also Selected as an Officer and Board Member of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA)
- Rhonda Tobin Among Benchmark Litigation's Top 250 Women in Litigation and Elected to Hartford Stage Board of Directors
- Amanda Gordon Schreiber Inducted into Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter 2017 Class of Women's Champions
- Stephen Cooper Appointed to McGivney Community Center Board of Directors
- Nuala Droney Elected to Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford Board of Trustees
- John Lynch Elected to Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity Board of Directors
- Keisha Palmer Appointed to Connecticut Retirement Security Authority Board
- John Kane Receives 2017 Robinson+Cole Diversity and Inclusion Award
- Matthew Guanci and James Ray Serve on the Board of Directors of the National Conference for Community and Justice's (NCCJ) Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Chapter
- Sandra Marin Lautier Elected to Horizons at The Ethel Walker School Board of Directors and Serves as a Board Member for the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA)
- Christie Jean Joins Urban League of Greater Hartford Young Professionals
- Virginia McGarrity Serves on the Advisory Committee to the Board and is a Former President of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 27 – [YWCA's Stand Against Racism 2018](#)
- May 3 – George W. Crawford Black Bar Association 41st Annual Dinner
- May 17 – 2018 Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award Ceremony

For additional information, please contact either chair or another member of the Women's Committee or Diversity Committee.



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