



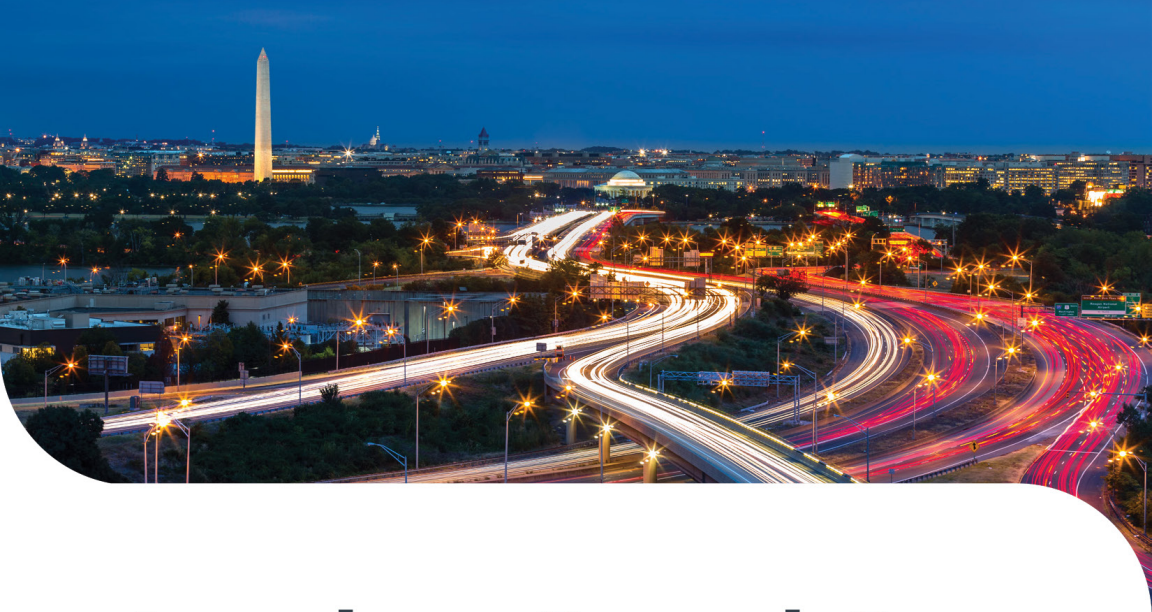
2024

Corporate Counsel Awards

Wednesday, July 10

Westwood Country Club, Vienna VA

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



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WELCOME



On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Association of Corporate Counsel National Capital Region (ACC NCR), it is my pleasure to welcome you to ACC NCR's 20th Annual Corporate Counsel Awards Reception. Twenty years! As always, the Awards recognize exceptional in-house professionals and departments for their work and leadership, and we are fortunate to honor an outstanding group of awardees this evening who have had a profound impact on their departments, organizations, and communities. While much has stayed the same, this year, we implemented

a refresh – expanding the categories, simplifying the nomination process, and revamping the presentation ceremony. We hope you enjoy the changes and look forward to your feedback.

Tonight's honorees exemplify the exceptional leadership qualities of the in-house community in our region. But this chapter offers so many ways for all of our members to expand their leadership skills. Whether by participating in the Leadership Academy, joining one of our CLE or other committees, or participating as a panelist or speaker at one of our many programs, ACC NCR offers myriad opportunities for leadership growth. I encourage all chapter members to actively engage in as many of these opportunities as you can.

Every one of our honorees is exceptional and I encourage you to read about them in this program book and get to know them over the course of tonight's reception. Among the highlights of this evening will be the presentation of Career Achievement Awards to Murray Garnick, Former Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Altria Group, Inc., and Jerry Howe, Former Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Leidos, and Access to Justice Awards to Andrea Bridgeman and Luise Welby, both who have retired from Freddie Mac and each of whom has made a seismic impact on access to justice. We are also thrilled to present ACC NCR's former Director of Legal Education Kasha Hunt with the Chapter Service Award to thank her for her outstanding work.

In addition to recognizing the depth and breadth of excellence in the in-house community, tonight we are presenting our first Outstanding Community Partner Awards. These awards recognize that so much of what ACC NCR and our members do in service to our communities is possible only through the efforts of our partners. This year, our first such awards are presented to two incredible teachers who collaborate with the chapter and others to host Street Law programs in local high schools.

Sincere thanks go to the co-chairs and our impressive panel of judges, who vetted the exceptional group of candidates and made difficult decisions in selecting the recipients.

Thank you all for joining us tonight to celebrate the in-house community.

LAURA MURRAY

President of the Board of Directors of ACC NCR
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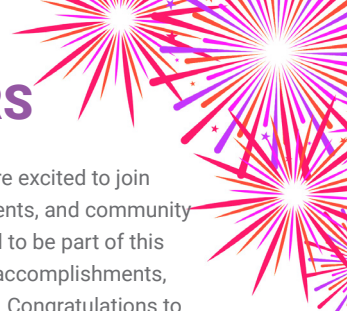


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AWARDS!



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

As co-chairs of the ACC NCR 20th Annual Corporate Counsel Awards, we are excited to join you in celebrating the in-house attorneys, paraprofessionals, legal departments, and community partners who are receiving these prestigious honors this year. We are proud to be part of this event, which gives us the opportunity to recognize their exceptional talent, accomplishments, and dedication, and to honor their contributions to the in-house community. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2024 Corporate Counsel Awards!

On behalf of all of ACC NCR's members, we also want to thank our sponsors, whose support has enabled us to maintain the highest caliber of educational and informational programming and to expand our impact in the National Capital Region. We are pleased to have these outstanding law firms and companies join us in applauding tonight's winners and celebrating the very best of the in-house community. We are particularly grateful to Diamond Sponsor Polsinelli and Corporate Counsel Awards Reception Sponsor Thompson Coburn for helping us present tonight's awards.

We hope you enjoy the evening with friends and colleagues.

Mitch Bashur, Verizon | Henrique Canarim, Leidos | Karina Vollmer, Amentum

JUDGES COMMITTEE

MITCH BASHUR

Co-Chair of the Corporate Counsel Awards, Chair of ACC NCR Lawyers Have Heart, Member of ACC NCR Community Service and Government Contractors Committees, Associate General Counsel, Verizon

KEVIN BUCK

Chief Operating Officer, Association of Corporate Counsel

HENRIQUE CANARIM

Co-Chair of the Corporate Counsel Awards, ACC NCR Board Member, Chair of the ACC NCR Corporate & Securities Law Committee, Co-Chair of the ACC NCR LGBTQ+ Affinity Group, Member of ACC NCR DEI Advocates & Allies Subcommittee, ACC NCR Leadership Academy Class of 2023, Vice President, Senior Assistant General Counsel, Leidos, and Recipient of the 2022 Outstanding In-House Counsel Award

CHIDI I. JAMES

Past President of the Virginia State Bar Association, Staff Judge Advocate 113WG Staff, DC Air National Guard, Partner, Blankingship & Keith, P.C.

NIRUPA NARAYAN

Vice President, Pro Bono Partnerships, Global Legal, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

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President of the Board of Directors of ACC NCR, ACC NCR Leadership Academy Class of 2019, General Counsel of Virginia REALTORS®

KARINA VOLLMER

Co-Chair of the Corporate Counsel Awards, Co-Chair of the ACC NCR Ethics & Compliance Committee, ACC NCR Street Law Volunteer, and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer, Amentum

KATHI WESTCOTT

President Elect of the Board of Directors of ACC NCR, Member of the ACC NCR Bono Committee, Deputy General Counsel, Pew Charitable Trusts



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With special congratulations to all winners and award recipients!

ORDER OF AWARDS

OUTSTANDING ACC NCR VOLUNTEER AWARD

Rebecca N. Knight

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER AWARD

Laura Brody Heltebran

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS

Nissa N. Copemann (*Street Law at Potomac High School*)

Megan Wessel (*Street Law at Clarksburg High School*)

OUTSTANDING PARAPROFESSIONAL AWARD

Tonia Woodley

OUTSTANDING COMPLIANCE COUNSEL AWARD

Mara V.J. Senn

OUTSTANDING IN-HOUSE COUNSEL AWARDS

Impact Leader - Abigail Bortnick

Challenge Champion - Riaz Dhanani

OUTSTANDING LAW DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Leadership Through Disruption - Beacon Roofing Supply, Inc.

Expert Collaborators - FiscalNote

OUTSTANDING CLO AWARDS

DEI Leader - Constantine Athanas

Transactional Achievement - Taryn Fielder

Integration Maven - Paul Mamalian

Legal Maestro - Magnolia Mansourkia Mobley

In-House Innovator - Virginia Robinson

CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD

Kasha Hunt

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Murray Garnick

Jerald "Jerry" S. Howe, Jr.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARDS

Andrea L. Bridgeman

Luise Welby

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NATHALY LESCOANO

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

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OUTSTANDING ACC NCR VOLUNTEER



REBECCA N. KNIGHT, CIPP/E/US

ACC NCR, along with ACC Global and the ACC Foundation, hosts an annual Street Law Diversity Pipeline Program with Potomac High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland, which brings together members to teach high school students about the law and expose them to in-house practice. During 2023, Rebecca Knight stood out among her volunteer peers for her “leadership, commitment, advocacy, and vulnerability” according to Prince George’s County educator Nissa Copemann, who nominated Rebecca for the Outstanding ACC NCR Volunteer Award.

During the 2023 Street Law Capstone, Rebecca shared her personal story of overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges to attend law school and become an attorney. Taking her commitment to helping the next generation of lawyers succeed to another level, Rebecca worked with her then-employer, BBB National Programs, to arrange a school-supply drive for participating students, ensuring that each one received a backpack full of critical school supplies and gifts. The most significant gift: a new laptop with two years of support service! “Rebecca’s commitment and dedication to ensuring that she made a notable difference in the lives of the students was inspiring,” wrote Nissa.

Rebecca’s story, candid commentary, and her ability to relate to the students contributed to several of them potentially pursuing a law career. “Her words helped them envision their futures as successful and contributing members of the legal community,” penned Nissa. Street Law students in attendance went on to enroll in institutions like the University of Maryland; Prince George’s Community College; Rutgers; and William & Mary.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER



LAURA BRODY HELTEBRAN

Wheels Up Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary Laura Brody Heltebran consistently gives of her time and energy in service of others. A mentor to women within her industry of travel and hospitality — and an advocate for animals — this year’s Outstanding Community Service Leader Award recipient is an inspiration to many.

Soon after joining Wheels Up in 2020, the company experienced great growth, and in 2023 its new CEO expanded its partnership with Delta Airlines. Laura’s legal experience came in handy, as did her understanding of working within industries that lack gender diversity. Laura committed to closing the gender gap within her own legal department, which is currently made up of over 60 percent women. Further, a volunteer with Women in Aviation International, as well as an advisory board member of Women Leading Travel and Hospitality, Laura is equally as dedicated to promoting young women in the industry as she is to those working in-house.

In addition to her work in the aviation, travel, and hospitality spaces, Laura is a devoted animal advocate. Combining her day job with her love for animals, as well as the fact she is working on her pilot’s license, Laura volunteers with Amelia Air, a nonprofit that saves at-risk pets by flying them to rescues where they can be adopted into loving families. The organization plans every flight, and Laura lends her time and skills to help organize pilots and crews in their rescue missions. In fact, it was during her first mission with Amelia Air that Laura adopted her cat Amadeus!

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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACC NCR is excited to announce the creation of the ACC NCR Outstanding Community Partner Award, presented by the chapter to honor the people and organizations who collaborate with us in our community service and pro bono service efforts. This year, we are thrilled to present the first of these awards to the extraordinary educators we work with on our Street Law Programs. Through Street Law, high school students are introduced to the possibilities of a law career, particularly one in-house, by dedicated lawyer volunteers who meet the students where they are and share stories of their unique paths to in-house practice.

Our volunteers enjoy meeting the students and working with each other, so much so that most of them return year after year. The benefits to students and volunteers would not be possible without the educators who partner with us to make it happen. Educators like Nissa N. Copemann and Megan Wessel.



NISSA N. COPEMANN

Nissa Copemann has over 30 years of experience as a nonprofit executive, attorney, and legal educator. After working for federal agencies, law firms, foundations, and an arts center, Nissa transitioned to public education in 2017. Initially an English teacher at Potomac High School, her current focus is on legal education in the form of college and career preparation for students in the school's Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Career Pathway.

Nissa's students benefit from her legal education, rich work expertise, and impressive network of professionals, in addition to insight from Street Law volunteers. In recognition of her commitment to Street Law and her students, in 2022, she was one of only 60 educators nationwide selected to participate in the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers, hosted by Street Law and the US Supreme Court Historical Society.

ACC NCR volunteers who work with Nissa note her enthusiastic engagement with her class, as well as the clear respect and admiration her students have for her. The feeling is clearly mutual and Nissa utilizes her strong advocacy skills to secure resources and more for them.



MEGAN WESSEL

Megan Wessel, who currently teaches Law and Sociology at Clarksburg High School, has been an educator for over 20 years. Megan is passionate about empowering student voices and uses debate, deliberations, and simulations to allow students to discuss contested issues. Her law students participate in both criminal and civil mock trials as well as mini moot courts.

As an advisor for CHS Youth and Government, she also takes a delegation of students to Annapolis each year for a three-day mock legislative assembly at the state house and courts program with a culminating trial in the old courthouse. This year students in the courts program participated in mock trials and, as suggested by Megan, a moot court discussing the constitutionality of one of the laws the assembly passed last year.

In-house volunteers from ACC NCR and EchoStar | Hughes hosted four sessions on contracts and false advertising in Megan's classroom as well as in the Germantown, MD offices of EchoStar | Hughes, as part of the annual program with the high school. Representatives from EchoStar | Hughes described Megan as "an exceptionally enthusiastic teacher who reaches students by drawing out their natural curiosity."

On behalf of ACC NCR, thank you and congratulations Megan and Nissa!

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OUTSTANDING PARAPROFESSIONAL



TONIA WOODLEY

Tonia Woodley joined the World Resources Institute in 2022 as the organization's first paralegal. Serving as paralegal within a very small legal team consisting of only one attorney, Tonia quickly became an integral part of the department and a trusted partner to the general counsel. A proactive leader, she researched and implemented tools to enhance department efficiency and project management. Despite having no prior contracts experience, Tonia quickly grasped key concepts and developed a keen ability to spot issues.

In addition, Tonia played a crucial role in locating and engaging qualified lawyers from around the world — balancing legal needs with programmatic requests. Most impressively, when the general counsel left the organization in 2023, Tonia didn't hesitate to step up as the primary contact for the legal department, coordinating with outside counsel to ensure that legal risks were addressed and properly managed.

Always willing to take on new projects and advance her skills and knowledge of new areas of the law, Tonia is a valued asset to her colleagues who believe her dedication and outstanding contributions have made her to be most deserving of the 2024 Outstanding Paraprofessional Award.

OUTSTANDING COMPLIANCE COUNSEL



MARA V.J. SENN

This year's Outstanding Compliance Counsel Award goes to Global Executive Compliance Leader, Investigations, Monitoring & Transparency, Mara V.J. Senn. Joining GE HealthCare in January of 2023, Mara quickly made a significant impact by calling on her extensive compliance and investigations experience accumulated while working within Am Law 100 firms, the Department of Justice's Criminal Justice Section, and the World Bank to develop a compliance monitoring program.

The program, which incorporates data analytics, machine learning, and AI to detect high compliance risks, allows for in-depth data analysis and review. Since its implementation, Mara and her team have been able to more efficiently mitigate risks, identify any gaps, and offer suggestions and corrective actions.

In 2023, Mara contributed her compliance expertise to the greater legal community in her capacity as co-chair of the ACC NCR Ethics & Compliance Committee and co-chair of the Global Anti-Corruption Committee of the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association

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OUTSTANDING IN-HOUSE COUNSEL



Impact Leader ABIGAIL BORTNICK

At Leidos, a frequent name on Ethisphere Institute's "World's Most Ethical Companies" list, Assistant General Counsel, Corporate International Regulatory Compliance, Abigail Bortnick plays an integral role in ensuring all personnel and business partners comply with international anti-corruption laws. A recent addition to the world of in-house counsel, Abigail has quickly transitioned and made a significant impact at the company she joined in 2022, pulling on 15 years of experience working in private practice.

During 2023 - her first full years at Leidos – Abigail's volunteerism made it clear that she is passionate about bringing people together and making a positive impact. She co-chairs the employee resource group focused on improving accessibility across the enterprise and creating a welcoming and supportive culture for those with differing abilities. In addition, she holds a leadership role in the Cancer Advocacy Resource & Emotional Support (CARES) group where she offers assistance for Leidos employees who have lived with cancer; or are caring for a loved one with the diagnosis.

A breast cancer survivor herself, Abigail loves to connect with and be a resource for young women going through similar experiences. Her leadership on the board at Hope Connections for Cancer Support, resulted in her election to vice chair. This and more make her the deserving recipient of the Outstanding In-house Counsel Award – Impact Leader.



Challenge Champion RIAZ DHANANI

Riaz Dhanani, senior corporate counsel at CarMax, Inc., joined the legal team at the used vehicle retailer four years ago and quickly became an integral member of the department. In his current role, he runs CarMax's bifurcated securitization platform and manages five funding warehouse facilities, the revolving credit facility, and multiple term loans and private placement notes — all totaling over \$10 billion in transactions.

In addition to his complicated day-to-day responsibilities, he has thrived in numerous roles outside of his expertise and comfort zone. For example, he leads CarMax's legal effort to achieve a 50% carbon emissions reduction by 2025. In 2023, he sold CarMax's corporate jet and purchased a new one for the company and very recently completed the process of adding a new nonprime securitization platform to bring the company over \$1B more in transactional work. He is regularly asked to take on stretch assignments and happily accepts new challenges to help improve the organization.

Riaz demonstrates commitment to his colleagues and peers by serving on the legal team's social committee; working to make the team more collaborative (within and outside the department); and further, through leading important discussions around DEI, a topic of importance to the attorney dedicated to ensuring all feel welcome in the CarMax legal department. According to his team, Riaz's ability to tackle new challenges, as well as his passion for his colleagues, has made the legal department a stronger, more cohesive unit.

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During a year of significant change for Beacon, a Fortune 500 publicly traded company, the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), led by Executive Vice President and General Counsel Christine Reddy, played an integral role in the company's milestone

achievements. Committed to Beacon's strategic vision, the OGC partnered with the business to drive growth, expand the footprint, successfully deploy capital, and realign the capital structure by reducing a significant private equity owner's position. Demonstrating a commitment to the client, mitigating risks, and building a high-performing team, the OGC team also resolved litigation, developed more effective and efficient processes and tools, and explored innovative technologies to deliver standardized and tailored results.

The OGC negotiated and completed public offering transactions which reduced private equity firm CD&R's beneficial ownership of the company from 34 to 8 percent. These 2023 transactions included the repurchase of CD&R's outstanding Series A Preferred Stock funded by \$600M of Senior Secured Notes; and the completion of two \$420 M public offerings for the sale of shares of Beacon's common stock. In addition, Beacon's legal team contributed to the company's overall growth by negotiating and closing on leases that added 35 greenfield locations and successfully acquiring more than eight privately held company assets. The team also worked closely with HR to implement the first ever employee stock purchase plan.

In her nomination, Abby Brown, partner at Squire Patton Boggs (US) noted the OGC's wise investment of time and resources as they displayed great leadership through disruption.

Expert Collaborators

FISCALNOTE

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The "small but mighty" legal team at FiscalNote Holdings, Inc., led by SVP, General Counsel and Secretary Todd Aman, uses its individual specialties to support FiscalNote, a global, AI-forward company with multiple brands, services, and product offerings.

Their contributions are so appreciated by their client that none other than FiscalNote President and Chief Operating Officer Josh Resnik nominated the team!

While maintaining focus on core responsibilities like public company reporting, compliance and board governance, risk management, advising on privacy and employment laws, and operations support, the team partnered across the business on several complex matters in 2023. These matters included the acquisition of a UK-based security risk information services and advisory company; a structured bridge financing; and advising the board and senior leadership on the co-founders' expression of interest in taking the company private. The team also negotiated the settlement of a significant potential litigation (without any cash outlay) and led an internal investigation in a non-US jurisdiction.

Demonstrating flexibility and a spirit of collaboration, the FiscalNote legal team guided the company through its first full year as a public company, including filing its first Form 10-K and proxy statement, holding the annual stockholders meeting, establishing public company governance frameworks, implementing and managing equity plans, supporting board oversight and governance obligations. The team also counts developing and launching employee training programs to help global team members understand applicable legal, regulatory, and ethical obligations as key 2023 successes.

OUTSTANDING CLO AWARDS



DEI Leader **CONSTANTINE ATHANAS**

Among the many accomplishments of James G Davis Construction Corporation (DAVIS) Executive Vice President and General Counsel Constantine Athanas in 2023, his commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) stands out.

A founding member of the DAVIS DEI Steering Committee in 2021, he chaired the committee from its inception through 2023. Under his leadership, DAVIS updated its 40-year-old core values to include “inclusion” which became the guiding principle for several initiatives throughout the company, including: a pay equity study; creation of three employee resource groups; participation in Construction Inclusion Week; sponsorship of the Leadership of Greater Washington Anti-Racist Leadership Series; expansion of the company’s recruiting sources; company-wide anti-bias education; celebration of cultural observances (including Pride Month and Juneteenth); extension of the company’s parental leave benefits; and expansion of PTO to include two floating holidays for religious and cultural observances not already in the DAVIS calendar.

Constantine’s commitment to DEI extends beyond his legal department and DAVIS. He has served as co-chair of the ACC NCR DEI Committee since 2020, overseeing the increase in that committee from four to forty members and expansion of the committee’s activities to programming, leadership development, and affinity groups. Moreover, he has demonstrated a tremendous commitment to ongoing education on DEI topics and personal action to make the communities in which he operates more diverse, equitable, and inclusive.



Transactional Achievement **TARYN FIELDER**

The 2024 Outstanding CLO Award – Transactional Achievement goes to Executive Vice President and General Counsel Taryn Fielder for her leading role in Veris Residential’s transformation to a pure-pay multifamily REIT (real estate investment trust) last year.

Due to Taryn’s strategic advisory support, the company was able to advance several key milestones. For example, Taryn was instrumental in the successful sales of non-core office assets, including one of the largest commercial office transactions of 2023 totaling \$420M, and the \$97M sale of Port Imperial Hotel. She also led negotiations related to Rockpoint’s interest in the company’s multifamily portfolio in a transaction valued at \$520M, which substantially simplified the overall company structure and is projected to save approximately \$24 million of annual interest. Further, Taryn was a lead player in successfully defending Veris against a publicly threatened activist investor campaign.

In addition, Taryn’s work has greatly contributed to driving higher revenues, reducing concessions across Veris Residential’s portfolio, and stabilizing controllable expenses. More specifically, she is credited with reducing annual legal fees by 47 percent in 2023 — achieved due to her ability to bring legal work in-house while also developing and elevating her team.

A 2022 graduate of the ACC NCR Leadership Academy, Taryn accomplished tremendous success for Veris Residential while serving as a member of the ACC NCR Leadership Academy Steering Committee and a co-chair of the CLO and General Counsel Club, as well as on the Board of Trustees at Eckerd College.



Integration Maven

PAUL MAMALIAN

Paul Mamalian, executive vice president and general counsel of Avolta North America, is this year's recipient of the 2024 Outstanding CLO Award – Integration Maven, in recognition of his many legal accomplishments, leadership across the business, and commitment to excellence and innovation within the in-house community.

Most notably in 2023, Paul led integration of two sizable and sophisticated legal departments following the complex merging of HMSHost's food and beverage business, Hudson retail operations, and Dufry's duty free offerings into Avolta North America. In his nomination, Jay Halpern, partner at ArentFox Schiff noted that Paul's "strategic vision and adept management ensured that the new legal department was optimally structured to support Avolta's multifaceted business operations." Under his guidance, the legal team, currently 23 members strong, emerged as a cornerstone of Avolta's success, helping the airport retail, food, and beverage company navigate intricate legal landscapes – while remaining in compliance with evolving regulatory requirements.

A war refugee, Paul has overcome many challenges during his legal career, and champions developing in-house leaders from underrepresented backgrounds. Whether through his service and dedication to the ACC NCR Leadership Academy and GC & CLO Club, or within his own legal department, Paul is a leader who works to foster a culture of responsiveness, innovation, and collaboration. Through his strategic guidance and mentorship, he empowers his team to consistently exceed expectations and deliver value to the broader organization, which has resulted in the legal department becoming a trusted strategic partner to the business.



Legal Maestro

MAGNOLIA MANSOURKIA MOBLEY

To be a recipient of an award with the word "Maestro" in it, one must be a leader capable of successfully managing a wide array of legal (and non-legal) matters. As the former chief legal, data ethics, and people officer at Lacuna Technologies, Magnolia "Maggie" Mansourkia Mobley has built a reputation as a legal professional who can do it all. And, in 2023, she further solidified her "Swiss army knife" status, completing a broad range of business deliverables for the technology company.

During a year that saw market and business cycle ups and downs, Maggie proved herself a partner to the business time and time again, working alongside the CEO during heavy negotiations, including those to protect stakeholders and employee equity; and was also the primary partner to the VP of Finance during the Silicon Valley Bank meltdown. Together, the partners addressed the external crisis while preserving internal funds and meeting payroll.

Maggie's expertise in fundraising, M&A, product counseling, IP management, and AI governance, along with her deep background in data protection strategy and compliance, deserve recognition. A trusted advisor to the board and internal stakeholders, she's a leader who wins the respect of her colleagues, often acting as a coach to developing staff as well as handling sensitive personnel matters with care, all while championing DEI practices and programs at her organization.

OUTSTANDING CLO AWARDS



In-House Innovator **VIRGINIA ROBINSON**

Named general counsel and chief ethics and compliance officer at Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation (THTBC) in the fall of 2022, Virginia Robinson's first full year in the role was marked by success in innovation.

First and foremost was the redevelopment of the company's Tribal Member Management Development program for tribal citizens at THTBC. Virginia, who holds the prestigious Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional (CCEP -I) designation, demonstrated her deep understanding of legal regulations and compliance processes when collaborating with THTBC's CEO and vice president of human resources on the program. The revitalized plan seeks to grow tribal leaders at all levels of the company, thereby providing important succession planning and bolstering the Tribe's goal of economic sovereignty.

In addition, Virginia was responsible for overseeing the build-out of THTBC's new 10,000-square-foot flagship office, including the installation of "Skybound Determination" created for THTBC by tribal citizen Rico Worl. Virginia also led the company's rebranding efforts, including the development of a new logo and website.

As Partner and Government Contracts Chair at Fluet David Panzer noted in his nomination, Virginia's "leadership style fosters collaboration and leverages her creative-problem abilities" – essential ingredients for innovation. ACC NCR benefits from her leadership as well. A 2018 ACC NCR Leadership Academy alum, Virginia serves as co-chair of both the Leadership Academy Steering Committee and the Litigation Committee. Her enthusiasm and passion for professional development are infectious and her commitment to the chapter and the Academy attract members and sponsors alike.



The ACC NCR Leadership Academy • Learn To Lead From Any Seat

GET THE TOOLS AND SKILLS YOU NEED

The ACC National Capital Region Leadership Academy addresses the unique leadership challenges and opportunities of in-house counsel and provides you with the tools and skills needed to optimize your leadership potential.

The Academy's nationally recognized faculty – guided by our distinguished Board of Advisors – provides a highly interactive learning environment focusing on translating concepts into practical takeaways.

For detailed information about the Academy, visit:
accnclleadershipacademy.com

CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD



KASHA HUNT

Over the course of more than six years supporting the Association of Corporate Counsel National Capital Region Chapter (ACC NCR), Kasha Hunt worked with many vice presidents of programming, committee chairs, speakers, and sponsors in the production of almost 500 legal education programs. Playing an instrumental role in identifying program topics, shaping content, and identifying speakers, her work often included guiding program presenters — ensuring they provided the practical guidance and key takeaways that our membership values. Kasha's personal touch and attention to detail enhanced programming and created a positive and engaging experience for all involved. And, according to those who nominated her for the 2024 Chapter Service Award, Kasha's combination of "talent, professionalism, and energy" are key reasons ACC NCR's continuing legal education programming is consistently ranked among the top and most valuable aspects of chapter membership.

Throughout her tenure with the chapter Kasha proved to be a master pivoter — initially having to adjust and lead from California, and then again when COVID hit. The pandemic required another pivot, and Kasha smoothly transitioned all CLE programming online. Her excellence led ACC NCR to take the plunge and plan our first multi-track conference. Although the program had to be rescheduled multiple times due to COVID, the chapter ultimately hosted it as a multi-day series, and its success — due in large part to Kasha's hard work and abilities — met the needs and interests of members and led to an increased number of yearly conferences, including the annual Fall and Nonprofits & Associations Conferences.

Always willing to go the extra mile to serve members, Kasha responded to calls for more focus on matters related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) during this time. Proving herself the ultimate team member, she stepped up to become the staff lead for the DEI Committee, DEI Programming Subcommittee, and Street Law. Under her leadership, the chapter hosted four successful annual DEI Conferences, culminating with the 2024 Conference that combined Kasha's CLE expertise with her commitment to DEI.

Kasha is described as a passionate advocate for the in-house community and was especially supportive of the committee leaders she worked with to develop and execute programming. In fact, she was known to invest countless hours preparing for the annual CLE planning meetings, honing the agenda and finalizing materials to empower and support volunteer leaders in their efforts. Further, she regularly worked to elevate and promote other leaders within the chapter.

Kasha ended her run as ACC NCR's director for legal education in April. She has embarked on a new opportunity to lobby for issues of importance to her closer to her home in Sacramento, CA. Though she will be missed, the chapter knows she is well on her way to becoming just as treasured an asset to her new colleagues as she has been to the leaders, members, and sponsors of ACC NCR.

OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT



MURRAY GARNICK

On April 1, 2024, Murray Garnick retired as executive vice president and general counsel at Altria Group, Inc. Murray joined Altria Client Services, LLC in 2008 as head of litigation, specifically senior vice president and associate general counsel, following more than 20 years representing the company and its subsidiaries in private practice.

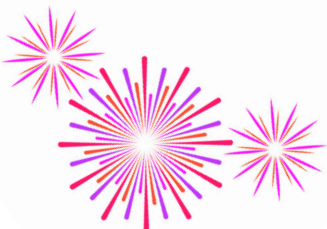
A Few Highlights from an Exemplary Career:

Implementation of the Trial School. When Murray went in-house at Altria, the company was preparing to try potentially thousands of cases in Florida. Immediately, he noticed that his trial lawyer roster lacked diversity and were overwhelmingly white men. Understanding that juries reflect the community, and the trial roster did not, Murray implemented an innovative trial school aimed at recruiting and developing trial lawyers who reflected the diversity of the juries before who the lawyers try their cases. It was expensive and it took several years, but, today, Altria's trial roster consists of many talented lawyers who look a lot more like the juries they face in court. This massive investment provided incredible opportunities for the lawyers involved and has resulted in an impressive trial record for the company.

Requirements for Outside Firm Partnerships. Murray enforced a policy requiring that the company's primary outside law firms have at least one "diverse" relationship partner, meaning an attorney from an underrepresented community. This simple policy shifted law firm power dynamics and resulted in outside counsel from various backgrounds serving in roles where they could thrive and drive important firm business — thereby progressing through law firm hierarchies.

Legal Work that Speaks for Itself. The career attorney kept an eye out for superb lawyers, both in-house and outside counsel. When it came to his work with outside attorneys, Murray focused on quality and dedication and loyalty to the client. He hired diverse lawyers for major appellate assignments, bet-the-company trial roles, and critical regulatory matters. As far as those within his legal department, Murray identified talent within its ranks, provided stretch opportunities to those deserving, and made sure all were adequately recognized.

"Some general counsel speak at conferences, write articles, and put together committees to tackle the difficult issues facing the legal profession on diversity and inclusion matters. Those things are valuable," wrote Daphne O'Connor, a partner at Arnold & Porter who nominated Murray for this award. "However, it's also valuable to simply hire and develop diverse lawyers to do important work and provide them the space to shine. Murray is a doer. And the legal profession is better as a result."





JERALD "JERRY" S. HOWE, JR.

Jerald "Jerry" S. Howe, Jr., currently counsellor to the Chief Executive Officer of Leidos, served as the company's executive vice president, general counsel, and board secretary through March of 2024. In that capacity, he had responsibility for legal, contracts, and corporate governance, as well as administrative oversight of the ethics and compliance and internal audit functions.

Before joining Leidos in 2017, Jerry alternated between private practice and in-house positions, developing expertise in litigation, government contracts, M&A, and aerospace and defense practices. Recognized as a leader in the government law and contracting community, Jerry brought his extensive background to make significant contributions to the engineering company. A highly visible leader in the industry and the legal community at large, Jerry is credited with raising the Leidos brand among his peers and industry competitors.

During his tenure at the company, Jerry also worked to mature Leidos' approach to ESG and public disclosures, and led both offensive and defensive protest activity in a highly contested federal acquisition environment, promoting company growth. These are just a few recent successes attributed to the former general counsel, who worked continuously to strengthen Leidos' legal function, promoting development plans, and hiring two well-qualified chief audit executives, for example.

Jerry's leadership and contributions to Leidos and the community extend well beyond his legal expertise. He has been a staunch supporter of pro bono, community service, professional development, and DEI. For example, Jerry was instrumental in attracting and hiring a representative legal team and served as the sponsor of Leidos' LGBTQ+ employee resource group — championing them among senior leadership and contributing to the enterprise's overall DEI efforts.

He has contributed greatly to ACC NCR as well. The popular speaker has shared his expertise and life lessons with members repeatedly. In 2020, he joined the Board of Advisors for the ACC NCR Leadership Academy and through his interactions with the Academy Fellows, has enjoyed sharing insights into the ways in which the leadership competencies addressed during a particular session relate to his own experiences as a lawyer and executive. Over the years, he has participated in the module on decision-making, where he shares with students his "values-based" approach to dealing with difficult problems and big decisions.

In addition to his service on the board of advisors for the ACC NCR Leadership Academy, Jerry currently serves as a moderator for the Aspen Institute; co-founder and treasurer of No Labels; a board member of both the USO National Capital District and National Security Space Association, as well as chair of the INSA Legal Affairs Roundtable.

His considerable experience, contributions to his department, organization, and community, and willingness to mentor the next generation of in-house counsel are among the many reasons why ACC NCR is excited to present Jerry with a 2024 Outstanding Career Achievement Award.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



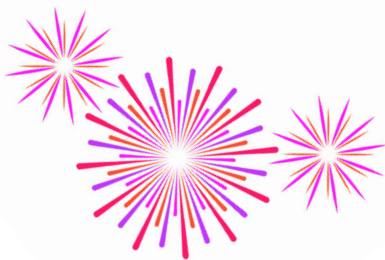
ANDREA L. BRIDGEMAN

Few in-house counsel in the National Capital Region have been as actively committed to access to justice and pro bono work or have had the tremendous impact as Andrea L. Bridgeman, retired associate general counsel at Freddie Mac.

Over a career that spanned 32 years with the mortgage company, Andrea touched and improved upon the lives of many, including the clients she served at work and those she assisted through her pro bono legal services. Not satisfied with throwing one more starfish back into the water, the access to justice advocate has served on numerous committees and boards, including as a member of Freddie Mac's Pro Bono Initiative for 28 years (sometimes serving as chair); board member of the National Legal Aid & Defenders Association from 2016-2018 (where she also served on various committees); board member and two-time president of the Potomac Legal Aid Society from 2002-2009; and member the Access to Justice Commission of the Supreme Court of Virginia, starting in 2013 and continuing even now. In addition, Andrea was elected to the Bar Council 19th Circuit (Fairfax) of the Virginia State Bar three times and served on the Access to Legal Services Committee from 2006-2014, as a member of the Mandatory Professionalism Course Faculty from 2002-2005, and on the Corporate Counsel Section Board of Governors from 1991-1998. If that was not enough, she has been a frequent speaker, moderator, and mentor to in-house pro bono volunteers and others within her home state of Virginia and beyond.

Andrea retired from Freddie Mac and soon began lending her considerable talents to the ACC NCR Pro Bono Committee. In fact, having sworn to never practice law for pay again, she continues her pro bono work for several organizations including the Great Richmond Bar Foundation and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Not letting retirement stop her from making a difference, her pro bono work includes matters such as individual arrest and misdemeanor record expungement, small business and nonprofit clinics, and a wide variety of cases for VA FreeLegalAnswers. Plus, she serves as a Virginia election official.

She truly lives up to her motto, "Pick up' pro bono!" and has been recognized for her unwavering service by the Virginia Law Foundation, Virginia State Bar, ACC Global, the Fairfax Bar Association, Freddie Mac, and now, ACC NCR! Andrea L. Bridgeman is a most deserving recipient of the 2024 Access to Justice Award.





LUISE WELBY

Like her friend and fellow Access to Justice Award recipient, Luise Welby recently retired from Freddie Mac as senior associate general counsel — but not from her unwavering commitment to pro bono and access to justice.

Over several decades, Luise has spent countless hours providing pro bono legal services and serving in leadership positions at Freddie Mac as co-chair of its award-winning pro bono program, and with legal services organizations, including Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) and Tahirih Justice Center. She has been a leader at nonprofits such as Doorways for Women and Families and the American Heart Association/Lawyers Have Heart. Last, but not least, she has brought her experience and expertise to the Association of Corporate Counsel, both at the global level and for ACC NCR.

At Freddie Mac, she revitalized its pro bono program by establishing a menu of opportunities ranging from clinics to extended representation, as one size does not fit all. Importantly, she focused on creating opportunities for all members of the legal division, not just attorneys. As a result, Freddie Mac has been recognized both nationally and locally for the strength and breadth of its program, including full scale litigation without partnering with outside counsel.

Her leadership at LSNV helped transform the organization and the culture of pro bono in Northern Virginia. As a board member and ultimately president, Luise strengthened relationships with in-house counsel and large law firms through pro bono. Through her recruitment and inspiration, many in-house pro bono leaders and large law firm partners joined the LSNV board, enhancing funding and the critical provision of pro bono legal services to those in need.

While already an LSNV volunteer, Luise first became involved with ACC as chair of the Global Corporate and Securities Committee in 2005, and then co-chair of ACC NCR's same chapter forum in 2009. Her commitment to pro bono only deepened as she became involved with ACC NCR's pro bono activities in 2011. To encourage more in-house counsel to participate in pro bono, she developed a strategy where Freddie Mac and other large law departments partnered with LSNV and Whitman-Walker Health to create pro bono clinics open to all chapter members. In 2012, she joined the chapter board as vice president of External Relations, further growing the chapter's pro bono program, which culminated in becoming chapter President in 2016. Her legacy continues today in the chapter's robust pro bono programming.

When it comes to encouraging others to participate in pro bono, Luise believes that the key lies in providing attorneys with the right tools to reduce the “fear factor.” The chapter believes she has been instrumental in providing many attorneys with these tools — inspiring them along the way. Many will continue to benefit from her work to increase access to justice, and those she has trained and worked alongside will continue with her in this important work. Congratulations, Luise, on receiving the Access to Justice Award!



**CONGRATULATIONS
HONOREES!**