



R&C Hosts Summer Interns from the Law and Government Academy at Hartford High School

Robinson & Cole welcomed summer interns Jasmine Granville and Shanique Walker, students from the Law and Government Academy at Hartford High School and alumni of the University of Connecticut School of Law/Robinson & Cole LLP Summer Law Institute. Through the internship, Jasmine and Shanique experienced work done in various departments of the firm as they took on projects and assisted and observed attorneys and paraprofessionals. The Summer Law Institute is designed to inspire high school students of diverse backgrounds to consider a career in the law and to prepare them to navigate obstacles in obtaining such careers. Business transactions partner Jacqueline Pennino Scheib and public finance associate Keisha S. Palmer are the firm's liaisons to the Institute. [CLICK HERE for PHOTO.](#)

Robinson & Cole Sponsors Gem of the Ocean at Hartford Stage

Robinson & Cole continued its commitment to diversity, education, and the local community by sponsoring Gem of the Ocean, the first play in August Wilson's 10-part series chronicling the African-American experience in the 20th century. At a reception prior to one of the performances, Managing Partner John B. Lynch, Jr., presented a check to the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education. The R&C donation will help support Career Beginnings, a summer program designed to help urban, first-generation, college-bound students develop the skills they need to ensure a successful transition to college and professional life. [CLICK HERE for photo.](#)

Message from Pamela K. Elkow Diversity Partner



Welcome to the first issue of Spectrum, a newsletter published by the Diversity Committee at Robinson & Cole. It is our hope that Spectrum will be one of the many tools by which we foster the ongoing discussion around inclusion and diversity. I use the word "discussion" purposefully because it implies talking and, specifically, talking between people. Breaking down barriers and fostering inclusion does not occur without a willingness to talk, especially about complicated issues. Discussing these issues can make us uncomfortable (one colleague used the word "squeamish"). Well-intentioned people may wonder whether it is better to talk about our differences or to ignore them and aim to be "color-blind". To pretend our differences do not exist is to ignore that we are individuals with different attributes and experiences, which together make us who we are. The best way I can think of to become "color-neutral" is not to ignore our differences but to talk about them in an effort to understand how they have made each of us who we are today. We may hear that we're not as good at being "color-neutral" as we think we are. But, we will also find out what we're doing right; so we can continue those efforts. And best of all, we will find out more about each other and, in the process, learn something about ourselves.

Students from Boys and Girls Club of Hartford Continue Summer Intern Tradition at R&C

Robinson & Cole welcomed Geneva Roberts and Des'ree Davis, two Greater Hartford area high

R&C Associate Virginia E. McGarrity Elected President of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association

Virginia E. McGarrity, an associate in the Labor, Employment, & Benefits Practice Group, was elected president of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA) for the 2011 to 2012 term. The CHBA is committed to enhancing professional opportunities for Hispanic attorneys, mentoring new lawyers and law students, and helping private and public legal employers achieve their diversity goals.

Britt-Marie K. Cole- Johnson Joins Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity and the Board of Directors of the YWCA Hartford Region

Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson, an associate in the Labor, Employment, & Benefits Practice Group, will represent the firm on the Associates Advisory Committee of the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity. The Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity is a Connecticut nonprofit corporation composed of the state's largest law firms, corporations, public sector entities, law schools, and state bar associations. The member organizations work together to make Connecticut a more attractive environment for lawyers of color and women to practice law and secure professional opportunities. As a member of the Associates Advisory Committee, Ms. Cole-Johnson will help support its programs and initiatives as an ambassador for the firm.

Ms. Cole-Johnson was also elected to the Board of Directors of the YWCA Hartford Region for a two-year term. As a board member, she will help further the mission of the YWCA to empower women and girls and to eliminate racism. YWCA Hartford Region is part of the world's largest and oldest multiracial women's movement and is the third-oldest affiliate of the YWCA USA.

school students and members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford, to the start of the annual summer intern program in July. For over a decade, the firm has worked with the Boys and Girls Club to expose students to a professional working environment by providing coaching and mentoring opportunities. Lisa M. Boyle, a partner and cochair of the firm's Health Law Group, is a board member and secretary of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford.

Boston Office Welcomes Boston Lawyers Group

Robinson & Cole's Boston office will serve as home to the Boston Lawyers Group through 2012. The Group is a nonprofit consortium of more than 45 law firms, corporate legal departments, and government agencies committed to promoting diversity within Boston's legal community. The firm's involvement with the Boston Lawyers Group will strengthen our commitment to diversity and will allow for greater interaction when organizing community leadership forums, roundtable discussions, educational and mentoring programs, and job fairs. For more information on the Boston Lawyers Group, please visit www.thebostonlawyersgroup.com.

National Grid/Robinson & Cole Summer Fellow Spends Summer in R&C Providence Office

Adam Riser, a third-year law student at the Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island, interned for the summer in Robinson & Cole's Providence office as part of a joint program between the firm and our client National Grid. Adam received his B.A. from the University of Southern Mississippi, with honors, and is currently managing editor of the Law Review at Roger Williams. The National Grid/Robinson & Cole Summer Fellowship program focuses on promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

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