



Diversity in Government Benefiting All Pennsylvanians

Webcast | July 27, 2020 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

1 ethics credit | Standard \$79*

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This program will explore the importance of diversity in the public sector. It will focus on the need for a diverse workforce, cultural competency, and how to attract diverse candidates. The CLE will discuss working in a diverse environment, bias in the workplace and ways to overcome it from the personal experiences of the panelists.

Discussion will include:

- Importance of a diverse workforce.
- Cultural competency.
- Bias in the workplace and how to address it.
- How to attract diverse candidates.
- Working in a diverse environment (clients and co-workers).
- Personal experience.

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OUR PANELISTS:

Ana Paulina Gomez, Esq. (moderator)

Ms. Gomez currently works for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department where she represents the Department in litigation before administrative tribunals and appellate courts. She also provides the Department with legal advice on Right-To-Know Law, contractual, and procurement matters among others. Prior to working for the Insurance Department, Ms. Gomez worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Education where she litigated educator misconduct cases and Right-to-Know Law matters at the administrative and appellate level. Prior to joining the OGC, Ms. Gomez was an Assistant District Attorney at the York County District Attorney's Office from 2012 until 2015. Prior to her work as an ADA, Ms. Gomez clerked for the Hon. Thomas Kelley in York County immediately after graduating from law school. Ms. Gomez attended the Penn State Dickinson School of Law where she interned for the Hon. Yvette Cane, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and served as a Senior Editor for the Penn State Environmental Law Review and a Miller Center for Public Interest Fellow. Ms. Gomez is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is also a trained mediator.

Rodney R. Akers, Esq.

Mr. Akers is Deputy General Counsel in the Governor's Office of General Counsel (OGC). His chief responsibilities include managing business and technology aspects of OGC and its nearly 500 attorneys who serve over 30 executive branch and independent Commonwealth agencies. Among his duties, he oversees OGC's lawyer education and legal technology initiatives, and is responsible for management of all outside counsel who perform legal services for OGC agency offices. He also serves as Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and a number of boards and commissions. Mr. Akers' principal areas of practice expertise are in information technology, intellectual property, regulatory compliance and contracts. He has extensive experience with e-commerce, information privacy, and cybersecurity issues as well as with copyright and trademark law. Mr. Akers has represented private and public sector clients before regulatory bodies, and negotiated a variety of complex contracts, licenses and agreements. A member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Board of Governors, Mr. Akers serves as Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he teaches courses as part of that institution's renowned Innovation Practice Institute. He received his Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of Virginia and is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

Jonathan W. Kunkel, Esq.

Mr. Kunkel is an Attorney with the Governor's Office of General Counsel and has been assigned to the Pennsylvania Office of Administration since June of 2018 and prior to that was assigned to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for three years. Mr. Kunkel, when he joined the Governor's Office of General Counsel, was originally assigned to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in the Employment Litigation Section where he served for eighteen years. Prior to joining the Governor's Office of General Counsel, Mr. Kunkel served as the Harrisburg Law Clerk to Senior Judge Narick of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. He is an active member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and is currently the Vice Chair of the Government Lawyers Committee, is a Zone 3 delegate to the House of Delegates, is a council member of the Administrative Law Section and previously served as the Chair; is a council member of the Labor and Employment Law Section and since 2000, has been a scoring judge for the Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the PBA's Young Lawyers' Division. Mr. Kunkel is also an active member of the Dauphin County Bar Association serving two terms as the Chair of the Government Law Section, three terms on the Board of Directors and in 2013, he became the association's first openly gay President. He has twice been the recipient of the Angelo Skarlatos Memorial Award presented by the DCBA's Young Lawyers Section to a member of the organization who demonstrates strong support of and advocacy for young lawyers. Mr. Kunkel is also a Master in the James S. Bowman American Inn of Court and served a two-year term as President and is a Master in the William Lipsitt American Inn of Court. For ten years, he served as an Instructor for the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program for the Widener School of Law in Delaware and in 2012 he was a Judging Panelist for the Legal Intelligencer's Lawyers on the Fast Track. Mr. Kunkel has presented numerous CLE programs pertaining to Pennsylvania Administrative Employment Law for the Governors' Office of General Counsel, the Dauphin County Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Stephanie F. Latimore, Esq.

Ms. Latimore is senior counsel with the Legislative Reference Bureau in Harrisburg where she serves in an executive management role, prepares legislation and conducts legal research for the Pennsylvania General Assembly. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland School of Law. She is a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, a former Minority Governor-at-Large on the PBA Board of Governors, a past chair of the PBA Minority Bar Committee and immediate past chair of the Editorial Board. She currently serves as Co-vice chair of Women in the Profession and on the Judicial Evaluation Commission. Ms. Latimore has also taught at the Penn State University Middletown Campus as an adjunct professor for the Paralegal Program.



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OUR PANELISTS, CONTINUED:

Maria L. H. Lewis, Esq.

Ms. Lewis is the Chief Diversity Officer of Faegre Drinker Biddle Reath LLP. A key position, the CDO plays an integral role regarding Faegre Drinker's policies and procedures and in fostering a diverse and inclusive environment throughout the firm. She also is the first firm-wide internal Career Counselor to all non-partner attorneys. In this role, she serves as a confidential resource to attorneys in navigating career decisions and other professional workplace matters. In her practice, Ms. Lewis is a litigator who has handled numerous employment and commercial litigation lawsuits. She also counsels her clients on issues in the workplace, including advising on discrimination and retaliation claims; conducting internal investigations; and conducting management and employee training on diversity and inclusion, implicit bias, discrimination, and sexual harassment. Before entering private practice, she served as an assistant district attorney at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, where she tried hundreds of preliminary hearings and trials. Among her community activities, Ms. Lewis is an ordained reverend and serves as an Associate Pastor at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA. Among her roles at Enon, she assists in analyzing the legal issues that impact the 13,000-member congregation and the surrounding community. Additionally, she is an executive board member for the Philadelphia Diversity Law Group and the Moderator for the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. Ms. Lewis is the recipient of various honors, including the 2019 "Best Mentor" Professional Excellence Award from The Legal Intelligencer, the 2019 Barristers' Association of Philadelphia "Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Woman of Distinction" Award, the 2019 Rutgers-Camden BLSA's "Martin Luther King, Jr. Champion of Social Justice and Equality" Award, and the 2014 Philadelphia Tribune's "Women Achieving" Award. She earned a J.D. from the Harvard Law School ('97) and a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh ('94), magna cum laude, where she was an Honor's College scholar, University senior leader of the year, and Rhodes Scholar semi-finalist. She is the proud mother of two beautiful young ladies, Brielle (19) and Alana (15).

La Tasha Williams, Esq.

Upon graduation from Widener Law Commonwealth, Ms. Williams clerked for the Honorable Maria Musti Cook, Judge of the York County Court of Common Pleas, where she concentrated in criminal appeals research and writing. She previously represented clients as a Certified Legal Intern with the Lehigh County Public Defender's Office and honed her research skills with Holt Law Firm, Harrisburg, PA. Prior to joining Holt Law, she was a Legal Assistant with the Law Office of Damian J DeStefano where she assisted with the day-to-day operations of the criminal and family law practice and drafted routine criminal court pleadings. She was previously a Research Analyst II with the Pa. House of Representatives for 8 years where she analyzed, evaluated, and used collected data to draft bills, bill analyses, and amendments to proposed and existing law. Additional duties included coordinating public relations events, traveling to state prisons to interview prison officials and prisoners regarding alleged civil rights violations and briefing legislators on policy and statutory law. Ms. Williams has used her policy background in her role as an adjunct sociology instructor for the Community College of Philadelphia. Her past work experience spans different companies that work in the public policy and legal disciplines. She began her career as a legal assistant with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Other noteworthy work experience includes engagements with ChildLink as an Early Intervention Specialist, the Juvenile Justice Center of Philadelphia as a Therapeutic Support Staff, and Elevated Advocacy as a post-conviction litigation consultant. Ms. Williams has extensive post-conviction litigation research, writing and support experience and has provided countless hours of volunteer consultant work for indigent criminal defendants during post-conviction litigation. She is excited to continue serving the citizens of York as she steps into her new role as a deputy prosecutor.

Philip H. Yoon, Esq.

Mr. Yoon is the Chief Staff Attorney of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Previously, he served as Administrative Assistant to President Judge Correale F. Stevens, a law clerk to the Honorable John T.J. Kelly, Jr., and chief law clerk to the Honorable James J. Fitzgerald, III, in the Superior Court, as well as law clerk to Justice Fitzgerald in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He is a 2004 graduate of the Washington and Lee University School of Law and a 2000 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He is based in Philadelphia and oversees the Superior Court's Central Legal Staff offices in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh. Mr. Yoon is an active member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, serving on the PBA Board of Governors as Minority At-Large Governor, as co-chair of the PBA's Bar Leadership Institute, Philadelphia Bar Association delegate to the PBA House of Delegates, and as an active member of the Law-Related Education, Appellate Advocacy, and Minority Bar Committees.



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