

Fourth Quarter 2009

Brent Clinkscale Receives Thurgood Marshall College Fund's Founders Award at the Organization's 20th Anniversary Awards Gala Dinner: Lighting the Path for Tomorrow's Leaders



Pictured from left to right: Moses Boyd, DC Lobbyist- former Counsel to Senate Commerce Committee; Brent Clinkscale; Honorable Matthew Perry; Honorable Jean Toal; Eric Miller (Upstate Alliance).

NEW YORK—More than 50 years ago, future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall began his battle against school segregation with a case in South Carolina. Now, a South Carolina attorney, Womble Carlyle's [Brent Clinkscale](#), has been honored by the organization that embodies Justice Marshall's legacy.

The [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#) honored Clinkscale with the Founders Award, the highest volunteer award given by the Fund. Clinkscale is a long-time member of the Fund's Board of Directors and also serves as its General Counsel, providing his expertise on a *pro bono* basis. Clinkscale received the Founders Award at the Fund's 22nd

Monthly Calendar

January – National Mentoring Month

1/19 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (Observed)

1/30 – 50th Anniversary Gala & Banquet, Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC

February – National Black History Month

2/1 – International Civil Rights Center & Museum Opening (Greensboro, NC)

2/1 – 50th anniversary of the Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins at Woolworths

March – National Women's History Month

3/8- International Women's Day (United Nations)

Anniversary Dinner, held Monday Nov. 5th at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers in New York City. The star-studded gala was hosted by acclaimed actor Danny Glover.

“Brent has made service to others a cornerstone of his practice,” Womble Carlyle Managing Member [Keith Vaughan](#) said. “Much like Justice Thurgood Marshall, Brent is an example of what a citizen-attorney can and should be.”

“Brent Clinkscale’s strong leadership at Thurgood Marshall College Fund has changed the lives of thousands of college students and subsequently created a better future not just for them, but for the United States of America,” said Jim Clifton, Chairman and CEO of The Gallup Organization. Clifton received the Thurgood Marshall College Fund’s Founders Award in 2008 for his service to the organization.

Clinkscale has led Womble Carlyle’s efforts to forge strong ties with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which has provided college scholarships to more than 7,700 students in the last 22 years. Womble Carlyle was the first law firm to win the Fund’s Corporate Leadership Award in 2003, and Vaughan chaired the Fund’s Anniversary Dinner in 2006.

Clinkscale is a business litigation attorney in Womble Carlyle’s Greenville, S.C., office. He focuses his practice on complex business disputes and class actions. In 2005, *Greenville Magazine* named him one of Greenville’s 50 Most Influential People.

Other Womble Carlyle attendees reported positive experiences at the anniversary weekend events and gala.

"I attended the career fair, which let me meet several of the students at the conference," said [Gemma Saluta](#), a product liability attorney in Winston-Salem. "Coming from an HBCU and being a [Womble Scholar](#), I immediately felt a connection with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund students."

Attorneys [Jacqueline Austin](#) and [Betty Temple](#) assisted at the event by participating in panel discussions for audiences of law school students.

"My panel was very effective because we had a wide range of diverse experience on my panel. We could cover just about any question thrown at us—and there were many," said Austin, an intellectual property attorney in Womble Carlyle's Greenville office.

Temple, a securities attorney in Atlanta and Greenville, said, "I also attended last year and it is a wonderful event. I really enjoy speaking to law students and sharing my experiences."

In all, nearly 30 Womble Carlyle attorneys and staff members attended the gala, including [Keith Vaughan](#), the Chair of the Firm Management Committee.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund provides scholarships, mentoring and other resources to students at the nation’s public Historically Black Colleges and Universities. During the last 20 years, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund has awarded more than \$100 million in scholarships and support, enabling more than 7,700 students to attend college. The Fund is the only national organization that provides scholarships to students attending the nation's six public Historically Black Law Schools.

Womble Carlyle Scholars Announced

WINSTON SALEM - The Womble Carlyle Scholars have been chosen for 2009/2010. The program will provide eight scholarships this year to students who are selected for their excellent academic performance, aptitude for personal and professional development outside the school environment and significant community service contributions. In addition to receiving the scholarship funds, each Womble Carlyle Scholar is offered a summer associate position with the firm.

The 2009/2010 Womble Carlyle Scholars are: Liana Rebollo (University of North Carolina), Andrea Hamilton (Duke University), Christine Mundia (George Washington University), Angela Harper (Duke University), Alta Ray (Howard University), Stanton Johnson (University of Maryland), Cyril Djoukeng (University of North Carolina), and Felicia Sampson (University of South Carolina).

“We are very excited about another stellar group of Scholars,” said Hada Haulsee, chair of the Womble Scholars Sub-Committee. “This is the sixth year for the Womble Carlyle Scholars Program. We are honored to have so many talented students apply for the scholarships and we are delighted to help these dedicated individuals join the legal profession.”

The firm is reaping benefits from the Womble Carlyle Scholars Program. Four Womble Carlyle Scholars are now employed as full time associates.

Womble Carlyle Wins 2009 Law Firm Diversity Award



Brent Clinkscale and Sky Woodward receiving the DRI Law Firm Diversity Award.

CHICAGO - Womble Carlyle was awarded the 2009 winner of the Law Firm Diversity Award by [DRI](#) (formerly the Defense Research Institute), the Voice of the Defense Bar, on Oct. 8th at DRI's Annual Meeting in Chicago. [Brent Clinkscale](#), Chairman of Womble Carlyle's Diversity Committee, and Sky Woodward accepted the award on the firm's behalf. When presenting the award to the firm, DRI's President said that Womble Carlyle was a “slam dunk” winner this year. DRI is the largest international

membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation.

[The DRI Awards](#) are national in scope and only one law firm in the country is honored annually for its commitment to diversity. DRI is the largest international membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation.

Diversity Matters

Washington DC Office Hosts Womble Carlyle Diversity Open



Student Golfer photographed with Womble Carlyle attorney, Kevin Pigott.

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Washington, D.C. area minority law school students and regional business leaders were invited to participate in an afternoon of golf and networking at the 4th Annual Womble Diversity Open (WDO) at TopGolf Game Centre in Alexandria, VA. And once again, the WDO was a tremendous success (even Mother Nature cooperated).

The goal of the WDO is to teach area minority law school students how to network by bringing them together with regional business leaders and Womble Carlyle attorneys over a game of golf. The event gives the students a head start on developing their networking and client development skills, which generally aren't taught in law school curriculums. Since a great deal of client development often takes place on a golf course, the event also helped to introduce golf to students who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to learn to play. For most of them, the packet of business cards provided to them by the firm as networking tools was empty by day's end.

“Being a successful attorney requires more than just knowledge of the law—you also must be attuned to your clients' business needs and goals,” said [Pam Rothenberg](#), Managing Member of the firm's D.C. office. “These types of value-added skills are particularly important in today's economic climate, but they can only be learned through practical experience.”

The event drew law school students from George Mason University School of Law, George Washington School of Law, Howard University School of Law, American University - Washington College of Law, University of the District of Columbia – David A. Clarke School of Law, University of Maryland Law School, and Georgetown University Law Center.

The law students were joined by more than 60 regional business leaders and Womble Carlyle attorneys and staff. Rod Brandon, Assistant Vice President at Merrill Lynch, served as keynote speaker and encouraged the students to make most of their opportunities.

“Practicing law involves more than just sitting behind a desk,” said attorney [Joann Wang](#), one of the event’s organizers. “You have to get out and really listen to your clients. Hopefully, the Womble Diversity Open helped these students understand that.”

Pam Rothenberg presented a \$2,500 check to Leigh Allen from the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). A non-profit entity of the American Bar Association, CLEO’s mission is to diversify the legal profession. Since their inception in 1968, CLEO has been at the forefront of helping minority, low-income, and disadvantaged students gain access to law school.

All prizes for teams, individuals, student door raffles, and gift bags were donated by the firm’s vendors. The event’s top prize for the first place team was a dinner for two at Morton’s Steak House in Washington, DC, with former Redskin Super Bowl Champion, Gary Clark. Members of the winning team –[Jim Gladstone](#), Womble Carlyle; Rod Brandon, Merrill Lynch; and Leslie Simmons, Howard University law student- will be picked up, along with a guest, by a donated car service, taken to the restaurant, and returned to their point of origin after dinner.

Womble Carlyle staff members Opal Benoit, Tanya Livengood, Beverly Myers, and Stephen Williams were instrumental in planning the event.

According to Howard University School of Law student Blake Sparrow, “It was the best law school event I have ever attended.”

Womble Carlyle Sponsors Diversity Summit



Pictured L to R are: Jack Williams, 2010 LCA President and moderator for Diversity Summit; Steve Henry, LCA Executive Director; Guanming Fang, speaker; and Brent Clinkscale, speaker.

ATLANTA—Diversity is deeply imbedded in Womble Carlyle’s corporate culture. That is why the firm was proud to be the exclusive premier sponsor of the [Litigation Counsel of America](#) Diversity Summit held on November 12, 2009 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Atlanta.

“Given Womble Carlyle’s emphasis on diversity initiatives, we were pleased to support the LCA’s Diversity Summit and look forward to actively participating in this event,” said attorney [Brent Clinkscale](#), leader of Womble Carlyle’s Diversity Committee.

Jack Williams served as Moderator for the Summit. Brent Clinkscale and [Guanming Fang](#), corporate lawyer and leader of the firm’s China practice, were speakers.

“Since the firm and the Atlanta office are dedicated to ongoing diversity efforts, we were honored to be the premiere sponsor of the LCA Diversity Summit,” said [Clint Richardson](#), Managing Member of the firm’s Atlanta Office. “We also are delighted that one of our members, Jack Williams, will serve as the LCA’s president next year.”

Diversity in Action

Marilyn Forbes and Hada Haulsee Win 2009 Women Extraordinaire Award



RALEIGH—Womble Carlyle attorneys [Marilyn Forbes](#) and [Hada de Varona Haulsee](#) have been named as winners of the 2009 Women Extraordinaire Award, presented by [Business Leader Media](#). The Women Extraordinaire Awards honor business leaders for their professional achievements and community involvement.

Marilyn has been a products liability litigator since 1985 and leads a team of more than 25 lawyers. She serves on Womble Carlyle’s Firm Management Committee, the group of attorneys that steers the more than 500-attorney, 11-office firm.

Marilyn helped found the firm’s Women’s Advisory Council, which works to recruit, retain and develop women attorneys.

In addition, Marilyn has an extensive track record of community participation. She spent two years as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. She currently serves of the boards of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Planned Parenthood Health Systems Board and the Community Partnerships, Inc. Board. She also serves as a senior lecturing fellow at the Duke University School of Law, and is a member of the Board of Visitors for the Wake Forest University School of Law.

“We’ve known for years that Marilyn is an outstanding attorney, business leader and citizen, and it is nice to see her recognized for her good work. We are very proud of her,” said Womble Carlyle Managing Member [Keith Vaughan](#).

Hada is a highly successful product liability litigation attorney with nearly 30 years of experience in defending clients in large-scale class action suits. Her many successful cases including representing Dryvit Systems Inc. (a building materials manufacturer) in a landmark 2001 product liability case that established a legal standard for similar litigation. The case (*Lienhart v. Dryvit Systems, Inc.*) has been cited dozens of times in courts across the country. Hada is ranked as a top attorney by both *The Best Lawyers in America* and *North Carolina Super Lawyers*, two prestigious, independent ratings.

But in addition to her legal practice, Hada also is highly active in both professional and civic activities. Hada wrote a legal guidebook for lawyers that translates commonly used legal terms from North Carolina criminal law into Spanish. That guidebook is now in use all across the state to help bridge the gap between English-speaking attorneys and Spanish-speaking clients, so that the attorneys can give these clients better representation. In 2007, the North Carolina Bar Association [recognized Hada with its Citizen Lawyer Award](#) for this effort.

“Hada is a leader, both within the firm and the community,” said [Betty Quick](#), Managing Member of the firm’s Winston-Salem office. “We are delighted to see her recognized with this much-deserved honor.”

Previous winners include North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue, Rep. Deborah K. Ross, Reynolds American Chairman, President & CEO Susan Ivey, and Volvo Logistics President Susan Alt. The winners are also featured in the December issue of *Triangle Business Leader* magazine.

Travis Townsend Wins Rising Star Award



ATLANTA—Womble Carlyle attorney Travis T. Townsend is the 2009 winner of the Rising Star Award, presented by the Atlanta Urban League. The Rising Star Award is presented annually by the Atlanta Urban League and Heineken to a young professional for community service and outstanding leadership.

Travis serves as a Big Brother through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Atlanta and is the Chairperson of the Personal and Professional Development Committee of the Atlanta Urban League Young Professionals. Travis is the Vice President and Board member of M.E.N.S. Wear, Inc., a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide life skills and employment training to urban men and male youths. He also provides *pro bono* work for the Georgia Innocence Project.

“This is a tremendous honor, and very much deserved,” said John F. Sandy Smith, senior Member in Womble Carlyle’s Atlanta Corporate and Securities practice. “In addition to being an outstanding attorney, Travis has an exemplary commitment to public service. Travis is a self-starter and consistently initiates activities to help others. We are very proud of him.” [Click here to view a video of Sandy congratulating Travis.](#)

Travis received his award on Saturday, November 14th at the Atlanta Urban League Equal Opportunity Day Dinner & Gala at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

At the firm, Travis is a Corporate and Securities attorney who helps companies in organizing, financing and growing businesses; executing mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and reorganizations; and preparing business relationship arrangements such as distribution agreements, employment agreements, consulting agreements, settlement agreements, and noncompetition and nondisclosure agreements. His clients include entrepreneurs and blue chip companies and businesses in the pharmaceutical, manufacturing, retail and telecommunications industries.

Travis is a graduate of the University of Michigan and University of Michigan School of Law.

Diversity Committee

Brent Clinkscale (Chair)	x5408	GRVL
Virginia Hoptman (Vice Chair)	x2230	NOVA
Alison Ashe-Card	x2685	WS
Alison Bost	x6328	CHAR
Bernard Coleman	x7576	ATL
Guanming Fang	x2444	ATL
Hada Haulsee	x3655	WS
Steve Kortanek	x4363	WIL
Kenneth Lewis	x2328	RTP
Betty Quick	x3638	WS
Pamela Rothenberg	x4422	DC
Nellie Shipley	x2107	RAL
Mitch Tuchman	x2333	RTP
Keith Vaughan	x3540	WS
Joann Waters	x3781	WS
Sky Woodward	x5823	BAL

Professional Staff

Carmen Canales	x6633	WS
Beth Keasler	x4979	CHAR
Tracey Lawrence	x6623	WS
Kenny Tatum	x7366	ATL
Russell Thomas	x4517	DC

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Diversity News welcomes your comments and suggestions, as well as ideas for future topics and written materials for publication. Please send your items to Kenny Tatum at ktatum@wcsr.com



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