

Alumni@Dentons

Grow | Protect | Operate | Finance

Fall-Winter 2022

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Community Impact

We are pleased to share this issue of Alumni@Dentons with our extended Dentons family in the US Region.

Drop us a line at alumni@dentons.com and let us know what you liked about this edition and what you would like to see in the future. Also, keep us posted on what you have been up to and we will be happy to share it in our next issue.



Editor's Note

November marked Dentons' 10th anniversary, and with this issue we are pleased to share this milestone as well as an associated initiative, "10 for 10," through which we are encouraging all our lawyers, professionals and staff members to give back to their communities by supporting 10 important causes.

We are also happy to announce the continued expansion of the Firm's global footprint through a combination with leading Indian law Legal Link; and the arrival of new lateral partners, shareholders and principals in a variety of areas, and 41 new first-year associates.

Also included in this issue are recent successes in business transactions and litigation; and a listing of recent firmwide, practice and individual awards and recognitions.

We hope you enjoy the contents of this issue. Please contact us with your comments or suggestions, and we thank you for your input!

Happy holidays and a joyous New Year!

Highlights

Celebrating 10 years of success

November 7 marked the 10-year anniversary of the announcement of the formation of Dentons. In the past 10 years, the Firm has grown to more than 21,000 people (including 12,000 lawyers) in more than 200 offices in more than 80 countries.

During our first ten years, we became the largest law firm in the world in order to serve clients wherever they operate. In the Next Ten, we intend to become the leading law and business solutions firm to help our clients meet the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world. Please take a moment to read our [Letter to Clients](#) – a detailed overview of our foundational principles, our growth story, and our vision for Leading the Next Ten.

'10 for 10'

To celebrate our tenth anniversary, Dentons US launched "10 for 10", an initiative through which every office will have the opportunity to give back to our local communities by participating in a volunteer event that supports one of the following 10 important causes:

1. Access to justice (our pro bono work)
2. Animal Care/Rescue
3. Clean energy
4. Community improvement
5. Education
6. Environmental awareness
7. Health and wellbeing

8. Homelessness
9. Hunger
10. Reducing inequities

This initiative is already in full swing. Our New York office, for example, is supporting City Harvest by encouraging individual contributions that the firm is matching up to \$2,500. The office is also helping the homeless population and other food-insecure New Yorkers by supporting Knock Knock Give A Sock's Christmas carnival for kids living in homeless shelters. Dentons volunteers will be on hand to greet families, show them around, and generally make them feel comfortable.

Dentons combines with leading Indian law firm

Dentons has announced a combination with leading Indian law firm, Link Legal, becoming the first global law firm to combine with a law firm in India. Link Legal represents many of the large, fast-growing Indian companies that are globalizing, as India becomes the most populous nation in the world in 2023. The combination offers Dentons an established, physical presence in five of India's six largest cities in India: Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad. Dentons Link Legal's Indian lawyers will represent clients inside India and Dentons will represent Link Legal's clients outside of India, becoming one firm consistent with the rules and regulations of India.

Say hello to our US class of 2022 associates

Dentons welcomed 41 fall associates across our US Region offices. They hail from 29 law schools and will join 13 practice groups.

Name	Practice	Office	Law School
Bled Aliu	Litigation	Washington, DC	The George Washington University Law School
Zechariah Banks	Litigation	Indianapolis	Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
Parker Bednasek	Litigation	Kansas City	University of Kansas School of Law
Joanna Borman	Health Care	Washington, DC	University of Virginia School of Law
Jaylla Brown	Litigation	Short Hills, NJ	The George Washington University Law School
Tae Chung	IP and Technology	Oakland, CA	University of Washington School of Law
Lauren Colantonio	Government Contracts	Denver	University of Denver - Sturm College of Law
Spencer Coolidge	Real Estate	Pittsburgh	University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Conor Daniels	Litigation	Pittsburgh	University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Priya Desai	Corporate	Pittsburgh	University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Matt Dickel	IP Litigation	Chicago	Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
Camryn Dreyer	Corporate	Chicago	Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
Emily Ellis	Tax	Birmingham	The University of Alabama School of Law
Cole Gingrich	IP and Technology		University of California, Berkeley - School of Law
James Goldberger	Capital Markets	New York	New York Law School
Haley Hogue	Corporate	Birmingham	The University of Alabama School of Law
Nico Jaffe	Litigation	Los Angeles	University of California, Irvine School of Law
Evan Janssens	Venture Tech	New York	Cardozo School of Law
Sally Kang	Venture Tech	New York	New York University School of Law
Will Lounsbury	Business; Real Estate	Des Moines	Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University
Alenah Luthens	Litigation	Des Moines	University of Minnesota Law School

Name	Practice	Office	Law School
Carina Mendola	Corporate	Pittsburgh	University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Lisa Orucevic	Corporate	Pittsburgh	Vanderbilt University Law School
Niki Ozburn	Trusts and Estates	Birmingham	Samford University's Cumberland University Law School
Colleen Parga	Litigation	Louisville	Vanderbilt University Law School
Kristen Petrina	Corporate	Pittsburgh	Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University
Justin Rich	Litigation	Salt Lake City	University of Utah School of Law
John Richardson	Litigation	Salt Lake City	University of Utah School of Law
Zac Rosenbaum	IP and Technology	Oakland, CA	University of California, Davis – School of Law
Kristin Russo	Capital Markets	New York	St. John's University School of Law
Natalie Seelig	Government Contracts	Denver	University of Denver - Sturm College of Law
Amit Shoal	Venture Tech	New York	Duke University School of Law
Chelsea Simpson	Litigation	New York	Syracuse University College of Law
Sam Stout	Litigation	Louisville	Vanderbilt University Law School
Emma Tall	Capital Markets	New York	Cornell Law School
Subha Tasnim	Capital Markets	New York	Brooklyn Law School
Alexis Thurston	Litigation	Pittsburgh	Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University
Logan Tucker	Real Estate	Ames, IA	Drake University Law School
Michael Vangel	Litigation	St. Louis	Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
Merrill Weber	Federal Regulatory	Washington, DC	The George Washington University Law School
Abigail Zaman	Trust and Estates	Louisville	University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law



New Laterals

Dentons welcomed laterals from a variety of areas, ranging from in-house and government positions to private law firms.



Stefan Dann, a transactional lawyer with more than 10 years' experience representing banks, has joined Dentons' Pittsburgh office as a shareholder in the Corporate group.



Kelly Fair has returned to the Firm as a partner in our Cannabis and Health Care practices with a focus on lending transactions, securities offerings and other corporate transactions. Prior to rejoining us, she spent more than three years working at Canopy Growth Corp., a leading global cannabis company, as its first-ever US general counsel.



Dentons' Public Policy practice expands bipartisan growth with addition of **Emily Jacobs**, who joined Dentons as a principal in the Washington, DC, office, where she will bolster the Firm's ability to navigate the critical intersection of business, law, policy and politics on behalf of clients.



Frank Marano joined the Firm as a shareholder in the Tax group resident in Pittsburgh, advising clients on corporate, partnership and business tax planning, as well as tax controversies.



Preston Neel has joined Dentons as a shareholder in the Birmingham office. A member of the Corporate practice, he advises in the areas of business and tax law, including M&A, tax planning and general corporate representation.



Amy Rubenstein has joined Dentons as a partner in the Chicago office. She will focus on opportunities for cannabis and cannabis-adjacent businesses. She was previously a partner at an AmLaw 100 firm, where she served as co-chair of the Global Chemicals, US Industrials and US Toxic Tort teams.



Dentons has expanded its Commercial Litigation practice with the addition of **Rick Shearer**, who joined the Firm as a partner in the Kansas City office. Rick has experience across a broad range of industries, including technology, media, design and construction, finance, insurance, manufacturing and professional services.



Dentons welcomed back **Jim Sturdivant** as a shareholder the Birmingham office, where he is a member of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice. He is a former assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, and also served as a lawyer for the US Army in the JAG Corps.



Stephen Watkins has joined Dentons' Commercial Litigation practice as counsel, resident in the Los Angeles office. His wide-ranging experience includes tort and personal injury defense, including premises, product and professional liability defense and employment litigation defense.

Alumni Spotlight



Johnathan Short

Chief Legal Officer
Forge Global Holdings Inc.

In July of this year, Johnathan Short joined Forge Global Holdings Inc., a financial platform geared toward the private market, as chief legal officer. Only months earlier, Forge had made a splash on the New York Stock Exchange when it went public via a blank check merger valued at \$2 billion. Bringing on Johnathan was another news-making event for the San Francisco-based investment company, which touted his 14 years as general counsel for Intercontinental Exchange, a leading global network of exchanges and clearing houses, where he oversaw all aspects of its legal, regulatory and government affairs from private company to publicly listed financial services group, including its initial public offering and its acquisition of the New York Stock Exchange. Johnathan had other relevant experience, including as founder and principal of Differential Strategies LLC, a transactional and regulatory consultant to businesses in the financial services industry and, before that, as a partner at Dentons legacy firm McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP (McKenna), where he spent more than 13 years, first as a litigator and then as a member of the Corporate/M&A practice.

What brought you to McKenna and what did you do there?

I was a summer associate at one of its predecessor firms, Atlanta-based Long Aldridge & Norman, and came on full time in 1991. At the time Long Aldridge was viewed as an up-and-coming top-tier firm, and kind of entrepreneurial—and that’s what attracted me to them; I wanted to go to a place that wasn’t an institution.

I started out as a commercial litigator, but I wasn’t very happy doing that because in those days that involved a lot of paper discovery and very little courtroom standup time. I had a number of friends in the corporate M&A group who I used to run with at lunch. Clay Long, who was the chairman of the firm, also ran in

that group. He said, “Why don’t you give corporate M&A a try?” So three-and-a-half years in I switched to the Corporate group and it was much more to my liking. My work ran the gamut from core M&A work—I worked on the merger that combined Long Aldridge with McKenna Cuneo—to venture capital and IP work, and I eventually deciding to focus my practice on startup companies. This was the late ‘90s. The first tech boom was starting to take shape and that looked like a decent opportunity. It turned out not to be [laughs]. In 2000 the tech bubble burst and that period was not fun.

Why did you leave McKenna for Intercontinental Exchange?

The tech bubble burst right as I became partner and that was tough sledding. There wasn’t a lot of business to be had and I found myself hustling for work and not being terribly successful at it. I was occupying my time doing things like workouts just to stay busy. Anyway, I never really had a senior-partner sponsor at the firm—that was partly my own fault; I was a do-it-yourself kind of person—and it came to a point in 2004 that I wanted to advance and they were saying wait and I just decided I needed to leave. Ironically Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) was the first job opportunity that came my way, and I was very fortunate that was the case. I had a couple of former partners—Tom Wardell and Mark Kaufman—speak on my behalf. I thought it was an amazing opportunity because it was literally a derivatives exchange in Atlanta and I didn’t even think it was a real company at first because exchanges are in New York and Chicago and London. I talked to a former partner at ICE who was the GC over at AGL Resources (now Southern Company Gas), and he assured me these guys are definitely real and they are going to take the energy derivatives electronic. I became very excited about the prospect of working at an exchange because, as I said, you just don’t see

those opportunities outside of New York, Chicago and other financial centers. I made it my life's mission to learn everything I could about exchanges in that space because I had no experience whatsoever in that. I think I interviewed well and luckily they were looking for a generalist—someone who had done litigation, corporate M&A, venture capital, etc. That was more important than having expertise in the Commodities Exchange Act, which I could learn on the job.

What are you most proud of from your time at ICE?

A couple things. One was when I joined the company we were private and I thought we'd eventually go public, but we had a major IP suit with our primary competitor NYNEX that we had to come out from under. So the first thing I was proud of was managing that and then actually taking the company public. That was just amazing to me at the time. To think we had become a public company and got to ring the opening bell at the NYSE about a year-and-a-half after I started. I thought I'd gone to the moon. It turned out we were only getting started. I honestly expected that a larger exchange competitor would buy us out of the public market; that I would work there for a couple years, done an IPO, realize an equity return and then go back to practicing law. But Jeff Sprecher, my boss, a genius operator, saw the opportunities ahead of us. We went on a huge buying spree and as an M&A lawyer I loved it. We bought exchange after exchange. We opened the first new clearinghouse in London in 150 years. The culmination was our purchase of NYSE Euronext in 2013. We were becoming known but that put us in a completely different league as far as our public profile. All of a sudden you had people going, "Oh my God, I didn't know you could buy the New York Stock Exchange! How did a company from Atlanta do that?"

How did you come to arrive at Forge Global?

I retired from ICE at the end of 2018 to do all the things you can't do when moving as quickly as we had to at ICE. My initial thought was to take three months off, but I actually ended up taking three-and-a-half years. I did some consulting but, more importantly, I got to see my oldest daughter off to college and then my younger daughter off to college. It was a neat time to reassess and spend time while you're still relatively young

thinking about what you want to do for the rest of your life. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything. Forge Global came to me through the side door. I didn't have my resume out for general counsel or CLO positions, but Forge is a company that is forming a market for trading in private company shares (late stage venture-backed companies) and from my days at ICE I knew that market was getting going and that somebody was going to figure it out and I thought that would be a neat opportunity to take what I learned at ICE and get in with a scrappy company and put the wisdom to work. They have a terrific management team who have different backgrounds than mine. So having someone who'd done it before on the exchange side and seen how the infrastructure pieces fit together was something they found attractive.

What has been your experience working with outside counsel? Any pet peeves?

The good outside counsel relationships have been a partnership where they understand our goals and work with us to get to the right result and do so in a really efficient manner. I think the billable hour model ultimately sent the legal industry in the wrong direction because it became more about billing time than conveying value. So I like to work with firms that know how to work efficiently in small teams. But it still has to be the best work product available; quality can never be compromised. At ICE, we had soft budgets at the beginning of most matters and I expected prompt reporting against the budgets and it was on the outside lawyer to tell me if we were going over the budget. I had too many things to manage to do that, and there's a built-in delay with getting bills. What drove me crazy was getting a bill a month-and-a-half later at the earliest, possibly two months later, and I would be thinking, "How did we spend this?" So I believe in establishing soft-budget constraints. If the company is telling the law firm to work faster or expands the scope, the company eats the cost. But if it's the law firm being inefficient and staffing a few-person matter with five or six people, causing a project to go way over budget, then the law firm eats it.

My other pet peeve is when I send out an email to a large team and later receive an invoice with a bunch of .2s for “reviewing email from Johnathan Short regarding X.” Probably only one or two people were needed to review the email. I look to the outside counsel to manage information flow on their team. Have the one partner or senior associate triage the information, be the conduit who reaches out to the tax specialist or junior associate to say Johnathan just sent an email; here’s what you need to do. Law firms have to be more efficient with how they manage information within their own organizations if they really want to convey value to clients.

What do you value most about your time at McKenna?

The quality of lawyers was superb and the training that I got was very important for developing the skill sets that I need to do my current job. And I made some lifelong friends. I particularly valued my relationship with Clay Long. He passed away a couple of years ago. They really don’t make lawyers like that anymore. He was a truly brilliant guy, yet very down to earth. He wasn’t the person that talked a lot during meetings, but when he did say something it was that thing that needed to be said at that particular time. Otherwise he would just shut up and listen and absorb everything. We’ve all run across the lawyer who feels a need, from an ego perspective, to talk a lot and be important at a meeting. That was the antithesis of Clay.

Do you have any favorite memories of your time at McKenna?

I’d have to say the early days when I was in the Corporate group. The camaraderie with some of my peers, including Frank Laysom, Wayne Bradley and Briggs Tobin, who sadly passed away earlier this year. They were just terrific friends and terrific lawyers.

What advice do you have for someone at a private firm who is thinking about transitioning to in-house counsel?

At the right place It’s a great opportunity. I prefer it to practicing law—significantly. It’s fundamentally a different job. You are at the table, or you should be at the table, when all material decisions at the company

are being made. That’s where the value comes in and, honestly, the fun comes in—rather than the decision being 90 percent baked when you get it as an outside counsel. And being a trusted advisor to the management team is what your job is. While it seems like every in-house lawyer says, “I’m a can-do lawyer and we’re not going to run a legal department that’s an impediment to doing business,” that’s fundamentally a misguided statement. While no legal department would ever last if it was just an impediment to doing business, sometimes you do have to say no and fulfill the gatekeeper function that is expected of a lawyer.

You need to figure out the alternate path. Management teams are often trying to things a particular way but if you’re getting to a line you shouldn’t cross, you’ve got to stand your ground and try and find a different way to do it. Because being a “can-do lawyer” that lets the management team cross a line is fundamentally malpractice and a dereliction of your responsibility. You ultimately answer to the board of directors or the owner and they’re depending on you as a gatekeeper, especially in a public company context.

Are there any aspects of working in a law firm that you miss?

The work part, no, but the fundamental camaraderie, being around a group of your friends who are very talented lawyers; that part I miss a little bit, but ideally you pick that up in-house by being close to your management team.

What do you like to do outside of work? Any special interests?

I love food and wine. I collect wine. I’m a pretty big music enthusiast; all types of music. I like to ski. I’m a yoga enthusiast and I like to meditate. I wish I started yoga and meditation 30 years ago. Every lawyer would benefit from some sort of meditation practice given the pressures of the job.

Client Successes

Dentons litigators obtained dismissal of a putative nationwide class action against **PAYPAL** involving federal claims under RICO and the Electronic Funds Transfer Act. In granting our motion to compel individual arbitration, the court relied heavily on the favorable decision on such a motion that we secured in *Cheng v. PayPal* earlier this year; the strategic decision to relate the two cases also proved successful.

Dentons represented **INFORMA**, a publicly traded, UK-based events and publishing company, in its \$525 million acquisition of Industry Dive, a Washington, DC-based leading B2B digital media company with about 400 employees around the world.

The Firm represented **VENTOUX CCM ACQUISITION CORP.**, a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company, in its merger with Presto, one of the largest labor automation technology providers for the hospitality industry. The combined company, Presto Automation Inc., began trading on the Nasdaq in late September.

A Washington, DC, Public Policy team helped the **MUSICFIRST COALITION** introduce a bipartisan Senate bill to reform US copyright law and create a terrestrial performance right. The musicFIRST coalition, chaired by senior policy director and former House member Joe Crowley, works to ensure musical artists are fairly compensated.

A Capital Markets team represented **CITIBANK**, as trustee in a \$222 million bond offering for Hipgnosis Song Management, in an asset-backed securitization backed by music rights relating to Justin Timberlake, Nelly Furtado, Kenny Chesney, Niles Rogers and Leonard Cohen. The securitization—the first for Hipgnosis—followed a \$1 billion warehouse facility we closed for the catalog owner in 2021. The transaction required amending deal documents for the warehouse facility to align with the mechanics of the securitization structure.

A Hotels and Leisure team represented **DART ENTERPRISES** in connection with its acquisition of the Four Seasons Resort and Residences Anguilla, a 35-acre luxury resort, from an affiliate of Starwood Capital Group. We negotiated the purchase-and-sale agreement, conducted due diligence, drafted and negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the Anguillan government, and interfaced with the Four Seasons on the assignment of management agreements for the resort, residences and villas.

Dentons secured a favorable class action settlement for **GENWORTH LIFE INSURANCE CO. and GENWORTH LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK** in the Eastern District of Virginia's famed Rocket Docket. The plaintiffs alleged that Genworth made material misrepresentations to its long-term care insurance policyholders in connection with their premium increases. Following extensive negotiations, we reached an innovative settlement that both provided relief to more than 146,000 policyholders and improved the client's financial position. The court approved the settlement after three days of argument, briefing and evidentiary submissions, including input from 20 objectors and several state insurance regulators.

Dentons litigators successfully represented **TEGRA CORP. d/b/a BIG SOO TERMINAL** in Sioux City, IA, in a wrongful termination suit filed by a former employee. The plaintiff's complaint also alleged retaliation against a safety whistleblower. We argued that our clients invested extraordinary efforts in supporting both the employee and the organization's safety culture. The district court agreed, granting a seldom-seen "no-evidence" summary judgment dismissal, later affirmed on appeal.

Dentons Healthcare and Tax teams represented **INCLINE ASCENT FUND** in its acquisition of Montgomery DME, a leading provider of durable medical equipment rentals to the hospice market including beds, oxygen systems, wheelchairs and bath safety products.

A team of more than 30 Dentons lawyers advised **CAIRNGORM CAPITAL**, a UK private equity fund, on its combination with Atlanta-based **SAGEHOME INC.**, which modifies homes to enable seniors and people with disabilities to age in place; its subsequent acquisition of the assets of New Bath Today Inc. for US\$50 million; and its senior and mezzanine financing transactions for US\$23 million. The deal, which started as a simple stock purchase, ended in four complex transactions across four time zones.

The Firm secured a win for **ALLSTATE** in a class action dispute brought by a roofing contractor purporting to stand in for similarly situated Colorado contractors. The plaintiff claimed it was entitled to a higher labor rate for demolition work, despite not having demanded that higher rate at the time the labor was agreed upon. We argued that this would effectively allow roofing contractors to sue residential property insurers on insureds' policies without the insureds' knowledge or consent. The District of Colorado dismissed the complaint in its entirety with prejudice, preventing expansion of the scope of the state's direct action insurance statutes.

Dentons served as counsel to private alternative real estate investment firm **SALUDA GRADE** and its affiliate, **UNLOCK TECHNOLOGIES**, a leading fintech company, in a \$180 million securitization of home equity investment agreements (HEAs). We provided regulatory and other advice through all phases of the buildout. This is one of only a handful of securitizations to date for this type of shared appreciation product, which was structured as a novel, forward sale contract that enables homeowners to access the equity in their home.

Dentons advised the special committee of the board of directors of **STEEL CONNECT**, a Nasdaq-listed provider of supply chain management services to software companies, on Steel Connect's going-private transaction and merger with Steel Partners Holdings LP. Steel Partners already owned more than half of Steel Connect's voting shares and will acquire the remaining common stock immediately prior to the effective time of the merger.



Pro Bono



Advocating for the use of race-conscious admissions

On behalf of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, Dentons submitted an amicus brief in two affirmative action cases. The brief urged SCOTUS to uphold the use of race-conscious admissions decisions by universities, colleges and law schools. The cases involve the undergraduate admissions policies of Harvard University and the University of North Carolina, respectively. The brief noted the influence of lawyers in our society; the importance of racial diversity to law firm success and to public confidence in the legal system; and the continuing need to address racial justice in the legal system. Racial justice in the US legal system and greater society “can only be achieved if the private bar and the legal profession have a racially diverse pool of talent from which to recruit,” the brief argued. Steve McAllister and Simon Steel led a team that included [Viola So](#), [Rachel Ross](#), [Ed Belotte](#), and [Michael Harriss](#).

Standing up for reproductive rights

Dentons filed an amicus brief in the Oklahoma Supreme Court on behalf of Oklahoma businesses that support the argument that the state’s constitution protects women’s reproductive rights. The work was led by [Leah Bruno](#) and [Jacqui Giannini](#).



Supporting a benefit concert for Ukraine

Dentons lawyers provided pro bono assistance in support of a Benefit Concert for Ukraine that took place at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The concert featured acclaimed violinist Joshua Bell, who performed alongside the New Era Orchestra of Kyiv with Tatiana Kalinichenko. We helped secure performance visas for the orchestra members and oversaw the concert’s execution.



Responding to a parental child abduction

A team of Dentons lawyers helped reunite a child with her legal custodian following a parental abduction that crossed several state lines. We helped the client enforce Indiana orders in Alabama and Illinois, and protected the child from unnecessary trauma.

A pro bono victory for disability rights

Working pro bono alongside the National Center for Law and Economic Justice in a disability rights action for declaratory and injunctive relief against the Suffolk County, MO, Department of Social Services, Dentons obtained class certification and then a settlement agreement. We alleged that members of the plaintiff class could not apply for or maintain vital public benefits because the county failed to provide reasonable accommodations as required by the ADA. The groundbreaking settlement, pending court approval, will transform every aspect of the county’s provision of public benefits, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and emergency shelter.



Dentons receives Leadership Award for domestic violence advocacy

The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, Illinois' leading domestic violence advocacy organization, awarded Dentons its distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of the pro bono work we did in partnership with The Network's member service providers regarding the Order of Protection Appeals project, which has led to a string of victories, including three published opinions that have substantially improved access to justice in the domestic violence courtrooms. Dentons co-developed the Order of Protection Appeals Project with Legal Aid Chicago and Ascend Justice to address the reality that the Illinois Domestic Violence Act was being misapplied in the Domestic Violence trial courts. Since the project's beginning, Dentons and its legal aid partners have handled approximately 20 appeals, and have a win-loss record of 18-2, including, most recently, our recent representation of a domestic violence survivor who was wrongfully denied a plenary order of protection despite clear evidence that she had been abused. The First District Appellate Court reversed the trial's denial, resulting in a victory for survivors across the state.



Transgender Legal Defense Fund Honors Dann

Pittsburgh shareholder **Stefan Dann** was named 2022 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund for his extensive work on TLDEF's Name Change Project, which provides pro bono legal name change services to low-income transgender, gender nonconforming and nonbinary people. Over the past three years, Stefan logged more than 1,300 hours of pro bono work on more than 200 name-change matters.



Scheiderer honored by Legal Aid of Western MO

Kansas City litigation partner **Jason Scheiderer** received the Robert C. Welch Volunteer Attorney Project Award from Legal Aid of Western Missouri in recognition of his work on behalf of underserved residents in the Kansas City area.

Diversity and Inclusion

Affinity Groups co-host program on California Reparations Task Force



The Black Professional Alliance (BPA) and Asian, South Asian, Pacific American Professionals (ASAPP) affinity groups co-hosted a program on the California Reparations Task Force, which is charged with developing a plan to provide reparations for the state's history of structural racism against Black Americans. Task Force chair **Kamilah Moore** and member **Don Tamaki** presented their detailed report, which was released last month after nine public meetings and extensive analysis of public comment, expert opinion and personal testimony. BPA co-chair and New York partner **Claude Montgomery** then moderated a discussion with Kamilah and Don, who analyzed potential forms of reparations and discussed how this report can serve as an educational and organizing tool for all diverse communities.



Conversation with Diana Campoamor

Hispanic Heritage Month, is an annual opportunity to pay tribute to the historical and contemporary contributions of generations of Hispanic/Latine Americans. As part of our recognition, our HOLA Affinity Group hosted a virtual event at which HOLA co-chairs Monica Thompson and **Iris Ortiz** spoke with **Diana Campoamor**, founder of the Nuestra America Fund, adviser to philanthropists and editor of the essay collection, *If We Want to Win: A Latine Vision for a New American Democracy*. Topics ranged from community and commonality among the Latine diaspora to the link between climate change and environmental justice.



The transformational power of disabilities

The Disability/Accessibility Affinity Group celebrated **Disability Employment Heritage Month** by presenting the second in their series of compelling stories around the transformational power of disabilities. **Linda Wemberly**, a longtime Dentons business service professional in our New York office, shared her personal story as an ally and caregiver of a spectrum-autistic grandchild; a member of the Disabilities/Accessibility Affinity Group (DAAG); and vice president of KEEN, a groundbreaking organization founded by Dentons global CEO **Elliott Portnoy** 30 years ago, which recognizes the transformational value of exercise and social interaction for kids with disabilities and their families.

Kudos

Firm-wide

In its 2022 US Regional Powerhouse series, **Law360** ranked Dentons among the most prominent law firms serving clients in Georgia for our handling of some of the biggest deals and most high-profile matters in the state, including:

- Formation of the nonprofit National Black Bank Foundation and its investment unit, the Black Bank Fund
- An appellate win for the city of Atlanta denying class certification in a suit regarding the BeltLine public trail
- Representation of Tyler Perry Studios in its acquisition of a former US Army base and the base's conversion to a studio facility
- Representation of the Atlanta Hawks in refinancing a \$35 million construction loan for the Emory Sports Medicine Complex, the first time an NBA franchise had a large loan solely underwritten by a Black-owned bank

Chambers High Net Worth ranked Dentons in nine practice areas, including Band 1 practice rankings for Private Wealth Law in Alabama, Iowa and Kentucky, and new practice rankings for Private Aircraft (global) and Family Offices & Funds Structuring (US nationwide).

Best Lawyers in America recognized 676 lawyers, seven of whom are featured on the list for the first time, 42 who were named "Lawyer of the Year" in their practice areas and 148 who were named "Ones to Watch."

National Law Journal honored Dentons with its inaugural ESG and Community Impact Leaders award in recognition of our cutting-edge approaches to environmental, social and corporate governance issues and the impact of our legal initiatives on communities and stakeholders.

BTI Consulting named Dentons one of 12 "Awesome Opponents" in its BTI Litigation Outlook 2023. We were also recognized in five individual categories: cybersecurity litigation, product liability, commercial litigation, complex commercial litigation and IP litigation. The rankings were based on interviews with more than 350 legal decision-makers at organizations with \$1 billion or more in revenue.

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association awarded Dentons its Beacon of Justice Award, Racial Justice for 2022 in recognition of our leadership of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance (LFAA), our work on behalf of clients seeking relief from the Jim Crow-era non-unanimous jury system in Louisiana, and our firm's Allyship Pod program.

The National Law Journal honored Dentons with an ESG and Community Impact Leaders Award (2022) in recognition of our leadership in environmental sustainability, social impact and governance issues on a local, national and global basis.

At **Euromoney's** 2022 Women in Business Law Americas Awards, Dentons received an award for Best Pro Bono International Firm in recognition of pro bono projects ranging from global mapping on barriers to telemedicine and self-managed abortion for Canada's Center for Reproductive Rights to creating one of the very few domestic violence appellate projects in the US (achieving a 17-2 record in domestic violence appeals).

Stonewall has once again named Dentons a Top Global Employer for LGBT+ inclusion. Dentons was also one of only seven employers to receive the organization's Gold Award, which recognizes employers who are leading the way for LGBT+ inclusion in the workplace and driving positive change for LGBT+ colleagues both within their own organizations and in the wider communities where they live and work.

Individual

Managing IP recognized US Region partners **Joel Bock**, **Scott Cummings**, **John Daniluck**, **Robert Hanson**, **Song Jung**, **Monica Richman**, **Natalie Spears**, **Robert Wasnofski** and **Peter Yim** in the 2022 edition of IP Stars. They were among 34 Firm lawyers from 17 jurisdictions worldwide highlighted for excellence in the area of IP law.

Dentons shareholders **Katherine N. Barr**, **Kristen Cross**, **Gaile Pugh Gratton Greene**, **Elizabeth H. Hutchins**, **Melinda Mathews**, **Tanya K. Shunnara** and **Crystal H. Walls** were included in *B-metro Magazine's* list of 2022 Top Women Attorneys.



Washington, DC, Public Policy senior counsel **Nick Allard** has been appointed founding dean of the College of Law at Jacksonville University. He previously served as a dean and president of Brooklyn Law School.



Law360 named Chicago Cannabis partner **Eric Berlin** a 2022 MVP of the Year in cannabis law. Eric advocates full-time for clients in, or impacted by, the state-legal cannabis and hemp industries and helps them navigate tensions with federal law.



Des Moines Family Law shareholder **Tyler Coe** received an Inspiring Advocate for Women award for supporting and lifting up women of courage, confidence, and character. Tyler is also a board member of One Iowa, which advocates for the rights of LGBTQ Iowans.



Naples, FL, shareholder **Christopher Davies** was appointed to the Florida Bar committee handling clarifications and amendments to a new building safety law enacted in the wake of the June 2021 collapse of the Champlain Towers South Condominium in Surfside, FL, where 98 lives were lost and more than 150 families were displaced.



Houston Employment and Labor partner **Laura Gibson** was sworn in as president of the State Bar of Texas, the eighth woman to serve in that role.



Salt Lake City shareholder **Blake Hamilton**, a member of the Commercial Litigation, Health Care, Insurance, White Collar and Government Investigations groups, was listed as a Future Star for the State of Utah in the 2023 Benchmark Litigation Guide.



Crain's New York Business honored partner **Sandra Hauser**, head of the Dentons US Commercial Litigation practice, to its 2022 list of Notable Diverse Leaders in Law in recognition of her professional achievements and involvement with industry and community organizations.



Dentons shareholders **Josh Hornady** and **Benjamin Little** have been named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 & Under Hot List for 2022.



The *St. Louis Business Journal* named St. Louis Office Managing Partner **Karen Jordan** to its Most Influential Business Women 2022 list.



Corporate Counsel recognized Washington, DC, Litigation partner **Shari Klevens** as a Law Firm Best Mentor in its 2022 Women, Influence & Power in Law Awards in recognition of her commitment to advancing diversity and the empowerment of women in the legal industry.



Employment and Labor partner **Cori Lau** was one of four women honored at YWCA of Oahu's 45th Annual Leader Luncheon.



Louisville partner **Chaz Lavelle** received the "Outstanding Contribution of the Year" award from *Captive Review*. He was inducted into *Captive Review's* Captive Hall of Fame in 2020.



Sonia Martin, CEO of Dentons US and a member of the Firm's Global and US Boards, was named to *The American Lawyer's* 2022 West Trailblazers list. She was recognized as a leader who "fosters authenticity, vulnerability and empathy to build stronger relationships."



Chicago Intellectual Property and Technology managing associate **Femi Masha** received a Meritorious Service Award from the Cook County Bar Association



Des Moines Bankruptcy and Mergers & Acquisitions shareholder **Krystal Mikkilineni** graduated from the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute's Community Leadership Program.



Washington, DC, Energy counsel **Jennifer Morrissey** received a Women's Council on Energy & the Environment's Sparks Award. This new accolade honors women in the first decade of their career who are sparking innovation and significantly impacting their organization or profession.



Tania Moyron, a partner in our Los Angeles office and US Region co-chair of our Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy group, has been selected as a Minority Corporate Counsel Association Rising Star for 2021.



Atlanta Public Policy partner **Sam Olens** joined the Emory Law Advisory Board on Sept. 1 for a three-year term. He will help the board devise and implement strategic plans; perform community outreach and service; and secure financial support for education and research.



Trey Perdue, a member of Dentons' Litigation practice, was selected to serve on the DRI Young Lawyers Steering Committee for 2022-23 and as vice chair of its Networking and Activities Subcommittee.



The Recorder selected Los Angeles Employment and Labor partner **Nick Puji** as one of the "Lawyers on the Fast Track" in its 2022 California Legal Awards, which recognize the achievements of lawyers leading technology, innovation and the profession as a whole.



Chicago Litigation senior managing associate **Kristine Schanbacher** was sworn in for her second year on the board of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, and was also a featured speaker at the swearing-in, which was attended by more than 700 Illinois lawyers, politicians and state and federal judges.



The South Asian Bar Association of North America named Washington, DC, Intellectual Property and Technology counsel **Deb Sengupta** a 2022 Rising Star.



Crain’s Chicago Business honored Litigation partner **Shannon Shin**, Real Estate partner **Linda White** and US Managing Partner **Mary Wilson** as 2022 Notable Women in Law.



Birmingham shareholder **Brad Sklar** was named to the *Birmingham Business Journal’s* 2022 “Who’s Who in Commercial Real Estate” list, which showcases individuals who have spearheaded transformative projects and developments in commercial real estate in Birmingham.



Dentons Sirote President **Jim Vann** was named to the *Birmingham Business Journal’s* 2022 “Who’s Who in Law” list and was also featured in a *Business Alabama Magazine* article titled “Who are Alabama’s legal leaders?,” which highlighted the managing partners at Alabama’s 20 largest law firms.



Public Utilities Fortnightly named Washington, DC, Energy managing associate **Adriana Vélez-León** to its “Fortnightly Under Forty” class of 2022, which recognizes young stars in the utilities industry and utility regulation



Des Moines Trust and Estates shareholders **Jana Weiler** and **Breanna Young** received an award from *HR Daily Advisor* for their article, “What to do when an employee dies”—the most visited article on the website since 2019, garnering 67,000 views.



Real Estate chair **Linda White** was named to the *National Law Journal’s* 2022 Trailblazers list in the area of Real Estate/Construction Law.



Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration 2023 named New York International Dispute Resolution counsel **Diora Ziyaeva** a “future leader” for the third year in a row. Diora was one of 10 Dentons colleagues worldwide recognized by the annual guide to the world’s leading commercial arbitrators and expert witnesses.



Community Impact



Supporting a Bootcamp for Black Law Students

Dentons was proud to support and attend the Samford University Cumberland School of Law Black Law Students Association's 1L Bootcamp. Our lawyers served as panelists, offering advice and suggestions on academic success, wellness, and career development to help prepare 1L students for a successful law school career.



Backing the World Games 2022 Birmingham

Dentons was a proud supporter of The World Games 2022 Birmingham, an 11-day international multi-sport event organized with the support of the International Olympic Committee. Approximately 3,600 elite athletes from over 100 countries competed in more than 30 of the fastest growing sports in the world, including artistic and dance sports; martial art; and precision, strength and trend sports.



Dentons Does Diapers

For Diaper Need Awareness Week 2022, our Alabama colleagues supported the 8th Annual Bundles of Hope Stuff the Bus Diaper Drive, by donating funds along with boxes of diapers and wipes that will go to families in the Birmingham community who struggle to afford them.



Fundraising for Cancer Research

Washington, DC, colleagues took part in the BellRinger Ride for the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University, a “10 for 10” volunteer initiative celebrating the Firm’s 10th anniversary. Team Dentons raised more than \$20,000 to support cancer research.



Pitching in at a Community Food Bank

Dentons lawyers and summer associates volunteered at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. They boxed 419 meals for families and helped sort through donated food items.



Law Students Have to Eat, Too

A nationwide survey revealed that 43 percent of all law students reported food insecurity concerns during the pandemic. This hit close to home for Des Moines shareholder **Tyler Coe** after learning that a 3L student at Drake Law School had purchased a \$25 gift card from a local supermarket to give to a fellow law student. Tyler tapped colleagues at Dentons and within a matter of days, raised \$800 and extra food donations for the law school’s food pantry, inspiring others in the local community to pay it forward to local law students as well.