



June 2012 — VOLUME 1

## Associate Co-hosts CBA Event Honoring Women Lawyers

Kori Termine Wisneski, associate in the firm's Business Litigation Practice Group and co-chair of the Women in the Law Committee for the Young Lawyers Section of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA), co-hosted the CBA's "Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers" event held on March 29, 2012. The annual event honors women in the legal profession and recognizes those female attorneys who have dedicated part of their career to helping other young female attorneys climb the ladder to success. Among the distinguished guests was Commissioner and former Justice Joette Katz, who gave the keynote address.

## Virginia McGarrity Moderates Panel Discussion at Attorneys of Color Symposium

Virginia McGarrity, an attorney in the Employee Benefits and Compensation Practice Group and past president of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, moderated a panel discussion for the Connecticut Bar Foundation's symposium "Our History, Our Future: Celebrating Attorneys of Color in Connecticut" on April 13, 2012. Robinson & Cole was a sponsor of the symposium, which conveyed the untold history of attorneys of color in Connecticut and included a luncheon presentation, as well as morning and afternoon panel discussions on mentoring and leadership. Ms. McGarrity served as moderator for the panel discussion "Mentoring, Historical Lessons Still Applicable Today," which discussed the importance of mentoring and its impact on the professional development of attorneys of color.

The Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows presented the event with the Connecticut

## Message from Pamela K. Elkow Diversity Partner



One of the "arguments" for diversity and inclusion is that a better work product results from the input of a variety of people coming from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. A great example of the legitimacy of this statement is the work of the Diversity Committee and others to raise awareness of various diversity issues over these last five months. We heard directly from Yankee Gas and United Technologies about their diversity programs, we heard inspirational stories from lawyers who happened to be women — and also chief justice, law school dean, agency director, and general counsel. We discussed the value of affinity bar groups with the founder of one. We stood against racism with Hartford high school students. We learned every day some new fact focusing on diversity and inclusion. All of these efforts took a lot of work and involved a lot of people, and a variety of people - partners; associates; administrative staff; people in Boston, Hartford, Providence, and Stamford; members of the Diversity Committee; and those who are not. This work product the learning about diversity and inclusion, and the improvement of the environment to foster diversity and inclusion - is better because it is not the work product of one person, but of a host of individuals bringing their experiences, thoughts, suggestions, passions, and hard work to the task. This is why our clients value diversity - they expect nothing less than excellent legal work from us, but they also know that that work product can be even better if a team with a variety of experiences contributes and works together.

## Robinson & Cole Intern Helps Coordinate National Conference of Law Reviews

Adam Riser, a legal intern in the firm's Providence

Hispanic Bar Association, the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, and the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut.

## **Robinson & Cole Supports YWCA's "In the Company of Women Luncheon"**

Robinson & Cole was a sponsor for the YWCA Hartford Region's 17th annual "In the Company of Women Luncheon" on March 20, 2012, at the Connecticut Convention Center. The luncheon is the YWCA's most important annual fundraising event, which brings together nearly 1,500 diverse and successful women from the greater Hartford area. Proceeds help fund the YWCA's many programs and services that benefit the lives of women and children in the Hartford region. Atress Rosie Perez delivered the keynote address. Ms. Perez is an activist, particularly for causes related to AIDS and inner-city youth. She is head of the artistic board for the Urban Arts Partnership and supports Women for Peace and Justice in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Labor and employment associate Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson, who serves on the YWCA Hartford Region's board of directors, captained Robinson & Cole's VIP table. Joining Ms. Cole-Johnson were utilities partner David W. Bogan, labor and employment partner Alice E. DeTora, public finance associate Keisha S. Palmer, employee benefits and compensation associate Virginia McGarrity, land law associate Jonathan H. Schaefer, litigation associates Nicolas F. Perry and Elizabeth Slater Massey, labor and employment counsel Jean E. Tomasco, and immigration associate Lauren M. Vinokur.

## **Robinson & Cole Stands Against Racism**

Robinson & Cole's Diversity Committee held events in each of its offices to participate in the YWCA's Stand Against Racism initiative along with over 2,000 YWCA associations, companies, universities, hospitals, schools, governments, and other groups on April 27, 2012. Labor and employment associate Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson, who serves on the YWCA Hartford Region's board of directors, and public finance associate Keisha S. Palmer organized the firm's events.

## **Robinson & Cole Hosts Internal Monthly Diversity Events**

office, was a key coordinator of the National Conference of Law Reviews hosted by Roger Williams School of Law where Mr. Riser is a third-year law student and managing editor of *Roger Williams University Law Review*.

The conference held March 28 to April 1, 2012, offered panel discussions, keynote speakers, and three days of networking for almost 300 law review editors and authors from around the country. Mr. Riser worked in the Providence office in the summer of 2011 through the National Grid/Robinson & Cole Summer Fellowship, which promotes diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

## **Robinson & Cole Raises Funds for Foodshare at Women's Event**

The Women's Initiative of Robinson & Cole's Hartford office hosted a women's networking event on April 27, 2012, and collected donations for Foodshare. The theme of the evening was food and community. Foodshare President and CEO Gloria McAdam attended and shared facts with the guests about the mission and projects of the organization. Foodshare works to end hunger serving over 200 food pantries in Hartford and Tolland Counties. The event raised over \$1,450 for Foodshare. Following the reception, guests attended a performance by Buddy Valastro, The Learning Channel's Cake Boss, at The Bushnell.

## **Robinson & Cole Sponsors George W. Crawford Black Bar Association Dinner**

The annual George W. Crawford Black Bar Association dinner was held in Hartford on April 28, 2012. Robinson & Cole was a platinum sponsor and representing the firm at the dinner were attorneys Keisha S. Palmer, Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson, Pamela K. Elkow, David M. Panico, Virginia McGarrity, Nicolas F. Perry, Evan J. Seeman, Lauren M. Vinokur, and George W. Watson III.

## **Robinson & Cole Sponsors Women in Business Awards**

Robinson & Cole was a sponsor of the *Hartford Business Journal's* Annual Women in Business Awards Luncheon on May 2, 2012, at the Connecticut Convention Center. Eight outstanding women who are senior level executives, entrepreneurs, and CEOs in the Hartford community were recognized for their civic

In recognition of African-American History Month, Robinson & Cole hosted a panel discussion on February 17 at the firm's Hartford office. Rod Powell, president and COO of Yankee Gas Services Company, and Dantaya Williams, director of workplace diversity for United Technologies Corporation, presented a candid discussion about their backgrounds; the challenges they faced while achieving success; role models; observations about the current state of diversity in America and visions for the future; and the economic benefits of a diverse workforce and successful strategies for recruiting and retaining diverse talent. Public finance associate Keisha S. Palmer moderated the panel discussion.

Women's History Month was celebrated on March 28 with a distinguished breakfast panel in the Boston office. Panel members included the Honorable Chase Rogers, chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court; the Honorable Janet Coit, the commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Dr. Maureen O'Rourke, the dean of Boston University Law School; and Rachel Stern, the vice president and general counsel of FactSet Research Systems. Labor and employment counsel Nicole A. Bernabo, finance partner Patricia J. Igoe, business transactions partner Kathleen M. Porter, and real estate partner Carla M. Moynihan coordinated the panel members and program.

For National Mentoring Month, the firm held socials with partners, counsel, and associates on April 18, 19, and 20 in its offices, including Sarasota, Stamford, Providence, Boston, New York, and Hartford.

On May 29, Amy Lin Meyerson, founder and past president of the Connecticut Asian Pacific Bar Association, presented "What is the Role of Affinity Bar Associations?" during a program hosted by the Stamford office and videocast to the other offices. Ms. Meyerson is also a past president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

contributions and professional achievements. Representing the firm were partners Rhonda J. Tobin, Alice E. DeTora, Jacqueline P. Scheib, and Christine E. Bromberg; counsel Nicole A. Bernabo; and associate Amanda E. Gordon.

## **Robinson & Cole Sponsors Women's Summit Featuring Mika Brzezinski, Carla Harris, and Marlee Matlin**

Robinson & Cole was a bronze sponsor for Bryant University's 15th annual Women's Summit in Smithfield, Rhode Island. The all-day event featured keynote addresses by Mika Brzezinski, co-host of MSNBC's "Morning Joe;" Carla Harris, managing director and head of the emerging manager platform at Morgan Stanley Investment Management; and Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin. More than 1,200 people attended. Representing the firm with clients as their guests were finance partner Patricia J. Igoe, real estate partner Carla M. Moynihan, real estate counsel Candace M. Cunningham, products liability and subrogation senior associate Dana M. Horton, and health law senior associate Teri E. Robins.

## **Keisha Palmer Elected to George W. Crawford Black Bar Association Board**

The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association elected public finance associate Keisha S. Palmer to its board of directors. Her one-year term began on April 28, 2012. Crawford is a volunteer organization of judges, law professors, lawyers, and law students in Connecticut.

## **2012 DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Patrick M. Birney
- Antionette D. Bishop
- Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson
- Amanda S. Eckhoff
- Pamela K. Elkow, Chair
- John H. Kane
- Peter V. Lacouture
- John B. Lynch, Jr.
- Virginia E. McGarrity
- Keisha S. Palmer
- Marnie J. Rubin
- Jacqueline P. Scheib
- Howard K. Shafer