



April 2013

## CANDACE M. CUNNINGHAM ELECTED TO AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

The American Bar Foundation has elected real estate lawyer Candace M. Cunningham to become a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Limited to one-third of one percent of licensed attorneys, membership in the Fellows is honorary and based on achievements in the legal profession and community. Founded in 1952, the American Bar Foundation is considered the premier institute for social science research on law in the United States.

## BOSTON OFFICE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S NETWORKING EVENT

The Women's Initiative of Robinson & Cole's Boston office held its annual Women's Networking Event at Boston's Union Club on January 24, 2013.

The speaker was Robin Herman, a member of the first class of women admitted to Princeton University. Ms. Herman got her start as the first female sports reporter for the *New York Times* and later became a political reporter for the *Times*, a medical reporter for the *Washington Post*, an author, and, until recently, the first director of communications at the Harvard School of Public Health. Ms. Herman was interviewed by her longtime friend and mentor, Abigail Trafford. Ms. Trafford, also an author, journalist, and public speaker, was the *Washington Post's* health editor for 14 years.

A particularly meaningful aspect of this annual event is its charitable element.

## MESSAGE FROM JOHN H. KANE, DIVERSITY PARTNER

I want to begin my first message with a resounding THANK YOU! First, to Pamela K. Elkow, for her leadership as the diversity partner at Robinson & Cole over the past couple of years. Pam worked tirelessly on focusing the committee, accomplishing goals, and promoting inclusion and diversity throughout the firm. Secondly, I want to thank all of my fellow committee members for their efforts in carrying out their roles on the committee and increasing awareness, both internally and externally, of the diversity issues we face as a firm and throughout the legal community. We are lucky to have a group of such dedicated people who spend time putting together programs for the firm, volunteering on boards, and working within organizations that foster an inclusive environment.



Lastly, I want to thank all of you who take part in our firm's diversity activities each month and who go to events and dinners sponsoring diversity. In taking over as diversity partner at the firm, I realize how lucky I am to have such a well-run committee with the support of many dedicated people. For those of you who have not yet had a chance to get involved, I say make this your year! Go to a firm event, attend a diversity dinner, or reach out to me with any new ideas you might have. Although we have many exciting things planned for 2013, we are always looking for new and better ways to promote inclusion and diversity, so get involved!

Thanks to the generous support of the attendees, the event raised money for **826 Boston**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting students from 6 to 18 years of age with their creative and expository writing skills and to helping teachers inspire students to write.

### **HARTFORD STAGE EVENT HONORS DIVERSITY, COMMUNITY, AND EDUCATION**

Robinson & Cole celebrated its commitment to diversity, education, and local community at a private reception prior to the Hartford Stage performance of Daniel Beaty's *Breath & Imagination - The Story of Roland Hayes* on January 31, 2013.

During the reception, Managing Partner John B. Lynch Jr. presented a check for \$2,500 to Hector M. Rivera Jr., chief operating officer of Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. The donation will help support Our Piece of the Pie's educational programs, including academic support, college planning and retention services, and Opportunity High School.

### **VIRGINIA E. MCGARRITY ELECTED TO HARRIET BEECHER STOWE CENTER'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut has elected Robinson & Cole benefits and compensation group lawyer Virginia E. McGarrity to its Board of Trustees for a three-year term. The mission of the Stowe Center is to preserve Stowe's Hartford home and the Center's historic collections, to promote discussion of Stowe's life and work, and to inspire commitment to social justice and positive change. The Stowe Center connects the social issues that Stowe brought to light in nineteenth-century America to the contemporary face of race relations, class and gender issues, economic justice, and education equity.

### **KENDRA L. BERARDI RECEIVES PRO BONO INITIATIVE AWARD**

Real estate litigation and title insurance lawyer Kendra L. Berardi received the

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### **INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS LAWYER ELECTED AS FELLOW OF ACTEC**

Individual clients group lawyer Kelley Galica Peck was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). With approximately 2,600 members, ACTEC consists of leading lawyers in the field of estate and trust law across the country. Fellows are nominated and elected to membership by their peers for demonstrating exemplary legal skill and experience as trust and estate counselors as well as the highest level of integrity and commitment to the profession of law.

### **ROBINSON & COLE LAWYER HONORED WITH 2012 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD BY PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP**

Robinson & Cole labor and employment lawyer Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson was recognized for her commitment to pro bono service and presented with a Volunteer of the Year Award from the Pro Bono Partnership at a private reception held March 13, 2013, in New York City. Ms. Cole-Johnson was chosen from a pool of almost 1,000 attorneys who provide free legal advice to the Pro Bono Partnership's nonprofit clients.

### **KATHLEEN M. FUREY ELECTED BOARD CHAIR FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

Real estate lawyer Kathleen M. Furey is the next chair of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County (Habitat CFC). A nonprofit housing ministry, Habitat for Humanity works to eliminate substandard housing by working with people of all backgrounds, races, and religions and to build homes in partnership with families in need. In the region spanning Stratford to Greenwich, Habitat CFC has built over 150 homes for nearly 700 family members since 1985.

### **ROBINSON & COLE ATTORNEYS SELECTED FOR TOP WOMEN**

209A Pro Bono Initiative Award, presented by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office (MDAO), on January 10, 2013, at a ceremony held in Woburn, Massachusetts. Ms. Berardi was recognized for representing victims of domestic violence in connection with the District Attorney's Pro Bono Program. The award is presented to an attorney who has dedicated time to helping victims of domestic violence through this partnership and program. Attorneys from Robinson & Cole have participated in this program since May 2012.

The MDAO's Pro Bono Program was created in 2008 to address a significant gap in the way that domestic violence victims are served during the restraining order process. To address this problem, the MDAO partners with law firms to identify victims and provide free representation. Since its inception, the program has served more than 100 victims, with a 97 percent success rate of cases resolved in favor of the victim.

#### **KEISHA S. PALMER PARTICIPATES IN DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT UCONN SCHOOL OF LAW**

Public finance lawyer Keisha S. Palmer, as part of a panel of four lawyers, discussed her experience in an increasingly diverse legal community and offered her advice for law students on achieving a work/life balance in the roundtable "Diversity: Navigating Being a Black Woman in Today's Increasingly Diverse Legal Community." The event, presented by the University of Connecticut School of Law's Black Law Students Association and Women Law Students' Association, along with the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, was held on February 21, 2013, in Hartford, Connecticut.

#### **ATTORNEYS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Robinson & Cole lawyers Carla M. Moynihan, Amanda S. Eckhoff, and Danielle Andrews Long have been selected for the *Top Women Attorneys in Massachusetts* list being featured in the April 2013 issue of *Boston* magazine. All three attorneys were chosen based on their inclusion in the 2012 *Super Lawyers®* or Rising Star lists (*Super Lawyers* is a registered trademark of Key Professional Media, Inc.).

#### **DIVERSITY COMMITTEE HOSTS EVENT FOR FIRM MENTEES OF THE LAWYERS COLLABORATIVE FOR DIVERSITY**

Robinson & Cole's Diversity Committee hosted a cocktail reception to acknowledge the firm's commitment to mentoring. Attendees included: Robinson & Cole lawyers Bradford S. Babbitt, Ryan M. Burns, Michael R. Enright, Edward J. Heath, Peter R. Knight, Kristopher I. Moore, Megan R. Naughton, Martin A. Onorato, Keisha S. Palmer, Nicolas F. Perry, James P. Ray, Jonathan H. Schaefer, Evan J. Seeman, and George W. Watson III; Robinson & Cole staff Richard Martinez II, Marnie J. Rubin, and Howard K. Shafer; along with law students being mentored by Robinson & Cole attorneys through the mentoring program created and run by the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity (LCD).

The LCD was formed in Hartford, Connecticut in 2003 by concerned lawyers to answer the call for the progression of diversity in the legal profession. Its current challenge is to increase the recruitment, retention and advancement of lawyers of color, not only as good social policy, but also as an exemplary business practice.

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#### **2013 DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Patrick M. Birney  
Antionette D. Bishop  
Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson  
Amanda S. Eckhoff

John H. Kane, Chair  
Peter V. Lacouture  
John B. Lynch, Jr.  
Richard Martinez II  
Virginia E. McGarrity  
Kristopher I. Moore  
Keisha S. Palmer  
Nicolas F. Perry  
Marnie J. Rubin  
Edward J. Samorajczyk, Jr.  
Scott E. Sebastian  
Howard K. Shafer

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