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Page: Achievement Award
Category Best Partnership Program
Chapter Name ACC New York City
Chapter Size Large (more than 851 members)
Entry Title "A Day in the Life at CHANEL" with the CHANEL, Inc., Diversity & Inclusion Legal Taskforce, and the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham Law School in partnership with the ACC NYC Chapter.
Entry Description The CHANEL, Inc., Diversity & Inclusion Legal Taskforce in partnership with the ACC NYC Chapter hosted a 6-hour in-person event for 18 law students from the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham Law School with diverse backgrounds and experiences at CHANEL's Corporate Headquarters in New York City. The event featured opening remarks from Daniel Rosenberg, General Counsel of CHANEL, Inc., and Susan Scafidi, Founder and Academic Director of the Fashion Law Institute, followed by 3 sessions with various law teams as led by CHANEL in-house counsel with corresponding business partners. The event ended with a networking lunch catered by CHANEL and closing remarks by Tia Gilford, President of the ACC NYC Chapter.
When was the program initiated? 3/23/2023
What was the project objective? This program collaboratively is part of two greater programs with the ACC NYC Chapter, as well as Fordham Law School. First, "A Day in the Life at CHANEL" is a pilot program for the "A Day in the Life" series, whereby other in-house counsel teams may invite law students to spend a day learning what it means to be in-house counsel within a certain environment. Based on a membership survey for ACC NYC Chapter members, in-house counsel at Coinbase, A&E Television Networks, Capgemini North America, Meta, among many others, expressed interest in conducting the "A Day in the Life" program within their own companies. Additionally, this program is a part of a series of events with Fordham Law School to highlight in-house careers and pathways for Fordham Law School students. The next event slated for the Fall is a career panel at Fordham Law School. The "A Day in the Life at CHANEL" as an individual event served the objective to spotlight the role of CHANEL in-house counsel as a trusted advisor and introduce a diverse group of law students to the many areas of the business that benefit from legal partnership. At CHANEL, close working relationships with business partners are critical to providing relevant advice in the most efficient manner for the company's success. The goal of this program was to expose law students interested in pursuing a career within the fashion and retail sector and/or similar business to what a "Day in the Life" is like for in-house counsel at CHANEL and the various types of careers that exist under this umbrella.

How was the objective achieved?

We believed that a successful program for law students required participation from our business partners who work closely with a legal counterpart and could bring to life their day-to-day work while showcasing the many different areas of the law that a law student may consider as an in-house career. As such, we presented a wide array of legal topics that affect most fashion and retail businesses including:

- (1) Marketing and Advertising with Regulatory, Customs and Supply Chain Compliance
- (2) Real Estate, Facilities Management, Store Design and Architecture
- (3) Human Resources and Employment Law
- (4) Event Planning and Indirect Procurement Contracts
- (5) Brand Protection, Intellectual Property, Trademark Registration and Anticounterfeiting

The collegial interaction during the business and legal presentations emphasized the importance of close personal connections for successful business relationships and the role of in-house counsel as a trusted advisor between the different business functions.

The networking lunch was also an integral part of the program, as law students were able to carry out intimate conversations with both in-house counsel and their business partners, as well as ACC NYC board members who attended the event. Through these conversations, students shared their own goals and aspirations, asked important questions, and learned on a more meaningful level about the diverse and specific areas of the law and business that they were interested in. An intentional part of this program was to invite a diverse group of law students from various backgrounds and experiences to this program to encourage career aspirations where differences may be celebrated and appreciated within an environment like CHANEL. The group of presenters also came from very different backgrounds, creating a fun and dynamic exchange that fostered an important and honest role in the very meaningful programming.

What was the project budget?

All costs were covered by the CHANEL legal department.

What obstacles were faced while doing this project/program?

Scheduling and finding sufficient space to host the event was challenging because CHANEL's largest meeting rooms were in high demand and regularly booked. We required some creative scheduling and negotiating to obtain the space for the event.

What is the long-term impact of your initiative to the local/global ACC community?

We hope to build on our Day In the Life experience and work with other students to encourage them to pursue a career in fashion retail. We also hope our program serves as a model and encourages other global legal departments to host similar events.

As mentioned under the program objective, this event was collaboratively part of two greater programs: (1) the "Day in the Life at Chanel" experience as a pilot program for other companies and law students, as well as (2) a series of events with Fordham Law School to highlight in-house careers and pathways.

"Day in the Life at Chanel" is a launching pad for consistent and meaningful programming to inspire and provide both background and guidance for law students interested in pursuing in-house careers.

In 350 words or less, please state how this project was innovative.

Legal Career Day programs often highlight only the legal work, but through this program we wanted to provide law students the opportunity to hear about the diverse career paths of both in-house counsel and the business partner, i.e., how did an architect and a lawyer from a real estate development company end up managing the design and opening of luxury boutiques; how did the love of science lead a supply chain manager and advertising lawyer to Chanel; how did a sporting event planner and French contract attorney come to work together on a fashion show in Miami? Storytelling is important to CHANEL, and the personal stories brought to life the love and enthusiasm for CHANEL products, the company, and the necessary harmony between law and business.

As stated by Daniel Rosenberg, the integration of law and business is a perfect reflection of what law students interested in fashion law are encouraged to learn – namely, you can't really understand the law of fashion unless you understand the business of fashion. Through this program, the pairing of legal and business presenters underscored this wonderfully.