

TOTAL COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

# ATTORNEYS OF COLOR



## Our Broad View On Diversity

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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

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For 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 380 attorneys and more than 40 practice areas, we can continue to service clients throughout the United States and beyond.

## Tony Anderson

### Partner

Washington, D.C.

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- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1979
  - Johns Hopkins University, B.A. International Relations, 1976
- 



#### PRACTICES:

- Public Transit
- Government Contracts
- Labor and Employment

Over the past 30 years, Tony has been a legal advisor to many of the nation's largest transit systems. He serves as an important resource for public transit agencies, providing guidance related to project development, proposal review, bid protests, contract negotiations,

Section 13(c) issues, transportation financing, and contract disputes. In addition, Tony helps his clients understand and meet the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Tony began his career at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). There, he was involved in the implementation and enforcement of the Title VI program under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. He also served as staff attorney for the reauthorization of the federal transit program.

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### What inspired you to become an attorney?

*I wanted to have a stronger understanding of legal frameworks and how to alter those frameworks when necessary.*

### Who are your heroes?

*Gloria Anderson (my mother), Iris Hoffert (my 10th grade history teacher), and Rosa Parks. Two of those women saw potential in me when my view was more limited. The third woman is a constant reminder of the need to stand up to injustice.*

## Talar Berberian

### Associate

Chicago

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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

Los Angeles

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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.*

## Lauren Chee

### Associate

Los Angeles

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- University of Southern California Gould School of Law, J.D.
  - University of California, Berkeley, B.A.
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Lauren assists clients with a wide variety of business litigation matters, including those involving real estate, labor and employment, and insurance.

She performs legal research, drafts pleadings and other documents, supports case management, conducts document reviews, and assists with client communications. Lauren also assists with matters involving trust disputes, probate issues, and bankruptcies.

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#### PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

### Who are your heroes?

*My family is everything to me. My parents immigrated to America and provided a wonderful life for me through their hard work and dedication. Without them, I would not have had the opportunity to become an attorney and live the life I am living today.*

### What is the best part of your job?

*I love the collaborative nature of my job. At Thompson Coburn, there is a genuine spirit of cooperation and a desire to support each other.*



## Adrienne Clair

### Partner

Washington, D.C.

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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.

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### 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.*

## Ed Gray

### Partner

Washington, D.C.

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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

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### 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."*

## Wil Holtz, Ph.D.

### Partner

St. Louis

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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

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### 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.*

## Helen Kim

### Partner

Los Angeles

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- Yale Law School, J.D., 1987
  - The Julliard School, M.M., 1984
  - Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges, A.B., cum laude, 1982
- 

Recognized as one of the most influential women lawyers and most influential minority lawyers in Los Angeles by the Los Angeles Business Journal, Helen represents public and private companies, their directors, officers, and principal shareholders before the courts and in arbitration proceedings.

She serves as the vice co-chair of Thompson Coburn's Business Litigation group. Helen has successfully defended clients in multiple shareholder derivative suits, nationwide securities and commodities class actions, and related optout litigation, and guided companies and their officers through regulatory investigations.

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#### PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation
- Securities and Investment Litigation
- White Collar Defense and Investigations

### What inspired you to be an attorney?

*With no attorneys in my family, I actually had very little notion of what it would be like to be an attorney. I wanted to be independent, self-sufficient, and have a career other than in classical music, so I thought I would try law school. When I told my piano teacher at Juilliard my plans to attend law school, she predicted that, by the end of the first semester, I'd throw my law books out the window. Instead, I shipped my piano back home.*

### What is the best part of your job?

*I really enjoy two parts of my job: One is crafting a brief. The other is winning on behalf of a client, and seeing the client's appreciation for our good ideas and hard work.*

## Pamela Meanes

### Partner

St. Louis

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- 
- University of Iowa, J.D., 1996
  - Clark Atlanta University, M.A., 1993
  - Monmouth College, B.A., 1990
- 



Pam is an experienced civil litigator and a national leader on issues of civil rights and equal justice under the law.

Pam has held numerous leadership positions with the National Bar Association, the nation's largest African American bar association, including her service as the NBA's 2014-2015 President. Throughout her leadership of the NBA, Pam has played a major role in nationwide efforts to address voting rights, equal justice, education as a new civil right, and a more diverse judiciary.

#### PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation
- Real Estate and Construction Litigation
- Labor and Employment
- Public Law (Eminent Domain)

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### Who are your heroes?

*My mother, Marion E. Malone. She was a maid by profession. Although she did not obtain a high school diploma, she is one the wisest and most insightful people I know. Watching her rear five children as a single parent gave me strength, motivation, and the drive to achieve so that I may serve as a testament of her amazing parenting, mentorship, and faith in God.*

### Share some great wisdom you've received.

*As a professional who struggled at the beginning of my career, I learned that success is no accident. It's the product of hard work, sacrifice, persistence, a willingness to learn from failure, and an unwavering faith in God.*

## Martha Mendez-Fischer

### Associate

St. Louis

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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
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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

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### 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.*

## Jaime Monte

### Associate

St. Louis

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- 
- University of Iowa College of Law, J.D., 2019
  - University of Texas at El Paso, B.A. Criminal Justice, 2016
- 



Jaime assists clients with a variety of corporate and securities matters and financings. Jaime is well versed in researching time-sensitive matters and drafting appropriate memos and filings. He assists clients in a multitude of corporate and transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, SEC filings, corporate governance and general business counseling.

Jaime, who is Spanish-fluent in reading, writing and speaking, has served as a translator and volunteer with an Iowa State Bar Association program that matches clients with civil legal issues with volunteer attorneys.

#### PRACTICES:

- Corporate Finance & Securities
- Corporate Law

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## What inspired you to become an attorney?

*When I was choosing my career path, I decided to become an attorney because I believed in the rule of law. That belief, combined with the opportunity to help others while performing intellectually stimulating tasks, makes it the ideal career for me.*

## Who are your heroes?

*My parents for their relentless effort to provide me with the opportunities to become an attorney.*

## Dremain Moore

### Associate

Chicago

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

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### 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 glamourized 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.*



## Kim Moran Irizarry

### Associate

Chicago

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- Indiana University Maurer School of Law, J.D., 2016
  - University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, B.S.B.A., Accounting, magna cum laude, 2013
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Kim advises clients in the banking and commercial finance industries.

She represents lenders and borrowers in a variety of commercial financing transactions, including secured and unsecured commercial lending, syndicated credit facilities, and asset-based lending. Kim also advises clients on equipment leasing, purchase money security arrangements, and real-estate-related loan transactions.

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#### PRACTICES:

- Banking
- Corporate Finance & Securities

### What inspired you to become an attorney?

*When I was growing up, my mom was a court reporter at a Municipal Court in Puerto Rico. Sometimes she would pick me and my brother up after school and bring us to court with her. I remember being mesmerized by the lawyers dressed up in their suits and speaking so eloquently when arguing in court. I immediately grew fascinated with the idea of becoming an attorney.*

### Share some great wisdom you've received.

*Oftentimes, your biggest obstacle is yourself. Let your thoughts be filled not by the limitations you put on yourself, but by your desire to succeed.*

## Sartouk Moussavi

### Associate

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.

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### 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

Washington, D.C.

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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

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### 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.*

## Amina Musa

### Associate

St. Louis

314 552 6281 direct

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- 
- Saint Louis University School of Law, J.D., 2017
  - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, B.S.W., 2014
- 



Amina helps clients structure and close various types of financing transactions, including secured and unsecured lending, single bank and syndicated credit facilities, asset-based lending, maritime transactions, and acquisition financing. She regularly represents financial institutions with respect to automobile floorplan financing. She has also assisted clients with alcohol regulatory matters, tax credit purchase and sales, and banking regulatory issues.

#### PRACTICES:

- Banking
- Banking and Financial Services Regulatory
- Corporate Finance & Securities

Amina has experience with nonprofits and public service law, and is active in the legal and business communities. As the co-founder and associate executive director of the Muslim Women's Professional Network of St. Louis, she organizes events and initiatives, directs board activities, and assists with strategic planning.

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### What inspired you to become an attorney?

*I studied social work in college and worked within the family court system, which made me feel a desire to have a more direct impact on change. I saw that attorneys were empowered to do so in that area and beyond, and wanted to have that power to help others.*

### What is the best part of your job?

*Having the opportunity to solve complex problems and see clear results and outcomes as a result of my work*

## 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.

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### 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

St. Louis

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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

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### 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

312 580 2237 direct

[mparks@thompsoncoburn.com](mailto:mparks@thompsoncoburn.com)

- 
- 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.

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### 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.*

## 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
- 



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.*



## Diona Rogers

### Associate

Chicago

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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

### Associate

Washington, D.C.

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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
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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.



#### PRACTICES:

- Government Contracts
- Transportation Regulation
- Transit

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### What is the best part of your job?

*Using my education and experience to help clients run their companies, non-profits, 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.*

## Malini Rao

### Associate

St. Louis

314 552 6169 direct

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- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, J.D., 2007
  - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, B.A., 2003
- 



Malini represents clients in complex litigation. She has handled all aspects of litigation in cases involving the False Claims Act, tax appeals, construction litigation, and minority shareholder rights.

#### PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation

Malini also served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Special Litigation Bureau of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General in Chicago, where she litigated and investigated qui tam matters filed under the False Claims Act, as well as cases alleging environmental violations, consumer fraud, and constitutional challenges to state statutes.

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### What inspired you to become an attorney?

*After my first year of participating in my high school's Youth & Government program, I became hooked on the idea of utilizing written and spoken language to persuade people to agree to my position. My family encouraged critical thinking and debate as a child, and being a lawyer has allowed me to continue that tradition as an adult.*

### What is the best part of your job?

*I enjoy the intellectual challenge and creativity required of the practice of law. On whichever case I happen to be handling at the time, I am required to become an expert in that field. This is a task that never gets tiring or less interesting.*

## 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
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#### 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.

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### 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.*

## Claire Schenk

### Partner

St. Louis

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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

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### 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

### Partner

St. Louis

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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
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#### 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.

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### 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.*

## Steve Shredl

### Associate

St. Louis

314 552 6560 direct

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- University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., cum laude, 2016
  - University of Iowa, B.A., Philosophy, Political Science, and Ethics, 2013
- 



#### PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation
- Banking and Financial Services Litigation

Steve assists clients in a variety of litigation matters in state and federal courts. He has worked on several major cases for clients in the food/agriculture, telecommunications, and financial services industries, including class actions. These matters have included a

Missouri class action over license tax issues and a related bench trial that resulted in a favorable ruling, a series of breach of contract matters for a regional service provider, and defense litigation on behalf of a major Midwest banking entity.

Steve also serves on the litigation teams for agribusiness clients in regular litigation and state and national class actions. Steve provides pro bono assistance to litigants in landlord-tenant cases and civil-appointed cases.

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### What is the best part of your job?

*The people I work with. I would not be the attorney I am today without the support of the associates, partners, assistants, and paralegals at Thompson Coburn. Of course, I love the complicated legal work, but the people really make the job.*

### Who are your heroes?

*My mother, Susan, is one of my biggest heroes. From an early age, she inspired me to set high goals and work as hard as I could to achieve them. She is still my biggest fan.*

## Gia Twine Counsel

Los Angeles

310 282 2513 direct

[gtwine@thompsoncoburn.com](mailto:gtwine@thompsoncoburn.com)

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

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### 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

St. Louis

314 552 6509 direct

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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
- Sports Law
- Mediation/Arbitration
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems

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.

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### 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.*

## Felicia Williams

### Partner

St. Louis

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- Washington University School of Law, J.D.
  - Washington University in St. Louis, B.A. Psychology and African American Studies, Minor in Women and Gender Studies
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Felicia is a commercial litigator and has experience litigating complex business disputes and mass tort actions for Fortune 500 companies and other Firm clients. She has developed a special focus on defending mass tort actions

against clients in the pharmaceuticals and medical device, automotive, and tobacco industries, at the state court, federal court, and multidistrict litigation levels.

She handles all aspects of litigation — from discovery through trial and appeal — and works closely with her clients to achieve a successful result. Felicia has successfully briefed and argued motions and appeals, including in state court and at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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### What inspired you to become an attorney?

*I enjoyed debate as a young child and would constantly try to make a case for why I shouldn't have to complete chores. I also loved reading and writing and realized that a legal career would complement all of these passions.*

### Who are your heroes?

*My real life hero is my mother, Phyllis — for the many ways she continues to inspire me. My fictional hero is Buffy the Vampire Slayer. It's a cult classic that's much more multidimensional than it seems on the surface.*



#### PRACTICES:

- Business Litigation
- Sweepstakes Law
- Advertising, Marketing & Promotions Law

## R. Nelson Williams

### Partner

St. Louis

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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

Dallas

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

- Business Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- White Collar Litigation

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.

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### 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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