

Alumni@Dentons

Summer 2021

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In Memoriam

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

While many of our professionals and staff have eagerly embraced the chance to return to the status quo ante, others have expressed a desire to continue remote work in some form, and the Firm is establishing more flexible work-from-home policies to ease the burden of commutes and facilitate work-life balance. As we explore various "flexibility within framework" arrangements, the best interests of our people and clients will always be our number one priority, while remaining vigilant against the COVID-19 delta variant.

Meanwhile, as this content of this issue shows, the pandemic has not slowed us down. To the contrary, we have been expanding (numerically and geographically), working hard for clients to close deals and settle disputes, virtually connecting with clients and colleagues through online presentations, and advancing our ESG priorities through pro bono and community service.

It has been a demanding first half of 2021 and we hope you are able to recharge a bit this summer.

Highlights

Dentons Launches Independent Consultancy Firm

Dentons has launched an independent consultancy firm to provide clients with services adjacent to the practice of law, including strategic advisory; commercial diplomacy; capital markets advisory; transaction advisory; crisis, disputes and issues management; corporate positioning; and business and geopolitical risk advisory.

Dubbed “Dentons Global Advisors,” the new venture is the realization of our long-held strategic vision of becoming synonymous with complete business solutions for our clients; solutions that go beyond the scope of legal services. In short, it is about becoming more than a law firm. This landmark step will strengthen our long-term growth prospects by making the Dentons brand synonymous with a full array of business consulting services in all the markets where we operate.

With general counsel increasingly being asked to address big strategic questions, they need advisors who can go beyond the parameters of traditional legal support. Our clients also see true value in working with an advisory firm that operates hand-in-glove with its law firm, particularly when it comes to their most sensitive and confidential matters. Dentons Global Advisors will provide business solutions as holistic, integrated and multi-dimensional as the situations our clients face.

Dentons Global Advisors’ leadership team, led by **Ed Reilly** as CEO is currently partnering with private equity entities to fund the consultancy’s growth and are recruiting talent from other brand-name consulting firms. The leadership team also has identified elite consulting firms that would be a good match for Dentons’ ambitions and global, polycentric approach, most notably Albright Stonebridge Group (ASG), which has become a founding member of Dentons Global Advisors.

ASG is a premier global strategy and commercial diplomacy firm led by 11 principals, including the firm’s chair, former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. The firm helps some of the world’s most respected organizations understand and navigate international markets by drawing on expertise honed at the highest levels of government and business. Its client base includes multinational corporations, leading foundations and non-profits, global investors, early-stage ventures, industry associations, and other organizations that operate, or seek to expand in, countries around the world.

The world is entering a new economic and political cycle in which increased geopolitical tensions, regulation, market turbulence, and public interest and financial activism present a constant threat to enterprise value. As clients reassess their priorities and relationships with external consultancies, Dentons and DGA offer a truly unique solutions platform, with an unrivaled talent pool and incomparable global reach.

Dentons Combines with Sirote & Permutt in Alabama

In June, underscoring our commitment to scaling our presence across the US, we launched our combination with leading Alabama law firm, Sirote & Permutt. As our clients continue to face constant, accelerated change, combining with leading law firms that are in and of their communities, such as Dentons Sirote, will better position us to provide our clients with the experienced legal professionals needed to help them navigate these evolving challenges and thrive wherever they are located.

The launch, which marks our fifth combination dedicated to building the first truly national US law firm, grows our strong Southeast presence and positions us as the first truly global law firm in Alabama, connecting clients to top-tier legal talent across 44 US locations and 205 locations in 81 countries around the world.

'No Meetings' Week

Following the success of last December's "No Meetings Week," Dentons once again encouraged all lawyers, professionals and business services staff to review and cancel all routine and non-critical meetings during the last week of April in order to create space to complete work or simply take a mental health break.

In announcing the respite, the Firm stated, "Our leadership team is cognizant that our continued virtual world has its limitations, and while there remains a premium on connectivity, our ability to give each other space will help offset the pressure and burnout that many are feeling in the demands of our remote work."

There were exceptions for teams working to hit hard deadlines, closing deals, supporting critical client needs or advancing our essential priorities.

Law.com caught wind of the initiative and was intrigued, writing, "It's one of a number of measures law firms are experimenting with to address the fatigue connected with the blurring of boundaries between home life and work that's been a hallmark of the pandemic," adding that Dentons was "following the lead of others in corporate America."

Law.com also noted that while most standing meetings suspended for a week in December did return in January, the success of the exercise "prompted some organizers to reduce their duration or replace some larger meetings with smaller group sessions or individual check-ins."



Alumni Spotlight



Jacob Rooksby

Dean, Gonzaga University School of Law

In June 2018, after three years serving as of counsel with the Intellectual Property practice at Cohen & Grigsby (now Dentons Cohen & Grigsby) while simultaneously serving as a professor of law and, ultimately, Associate Dean of Administration, at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University School of Law, Jacob relocated to Spokane, WA, to devote his full energies, interests and abilities to Gonzaga University School of Law, where he also wears multiple hats, including Dean of the 400+ student law school with 65+ full-time faculty; President of the Gonzaga Law School Foundation, which oversees \$30 million in assets; and Professor of Law and Leadership Studies, conducting classes in intellectual property law, technology transfer, higher education law and torts.

What does an average day look like for you?

What I love about the job is the variety. I work with a variety of stakeholders in the university community – from faculty, to students, to other administrators, to alumni, local judges and attorneys, and trustees. No two days are the same, which is what I love about it.

What was it about Gonzaga that appealed to you?

I attended a Jesuit high school in Indianapolis, and the Jesuit approach to education was something that had a profound influence on me at a young age. A sense of wanting to get back to that kind of environment was what drew me to explore the opportunity at Gonzaga.

What do you enjoy most about your work there?

I enjoy getting to be on the ground-level of shaping educational policy and helping students prepare for the profession. It's very rewarding.

What are the toughest problems and decisions you handle?

Because of the many stakeholders in higher education, it is often impossible to make everyone happy, particularly the more important the problem or decision is. Standing firm in making what you believe to be principled decisions, in the face of varied and sometimes vocal feedback from stakeholders, is one of the perpetual challenges of the position.

In what ways did your time at Cohen & Grigsby prepare you for what you are doing today?

Cohen & Grigsby brought me in as somewhat of a "special teams" player who wasn't on the traditional associate-to-partnership track. That meant I had to work collaboratively across departments and groups in a unique way that gave me foundational experience for a lot of the coalition-building and collaborative work I do now.

Tell us about a few of your favorite memories of the firm?

Jennifer Park brought me in to assist on an employment litigation matter that had a copyright component to it. I had the chance to take the opposing party's deposition and participate in the mediation. It was fun to get to participate again in high-stakes litigation, even while a full-time professor, and working with Jen was a blast.

I also remember fondly the many "road shows" that Noland [Cheung, chair of Dentons Cohen & Grigsby's Intellectual Property National Practice group] and I did for clients on site at their places of work, educating them about IP law. Noland is unlike any other IP attorney I have ever met – he has a way of making complex IP issues digestible for clients, and his enthusiasm for the subject matter is infectious and unparalleled. Working alongside him has been one of the great honors and fun times of my career.

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

I have joined an IP boutique in Spokane, called FIG. 1 Patents, PLLC, on a freelance basis, so I still have the occasional opportunity to practice. But what I miss about Cohen & Grigsby is the firm's culture and approach to relationship-building with clients in the community and region. It's really quite special and unique what Cohen & Grigsby represents, in terms of community standing, depth and breadth of practice, size, value to clients, and the sophistication of matters the firm handles.

Do you have advice for lawyers who are interested following a similar career path?

Consider teaching a course as an adjunct professor. It's the best way to learn whether a career in higher education is really what you would like to pursue. And don't be turned off by some of the unusual things that can happen in higher education. The power structures are very horizontal, and the decision-making is diffuse and often slow. Those aspects of the sector can be viewed as defects, but also as features.

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

I really enjoy camping and hiking with my wife and daughter. We have an Airstream travel trailer and use it often in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The ease of accessibility to all things outdoors is one of the great things about living in Spokane. The motto of the city is "Close to Nature, Close to Perfect," and I have come to understand why.

How has the pandemic affected you and your work?

Like many, we were on seemingly endless Zoom meetings for months on end. However, Gonzaga University was one of the few institutions in our region to resume in-person operations in August 2020. It wasn't perfect, and we learned a lot in the process, but we got through it, and in fact find ourselves in a position of strength coming out of the pandemic, with record enrollments both at the law school and undergraduate campus. Now all we need in 2022 is a national basketball championship! That would really be the cherry on top. We came oh-so-close last year.

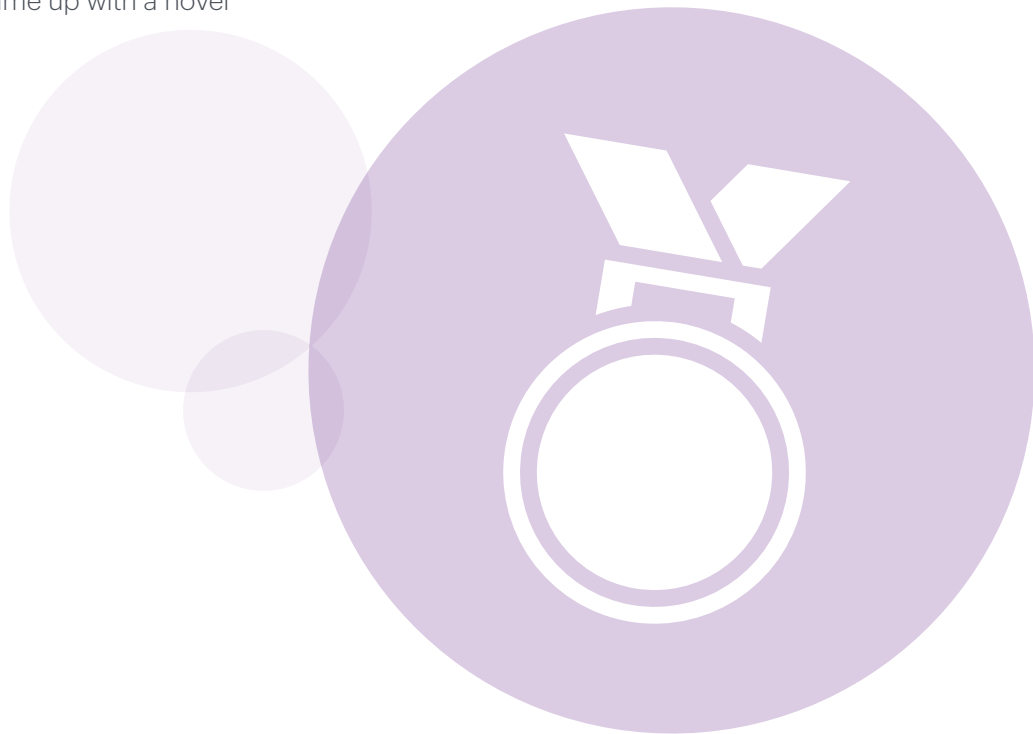
Success Stories

- **Trade secret misappropriation settlement:** In the International Trade Commission's largest-ever trade secret case—and arguably the largest IP case in history in terms of potential damages—a team from **Washington, DC, Atlanta** and **Chicago** filed a complaint on behalf of Korea's largest chemical company against its largest competitor for trade secret misappropriation relating to electric vehicle lithium-ion batteries. After securing limited-exclusion and cease-and-desist orders relating to batteries, battery cells, battery modules, battery packs, and components thereof and processes therefor, the defendant, to avoid an even more sweeping US import ban, agreed to pay \$1.8 billion to settle the dispute.
- **Defeating class certification in Atlanta Beltline case:** A Litigation team in **Atlanta** secured an important win for the City of Atlanta when it defeated class certification in a case involving the popular Atlanta Beltline project, a former railroad corridor that has been converted into a multi-use public trail. The putative class members claimed ownership of the former railroad property and sought tens of millions of dollars in damages for alleged inverse condemnation and trespass. The trial court denied class certification, finding the plaintiffs had not satisfied any of the statutory requirements, in large part due to the factually intensive inquiry necessitated by the number of and variations in the deeds and other property-rights agreements between the putative class members and the defendants.

- **REIT merger:** A team of lawyers in **Dallas, Kansas City, Atlanta** and **New York** represented a Houston-based REIT in its merger with a Jericho, NY-based REIT. Scheduled to close in the third quarter, the deal will create one of the country's largest grocery-anchored shopping center owners, with 559 open-air centers and mixed-use assets comprising approximately 100 million square feet of gross leasable area. The combined company's equity market capitalization will be about \$12 billion and its enterprise value about \$20.5 billion.
- **Big payout in trade secret misappropriation case:** A Pennsylvania federal court entered judgment in favor of a Fortune 200 company that manufactures paints, coatings, and specialty materials, in the amount of US\$26.4 million in damages based on the trade secrets misappropriation claims that a team of **Pittsburgh** litigators brought against a Chinese competitor and related parties. That figure reflects US\$8.8 million in compensatory damages and US\$17.6 million in punitive damages under the state's trade secrets statute.
- **Cannabis-related IPO:** A team of lawyers in **Chicago, Washington, DC,** and **New York** advised a REIT focused on the state-regulated cannabis sector in connection with its initial public offering of 6.25 million shares on the Nasdaq. The IPO price was \$19 per share, which rose to \$23 by the end of the first day of trading. The team came up with a novel

legal argument that enabled the cannabis-related company to list, and the work has led to several new engagements for our Cannabis group.

- **SPAC merger:** A team of lawyers located in **New York** and **Short Hills, NJ,** represented the majority stockholder of a Phoenix-based online platform for buying and selling homes in a public offering via a \$3 billion SPAC merger with an acquisition company led by a serial entrepreneur who co-founded several successful real estate technology companies.
- **Sale of lodging resort:** A team from **Phoenix, Dallas** and **Chicago** represented a real estate investment firm focused on the luxury hospitality space, in the \$265 million sale of a 130-room resort hotel to a lodging REIT. The 258-acre resort in the heart of California's wine country was designed using sustainable development practices and situated to avoid disturbing the natural landscape. Our client retained ownership of the property's residential parcels and has already begun constructing homes and selling custom homesites that will be affiliated with the resort.
- **SaaS acquired by health action company:** A **Birmingham** team represented a leading SaaS platform used by health plans and employers to configure and manage consumer engagement programs in its sale to the healthcare industry's largest health action company.



Social Impact

Protecting the Right to Vote

In the wake of multiple state initiatives to restrict voting access, Dentons is once again publicly reasserting its commitment to protecting and advancing voting rights throughout the US. The right to vote is a fundamental principle of our democracy, and the Firm believes that fighting to protect and expand it is one of the most important things we in the legal profession can do.

- We have been working visibly with nonprofit Vote at Home, a relationship of Washington, DC, managing associate **Mike Pfeifer**, in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Georgia and additional states across the country through our Dentons 50 network colleagues.
- At the federal level, our advocacy team led by **Mike McNamara** and Washington, DC, principals **John Russell** and **Sander Lurie** are working to advance passage of HR 1, the For the People Act of 2021. This bill expands automatic and same-day voter registration, as well as vote-by-mail and early voting, nationwide. It also limits removing voters from voter rolls, protects election integrity and security, reforms campaign finance laws and strengthens ethics for the three branches of government.
- We convened a webinar on voting rights at which Pittsburgh partners **Cliff Levine** and **Alex Lacey** discussed the cases in Pennsylvania—where Dentons successfully defended voting rights before and after the November 2020 election—as well as current threats to voting rights in Pennsylvania and other states.
- Kansas City Federal Regulatory partner **Mark Johnson** was lead counsel in pivotal voting rights litigation in Kansas, including serving as co-lead counsel with the ACLU in a successful challenge to restrictive voter ID laws.
- Washington Federal Regulatory partner **Simon Steel** co-chairs the Voting Rights Working Group of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance. He and Chicago Pro Bono partner **Ben Weinberg** helped organize a program exploring how law firms and companies can advance voting rights and racial justice. Speakers included Equitable Holdings Chief Legal Officer José Ramón González.

- **Lawyers and professionals in multiple offices** are longtime participants in the nonpartisan Election Protection program run by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, which seeks to protect people's right to vote in national and local elections.

Advancing Racial Justice Reforms Post-Chauvin Verdict

Just two days after former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of the three charges brought against him in the wake of George Floyd's death, we gathered in Washington, DC, for a Zoom discussion on racial awareness, justice and equity. Washington office Managing Partner **Mike Zolandz** and Head of Diversity and Inclusion **Ada Ejikeme** were joined by Executive Director of DC Legal Aid **Eric Angel** and Executive Director of DC Public Defenders Service **Avis Buchanan** for a discussion that highlighted some of their experiences working with the most vulnerable and underserved among us and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of our legal system.

Giving Back to our Communities

Building on Juneteenth



United Way of Central Alabama's J. Mason Davis Leadership Society celebrated Juneteenth at Hayes Elementary School, where volunteers, including shareholder **J. Mason Davis** and of counsel **Chris Christie** (both Birmingham), participated in a service opportunity by finishing work on a new playground.

Combating Food Insecurity



Birmingham lawyers **Mazie Bryant, Kristen Cross, Jordan Jackson, Terrell Blakesley** and **Chris Christie** volunteered at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama with our summer associates. While there, they boxed up around 220 meals for families and helped sort donated food items.



Pro Bono

Expanding Broadband Access

Philly Community Wireless (PCW) partners with residents, nonprofits and immigrant/limited English proficiency (LEP) communities based network stewardship, with the goal of democratizing broadband access and promoting digital literacy. A Dentons team led by Washington, DC, Federal Regulatory partner **Todd Daubert** handled a pro bono project for the nonprofit collective in connection with its building of community-owned-and-operated Internet infrastructures in North Philadelphia. Todd and managing associate **William Krouse** prepared key documents to protect the data privacy and decrease the liability risk of PCW and its constituent organizations.

Renter Retaliatory Eviction During COVID-19

Los Angeles counsel **Sylvia Chiu** and associates **Emma Moralyan** and **Connor Scott** negotiated an impressive settlement in a pro bono housing litigation matter on behalf a client who had been forced to vacate an unpermitted housing unit at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The team won four discovery motions, with \$8,000 in sanctions awarded. With the help of Orange County managing associate **Anne Waddell**, a motion to have requests for admission deemed admitted was also granted in its entirety. Connor took the lead in deposing the two main defendants in the case, artfully eliciting damaging testimony against all four defendants. The team's strategic motion practice also obtained a tentative ruling granting terminating sanctions against all four defendants, which further contributed to the favorable resolution for the client.

Recognized for Pro Bono Excellence:

- The Public Interest Law Initiative has selected the Firm for its Pro Bono Recognition Roster for the ninth year in a row. The accolade recognizes **our Chicago team's** strong performance in Illinois, with at least 60 percent of the office's lawyers participating in pro bono work and with an average of 35 pro bono hours per legal professional. PILI also noted our participation in the Chicago Bar Foundation's Law Firm Leadership Circle and our commitment to expanding our pro bono program.
- Intellectual Property and Technology counsel **Roman Tsibulevskiy** (Short Hills, NJ) received a 2020 Patent Pro Bono Certificate from the US Patent

and Trademark Office for his work helping Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts' Patent Pro Bono Program support financially under-resourced independent investors and small businesses.

- As part of its Pro Bono Appreciation Week, the International Refugee Assistance Project produced [a video](#) recognizing the assistance provided by Washington, DC, senior counsel **Randy Bregman** and partner **Andrew Shaw** in helping a Rohingya refugee reunite in the US with his family, who are currently in camps in Malaysia. Randy and Andrew collaborated with Kuala Lumpur partner **Sharmini Natalie Durai** and three University of Michigan law students in this effort.

Diversity & Inclusion

Advancing Inclusion through Allyship

Dentons recently launched an Allyship Initiative to help colleagues build connections, learn from one another and, most important, nurture a *positive, sustainable and inclusive culture* within our Firm..

The initiative was inspired by ideas heard during the Firm's Global Inclusion and Diversity Allies Campaign, "2020 Year of the Ally." It is designed to educate and connect colleagues from across our entire US Region by grouping participants across office locations, practice groups and roles with the goal of building connections and foster inclusion. The groups, or "ally pods, will be a safe space to generate ideas where every colleague's opinions are respected and valued.

Sharing Insights with Diverse Law Students

Dentons' Black Professional Alliance and the Hispanic/Latinx Organization for Leadership and Advancement hosted our fifth annual "Navigating to Big Law" program, featuring a panel discussion, Q&A and breakout groups. Diverse lawyers spoke to law students from across the country, sharing their career experience and advice for navigating and maximizing law school. Speakers included partners **Karen Jordan** (St. Louis), **Kristen Rodriguez**, **Presley Reed** (both Washington, DC), **Claude Montgomery** and **Lynn Harrison, III** (both New York), **David Tandy** (Louisville),

Katie Jacobs and **Jennifer Sun Park** (both Pittsburgh); senior counsel **Gail Lione** (Washington), counsel **Monica Irel** (Miami), senior managing associates **Uchenna Ekuma-Nkama** (Atlanta) and **Justin Mirabal** (Washington), associate **Julius Carter** (Chicago) and law clerk **Kerisha Bowen** (Washington).

Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Leaders of our Asian, South Asian, Pacific-American Professionals affinity group, including

partners **Louise Ing** and **Christopher Lee**, senior managing associates **Shannon Shin** and **Deb Sengupta** and managing associate **Debbie Jang**, were joined by Professor **Frank Wu**, president of Queens College, City University of New York (and a legacy Sonnenschein summer associate); and Congresswoman **Grace Meng**, representing New York's Sixth Congressional District, to discuss the pernicious effects of the "model minority myth; the importance of increasing Asian-American Pacific Islander representation in government, higher education and other leadership roles; and the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (adopted by the House of Representatives just minutes before our event and subsequently signed into law).

AAPI Heritage Month: Featured Colleague Q&As



Sandra Tsung
professional
development
specialist, Chicago

Who has inspired you to embrace your diversity, and do you regard that embrace as part of struggle?

My wife, Leah, is an unending source of inspiration and an advocate of living our lives unapologetically. Also, my parents. Small business owners who immigrated to the US from Taiwan shortly before I was born, they have always encouraged me to embrace my diversity and heritage. Ours was one of the only Asian families in the small town in North Carolina where I grew up. That feeling of being an outsider was always a struggle during my adolescence, but it also reinforced my worldview that all of our differences as human beings need to be valued and respected.



Amy Chiang
counsel, Real Estate
practice, Honolulu

How has being diverse contributed to your success and/or interfered with your progress?

Being diverse has made me more resilient and taught me the importance of tenacity and hard work. Even though we didn't have the advantages of being in the majority, we were expected to do just as well anyway. Growing up as a double minority, Asian and female, even in a large, diverse city like New York, I never thought of it as an asset. Even if I appeared assimilated on the outside, I was keenly aware of my differences from my mostly Caucasian peers. Being viewed as the model minority was both an asset and a disadvantage. I hated being stereotyped. Instinctively, I was drawn to activities outside of school and work that differentiated myself from the stereotype, like playing ice hockey and surfing. I was always a tomboy, which did not fit the stereotype but helped me to fit in when I worked within the male-dominated financial services industry. However, that only worked to a certain extent.

While I had at one point a number of Asian women peers professionally, there were usually no Asian women in positions of power to show us it was possible, much less to sponsor, mentor or guide us on how to get there. There was also the culture clash between American ideals of independence, self-promotion, confidence and bravado that were valued in the workplace, but the antithesis of traditionally Asian values of humility, blending in and playing it safe that were touted at home. It's nicer now that we have affinity groups we can identify with and relate to. Dentons' ASAPP Affinity Group is launching its inaugural mentoring program this month, so I'm hopeful that changes for the better are afoot.



Cristina Arceo
senior professional
development man-
ager, New York

How has being diverse contributed to your success and/or interfered with your progress?

I believe that what makes you different is your greatest strength. Diversity sparks creativity and conversation. I've learned a lot by being a part of diverse teams. It's afforded me the opportunity not only to lean in and add my own unique perspective, but also to listen and be open to ideas that aren't my own. Being diverse has made me acutely aware of how important it is to listen and to learn from one another.

Dentons US Region Celebrates Pride Month

US Region colleagues celebrated Pride Month via Zoom with a discussion hosted by our GLOW Affinity Group co-chairs **James Richardson** and **Talia Linneman**. Senior counsel **Evan Wolfson**, Human Rights Campaign legal director Sarah Warbelow, Point Foundation executive director and CEO Jorge Valencia and NCAA Division I swimmer and activist Schuyler Bailar addressed the obstacles faced by trans youth in the US, the experience of parenting a transgender child and the role of activism, legal mechanisms and nonprofit work to create equity for all members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Future of the LGBTQ Movement



In recognition of the beginning of Pride Month, the popular podcast Talking Feds, hosted by former federal prosecutor Harry Litman, turned over its Sidebar segment to Dentons' own

Evan Wolfson, senior counsel, founder of the Freedom to Marry movement and recognized by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Evan provided his thoughts on the future of the LGBTQ movement. The following is a transcript of his remarks.

“Since we won the Freedom to Marry in 2015, our work to win marriage has proven to be the gift that keeps on giving. Public support has grown every single year since the victory, as people have seen with their own eyes, families helped and no one hurt. We now have a majority of even Republicans and nearly every religious group, and more than 1.1 million gay people have gotten married in the United States.

“But epic as this transformation is, there’s still so much more to do. On defense, we need to block the attacks that we’re seeing, waves of anti-gay and anti-trans legislation in state legislatures, as well as abuses in other parts of the country. We’ve seen an effort to use so-called religious exemptions to try to carve out licenses to discriminate from the gains we have won. And with the right wing solidly in control of a packed Supreme Court, there may very well be bad decisions that will erode some of the gains we’ve made, and that we will have to fight to correct. On the affirmative, of course, winning marriage, while important, is not the only arena of life that matters.

“We want to secure the Equality Act, federal civil rights legislation that will cement protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity that will help all Americans, not only in the areas of employment, public accommodations and housing, but in credit, in education and so much more. And we need to see similar bills enacted at state legislatures. And of course, we don’t just want nondiscrimination laws, we don’t just want good laws. We want good lives. We need to send a message of affirmation and support to every person: young or old, gay or non-gay, trans or non-trans, no matter what part of the country they live in, and no matter what area of life they’re daring to dream big in. We want people to be secure and able to pursue happiness, the American dream.

“So we have a lot of work to do. Fortunately in this work, the marriage lift and marriage conversation, the marriage advance has brought ever more allies and assets into the work, businesses and others standing with the LGBT community as we fight to get our country where it needs to be. Plenty more to do, but lots to celebrate.”

Pride Month: Featured Colleague Q&As



**Andy (Andie)
Daglas**

business development
writer, Chicago

What is your advice for less experienced LGBTQ+ colleagues?

I recently read *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., in which Glaude quotes Baldwin speaking to a group of young civil rights activists at Howard University in 1963: "I'll make you a pledge. If you will promise..that you will never, ever accept any of the many derogatory, degrading and reductive definitions that this society has ready for you, then I, Jimmy Baldwin, promise you I shall never betray you."

A prestigious writer, Baldwin was speaking from a position of relative power for a Black, gay man when he declared he would never align himself with the even-more powerful against those they oppress. It's a promise I think we LGBTQ+ folks who have a relative degree of power in a still deeply unjust and often cruel society should also make. Let's not mistake relative privilege for universal justice; comfort for liberation. The people who won what measure of progress we've made did so by *afflicting the comfortable*. Stonewall was a response to police brutality. ACT UP was a response to political and corporate callousness. The same forces that oppressed our predecessors are still at work today. Those of us fortunate enough not to feel that oppression directly or daily should promise to never betray those who do.



Christina Pappas

partner recruitment
director,
Los Angeles

What is your advice for less experienced LGBTQ+ colleagues?

Don't be afraid to be your authentic self. You are lucky enough to be surrounded by allies here—take advantage of that. From there, in this business, establishing and maintaining relationships is key, be responsive, prepared and thorough at all times.



Speaking Engagements

Another Successful Gotham Insurance Webinar:

Colleagues and clients gathered virtually for the latest installment in our Gotham Insurance Webinar Series at which partners **Rich Dodge** (Litigation, Washington, DC) and **Patrick Maxcy** (Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy, **Chicago**) were joined by alum **Shauna Guner**, now an associate vice president and legal counsel at RenaissanceRe, for a discussion of how pandemic-related supply chain and business disruptions have affected numerous industries, and what insurers need to know when an insured ends up in bankruptcy.

Biden Administration's First 100 Days: On the 100th day of the Biden administration, the Public Policy practice hosted a Dentons Dialogue webinar examining the state of politics in the country. Washington, DC, senior advisors **Howard Dean**, **Ron Kaufman** and **Michael Nutter**; Denver senior policy director **Polly Lawrence**; and Atlanta partners **Ashley Bell** and **Gordon Giffin** shared their insights and Atlanta principal **Eric Tanenblatt** moderated.

COVID-19 Local, State and Federal Policy Issues:

As part of our "What's Next" weekly webinar series on policy and critical issues relating to COVID-19 in the US, counsel **David Quam** (Washington, DC), partners **Cesar Mitchell** (Atlanta) and **David Tandy** (Louisville), senior policy director **Polly Lawrence** (Denver) and principal **John Russell** (DC) addressed the rapidly changing patchwork of state, local and federal responses to the evolving pandemic.

COVID 19 Return-to-Work Strategy: A we presented an overview of our recently-issued "Return-to-work" toolkit, and highlighted some of the thorniest issues facing employers today. cross-border team presented to the legal department of a leading Canadian bank' on employment law and COVID-19 from US and Canadian perspectives. Presenters included partners **Peter Stockburger** (San Diego), **Kimberly J. O'Donnell** (Lexington) and Louise K.Y. Ing, (Honolulu); shareholder **Julie Vanneman** (Pittsburgh); and counsel **David Quam** (Washington, DC)

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity: Concluding our In-House Counsel Webinar Series' spring season, our new Head of Diversity of Inclusion **Ada Ejikeme** and St. Louis managing partner **Karen Jordan** led a discussion on diversity, inclusion and equity topics. Partners **Peter Stockburger** (San Diego), **Michele Brott** (Des Moines), **Marie Rivera-Johnson** and **Julie Vanneman** (both Pittsburgh) presented on considerations affecting the workplace in light of the global pandemic. Chicago managing partner **Leah Bruno** provided opening remarks. **Family Offices and SPACs:** The Firm's Family Office and High Net Worth group hosted a webinar on the rise of special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) among family offices. New York principal **Edward Marshall** and New York partner **Brian Lee** were joined by senior leaders from Citi Private Capital Group, WestRiver Group and Woolery & Co., in discussing why family offices are utilizing SPACs and how they can take advantage of this vehicle, as well as current and expected SPAC trends, in the US and globally.

Government Contracts Academy: Dentons hosted a virtual webinar that offered our government contracts clients and friends the opportunity to receive an ethics CLE credit on a topic related to government contracting—specifically the intersection of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and organizational conflicts of interest. Presenters included Denver managing partner **Joseph G. Martinez**, and senior managing associates **K. Tyler Thomas** and **Lisette Washington**.

In-House Pro Bono: In a presentation titled "In-House Pro Bono: Good, Better, and Best Practices" Chicago partner **Ben Weinberg** presented on the relevant rules/guidelines for doing in-house pro bono.

Practical Advice on Immigration: In a presentation titled “The Race for Talent: Is Immigration a More Viable Option in the Biden Era?,” shareholders **Lori Chesser** (Des Moines) and **Alexa Forte** (Pittsburgh) highlighted changes the Biden Administration has made and is expected to make to the immigration system affecting hiring, as well as relevant pending legislation.

Smart Cities & Connected Communities: Utilities are increasingly taking action to reduce their carbon emissions, expand customer options and engagement, and boost grid resilience. Our Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank’s Energy Pillar co-hosted, with Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), a virtual roundtable that included panelists from leading utilities discussing their path to a clean and modern grid, and drew upon insights from SEPA’s Utility Transformation Challenge. Washington, DC, partner **Clinton Vince**, chair of Dentons’ US Energy practice, moderated the discussion.

Stark Law Overhaul Series: On December 2, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services published a final rule incorporating long-awaited changes to the agency’s regulations governing the federal physician self-referral law, commonly known as the Stark Law. Dentons’ analysis of this major regulatory overhaul was presented in a series of seven webinars, each with a companion white paper. Presenters included Health Care Washington, DC, partners **Gadi Weinreich**, **Chris Janney** and **Ramy Fayed** and senior managing associate **Margo Wilkinson Smith**; and senior managing associate **Samantha Groden** (San Francisco/Oakland).

Recent Laterals



Melissa Nelson joined the Hotels and Leisure practice as partner in the Washington, DC, office. She has advised clients, including two well-known retailers and various developers, lenders, landlords, tenants, equity investors, real estate investment trusts (REITS) and pension fund advisers, on all facets and at all stages of commercial real estate transactions.



Linda Pfatteicher joined the San Francisco office as a partner in the Tax practice with a focus on large-scale international tax and operational structuring projects, including cross-border mergers, acquisitions and post-acquisition integration, as well as international tax controversies. She has 25 years of international tax and transactional experience.



John Richmond joined our Federal Regulatory and Compliance practice as a partner resident in the Washington, DC, Office. He came to us from the US State Department, where he served as the US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. His focus will be on the intersection of business and human rights, including strategy, compliance, internal investigations and litigation in the areas of ESG and supply chains.



Robin Thomerson joined the Firm’s Environmental practice as partner in the Lexington, KY, office, where she will focus on permitting and compliance issues in connection with the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Kudos

- **Dentons** earned 61 practice and 153 individual rankings in the most recent edition of *Chambers USA*. Fourteen practices were ranked in Band 1, including national rankings for Capital Markets - Securitization (Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities), Leisure & Hospitality and Native American Law. As for individual rankings, 25 were in Band 1 and 29 were in Band 2. This year's rankings reflect the Firm's rapid growth in the US; the Firm posted *double-digit* increases in both total practice rankings and total individual lawyer rankings.
- Sixteen **Dentons Davis Brown** lawyers were ranked in the most recent edition of Chambers USA
- **Dentons** earned 138 individual rankings and 38 practice rankings in the most recent edition of The Legal 500 US.
- **Dentons** once again was recognized as one of the "BTI Client Service 30," a list of the "best of the best in client service delivery," as reported in BTI Consulting's latest, in-depth, US-focused report, "BTI Client Service A-Team: Survey of Law Firm Client Service Performance 2021." Dentons received leadership rankings in more than half the 17 activities driving superior performance.
- **Dentons** also made BTI Consulting's list of the "70 most-improved law firms in client service," based on a survey of legal decision-makers. BTI said we helped raise the bar for client service during a time of "rapid change and great uncertainty, when high-level service was needed and appreciated more than ever."
- **Dentons'** Intellectual Property and Technology group earned two top rankings in *Patexia's* "2021 ITC Intelligence Report," which ranks the performance of law firms involved in Section 337 ITC cases going back six years. Dentons placed second in the "Best Performing ITC Law Firm for Representing Respondents" and "Best Performing ITC Law Firm Overall" categories.
- *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* named **Leah Bruno**, managing partner of the Chicago office, to its "Top 50 Women in the Law" list.
- New York senior counsel **Evan Wolfson** was named to *Crain's New York Business'* "Notable LGBTQ Leaders and Executives" list.
- **Karl Zobrist**, an Energy partner in our Kansas City office, was one of 28 Missouri lawyers and judges to win the *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* 2021 ICON Award, which is given to distinguished men and women attorneys age 60 and older in recognition of their exemplary careers and commitment to the legal community.
- **Erin O'Sullivan**, a law clerk in the New York Litigation and Dispute Resolution group, was named to *Crain's New York Business'* "20 in their 20s" list.
- **Justin Mirabal**, a senior managing associate in the DC office's Energy practice, was chosen as a *Public Utilities Fortnightly* "Under Forty" honoree, citing both his current representation of energy industry clients and his previous work as a trial lawyer with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Salt Lake City shareholder **Gary R. Thorup** was named "Tax Practitioner of the Year" by the Utah State Bar for achieving "exceptional results during his or her years of practice, demonstrating outstanding service to the Bar and tax community, and for distinguished service and dedication to the improvement of the quality of the law, legal education, and community involvement."



- *Ingram's* magazine named Kansas City Real Estate partner **Julia Taylor** to its 2021 list of "40 Under 40," which recognizes some of the region's most accomplished business and community leaders under 40 years of age.
- Senior research services training specialist **Eugene Giudice** received the 2021 Advocate of the Year award from the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals section of the American Association of Law Libraries in honor of his contributions to the AALL and PLLIP, including hosting weekly virtual "Coffee Chats" and sending daily inspirational emails to lift members' spirits during the pandemic.
- Naples, FL, Litigation shareholder **Jason Korn** received the "2021 Chairman's Award" from the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his dedication to community betterment, including helping the Chamber fulfill its mission of cultivating economic opportunity in Collier County.
- Pittsburgh shareholder **Jennifer Park** was recently named to *Pittsburgh Business Times'* 2021 "20 People to Know in Law." Jennifer concentrates her practice on Employment and Labor and Litigation and Dispute Resolution.
- Honolulu senior counsel **Dick Mosher** was named a 2021 Stonewall Day ambassador. Stonewall Day was launched by Pride Live Nation in 2018 to elevate awareness of the Stonewall riots' legacy and support the continuing fight for LGBTQ+ equality.
- Global M&A Network named New York Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy partner **Lee Whidden** a "Top USA Woman Dealmaker" at its 2021 Atlas Awards.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we mark the recent passing of two current and two former members of the Firm.



Retired partner **CHARLIE BIRD** passed peacefully after a years-long battle with leukemia. Charlie was the heart and soul of Luce Forward—our San Diego-based legacy firm that in 2012 combined its practices with McKenna Long & Aldridge. At Luce, he served in many senior roles, including as a member of the Executive Committee, General Counsel, and as the chief architect of the strategic planning effort that eventually led to the merger with McKenna Long.

Charlie was also the one of the best appellate lawyers in California, and over the years he served as a mentor to just about every lawyer who joined the Firm. A fellow and director of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and a member and past president of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, he argued civil cases in the Supreme Court; US Courts of Appeals for the Federal, Sixth, Ninth and Tenth Circuits; the California Supreme Court; and California's six intermediate appellate districts. More than 60 of his cases were decided in officially published opinions. He also represented the City of San Diego in a series of challenges to the bond financings for San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium (now SDCCU Stadium), the San Diego Convention Center and Petco Park. The city succeeded in all the cases.



RICK FENTON's sudden, unexpected and premature passing at 67, left a huge void in our lives and in our hearts. A dedicated and tenacious pillar of our Chicago Litigation team for over 40 years, losing Rick in the vibrancy of his career during these remote times was all the more difficult as he has held a position of such influence and importance within our Chicago office, litigation practice and across the Firm.

Rick litigated, in both trial and appellate courts, a wide variety of commercial disputes, including securities, product liability, ERISA, antitrust, RICO and consumer class action defense, executive compensation and employment litigation, fiduciary liability, misappropriation of trade secrets and proprietary information, insurance coverage, insurance bad faith and general business and real estate litigation. He also represented clients in regulatory and internal investigations in the securities, employee benefit and corporate governance areas, and in mediation and arbitration proceedings.

Rick's training, sponsoring, mentoring and guiding of lawyers at every point in their careers inspired countless advocates to achieve the exacting talent and unrelenting passion he himself brought to all his client and pro bono work. Long admired as a leader in the bar—especially within the insurance industry, where clients chose him time after time as the voice of the industry and a voice of reason, in and out of court. His client roster—Allstate, McDonald's, Prudential, Sears, Simon Properties, and dozens more—mirrored the storied history of our Firm's heritage, just as his many victories contributed to its then and future success.



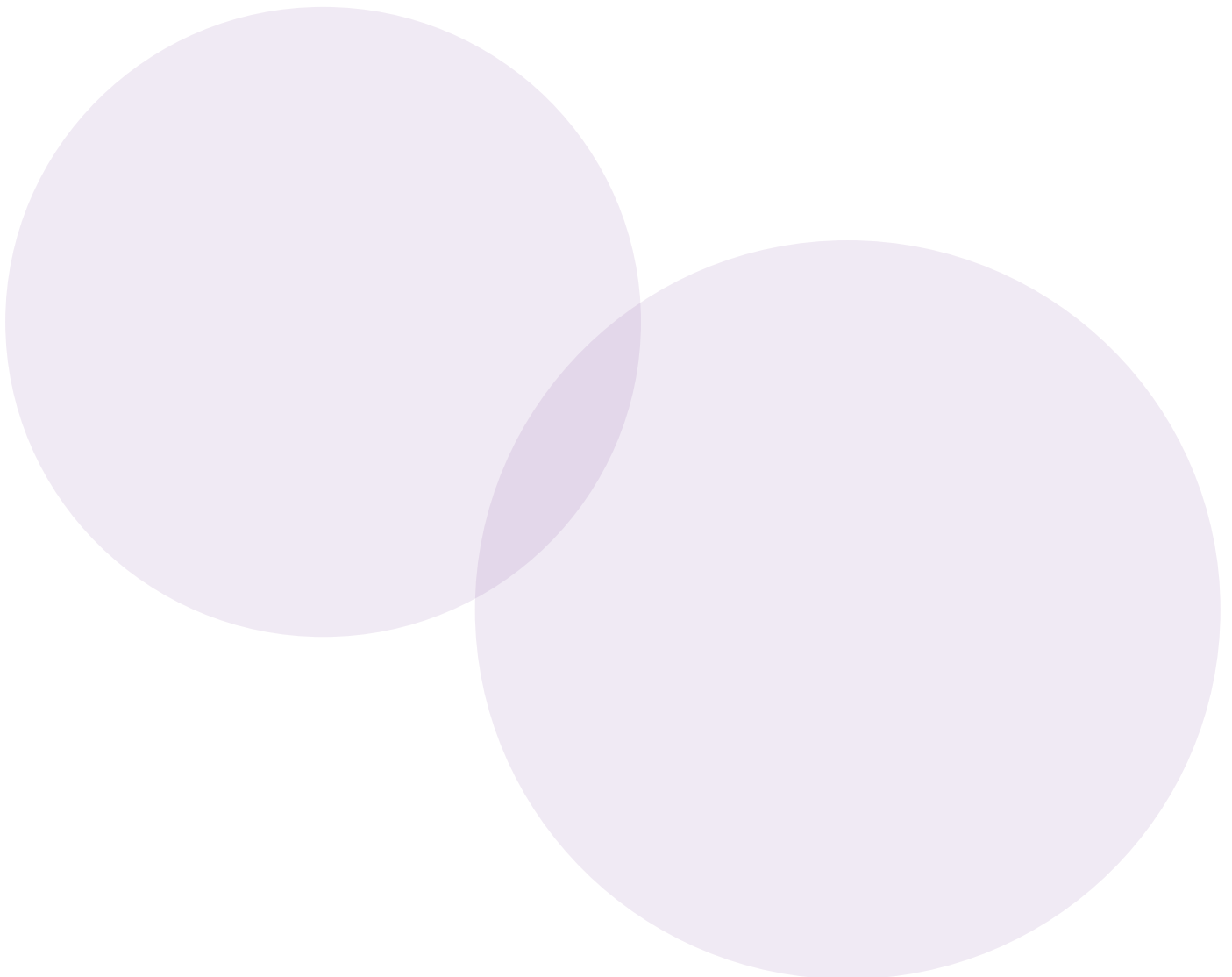
CLAY LONG succumbed at 85 to a months-long struggle with multiple system atrophy. Born during the Great Depression in rural Alabama, Clay graduated at the top of his class from Harvard Law School and went on to clerk for Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, where he assisted in authoring the majority opinion in *Gideon v. Wainwright*. He began his private practice at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan (now Eversheds), where he was mentored by Randolph Thrower, a future Commissioner of the IRS. In 1974 Clay and fellow Sutherland associates John Aldridge and Bill Stevens formed the firm that would later become known as Long Aldridge & Norman, serving as chair of Long Aldridge and, later, McKenna Long & Aldridge until 2005.

Clay's long history of civic involvement in Atlanta set a high standard for Dentons. His community engagements focused on the environment, though he was also a strong supporter of legal aid to underserved communities. Clay chaired the Boards of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), the Georgia Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy in Georgia, Greenspace Commissions (under two governors, during which he led the drafting of Georgia's first greenspace protection plan), the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and the Jekyll Island Foundation. He was also a member of Georgia Governor Zell Miller's Commission on Economy in State Government, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and recipient of the Atlanta Bar Association's first Leadership Award. Clay was named the Georgia Conservancy's Distinguished Conservationist and *Georgia Trend* magazine named him one of "The 100 Most Influential Georgians," citing his work as an avid environmentalist and preservationist and describing him as a "master architect of the politically influential firm's strategic growth and direction."



LENORA WALKER PATE, a shareholder in the Birmingham office’s Health Care practice, passed away peacefully at 72, surrounded by her loving family. In 1985, Lenora, then a single mother of two, graduated summa cum laude and salutatorian from Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law. Soon thereafter the former school teacher began working at Sirote & Permutt, where she would remain for over 35 years—and where she met the love of her life, shareholder Steven Brickman. They married in 1987 and were devoted partners in life, law and love for over 33 years.

Lenora’s achievements include her appointment to Governor Jim Folsom’s cabinet in 1994, becoming the state’s first woman Director of the Department of Industrial Relations; running for Governor in 1998 (the first woman to do so since Lurlene Wallace in the 1960s); countless professional awards and recognitions (including *Best Lawyers’* “Health Care Lawyer of the Year” in 2016 and 2021; “Best Lawyer in America” for Health Care law for 14 straight years from 2007-21; and *Birmingham News’* “Top Five Most Influential Lawyers” in 1999; serving as chair of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform from 2003-20; and playing an integral role in the development of the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Kirklin Clinic.



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