

Third Quarter 2010

Womble Carlyle Attorneys Speak at International Chamber of Commerce Workshop in Hong Kong

Womble Carlyle attorneys Merrick Benn, Guanming Fang, and Rory Whelehan addressed a group of businesspeople, bankers, lawyers, and importers and exporters at a workshop presented by the [International Chamber of Commerce](#) in conjunction with [P.E.E.R. Consultancy Ltd](#) in Hong Kong on June 18-19, 2010.

During the two-day workshop, Womble Carlyle attorneys provided a survival guide to doing business with U.S. companies, specifically related to managing bankruptcy risk, taking security, and obtaining legal opinions.

Many Chinese companies faced substantial damages when their U.S. counterparties/clients entered into bankruptcy or Chapter 11 during the recent economic tsunami. The first portion of the workshop aimed to provide practical legal advice to minimize risks and maximize recovery in the event of a U.S. counterpart/client bankruptcy. Day two of the workshop updated attendees on the legal principles, procedures and latest developments on taking security in the U.S., particularly related to the increasing volume of cross-border financing involving the U.S.



About the Speakers and Womble Carlyle's Global Business Group

Womble Carlyle's [Global Business Group](#) has unmatched experience in assisting clients in global business issues. The firm offers services to U.S.-based clients with pending matters abroad, serves as a trusted counselor and advisor on business laws of other countries, as well as assists foreign clients seeking direction on business issues in the United States.

[Guanming Fang](#) is a member of Womble Carlyle's [Corporate and Securities Practice Group](#), the Diversity Committee, and leads the Firm's China Initiative. She represents clients across a broad range of industries (including Chinese companies) on issues relating to U.S. operations, company structures, and other corporate transactions. Fang is co-founder of the Georgia-China Alliance, a non-profit organization devoted to promoting business exchanges between the U.S. and China. She was born in China and is fluent in Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese in addition to English.

[Merrick Benn](#)'s practice focuses on personal property commercial financing with an emphasis on negotiating and documenting middle market and big ticket transactions. A member of the firm's [Capital Markets Business Group](#), Benn regularly works on both domestic and international finance matters and is experienced in handling structured loans, syndications, finance lease transactions and securitization.

[Rory Whelehan](#) is a [Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights](#) lawyer with over 20 years of experience. He concentrates his practice primarily on Chapter 11 cases and assorted bankruptcy litigation matters as well as out-of-court workouts and debt restructurings. Whelehan is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and is a Bankruptcy and Consumer Bankruptcy Specialist (North Carolina State Bar).

Law Students Learn Vital Networking Skills at Womble Carlyle Diversity Open

The 5th annual Womble Carlyle Diversity Open was a tremendous success, as dozens of clients, D.C.-area business leaders, law school students and Womble Carlyle attorneys participated in an afternoon of golf and networking at the TopGolf Game Center in Alexandria, VA. The event took place on Monday, October 4th.

The annual event helps diverse law school students from area colleges and universities learn networking and client development skills—lessons that aren't taught in the classroom. Such networking often takes place on the golf course, where minorities and women often are underrepresented. Participating law school students are paired with Womble Carlyle attorneys and business leaders for an in-person lesson in playing golf and doing business.



Getting Tips from the Golf Pro

The Womble Carlyle Diversity Open Committee, under the leadership of Todd Ross, organized the event. Special thanks go to Beverly Myers for her beyond-the-call-of-duty help in making this year's Diversity Open a success.

Womble Carlyle attendees included Lela Ames, Steve Bell, Opal Benoit, Sanjay Beri, Jason Cooke, Alida Dagostino, Isabel De Obaldia, Ciji Dodds, Elizabeth Grau, Mark Harkins, Todd Harris, Erica Harvey, Jason Hicks, Cathy Hinger, Debbie Israel, Karl Knoll, Elizabeth Lee, Melissa Morgan, Kevin Pigott, Todd Ross, Louis Rouleau, Colgate Selden, Stephanie Shaw, Robert Tanenbaum, Russell Thomas, Deborah Kowal, Beverly Myers, Pam Rothenberg and Katie Tedrow.



Chanté Bowser (shown on left), an Associate General Counsel in Freddie Mac's Legal Division, is responsible for representing the Corporation in all phases of single-family and general litigation, and fraud matters, was the guest speaker. Her practice areas include mortgage law, mortgage fraud, contractual disputes, and torts. Chanté is co-chair of the Legal Division's Diversity Committee and is a member of its Pro Bono committee. She also serves as the manager of the Legal Division's internship program and a team lead for Hometeam, Freddie Mac's philanthropic arm. She spoke to the group about taking advantage of every possibility offered. She also shared with the students that she had the opportunity to have interns for the fall and the summer and if anyone was interested they could speak to her after – of which they all took advantage of.

[Pam Rothenberg](#) (Washington, DC Office Managing Member and the Strategic Planning Chair of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) thanked everyone for coming and presented a \$2,500 check to CLEO.

HNBA 2010 Annual Convention: El Futuro Sin Límite/Future Without Limits

The 2010 Hispanic National Bar Association Annual Convention was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year from September 8-11, 2010. Guests enjoyed four days of non-stop educational programs, enlightening speakers, networking opportunities, and some of the finest entertainment around.



Networking events took place during an electric evening at the Science Museum, in between exciting sounds at Orchestra Hall, and throughout an elegant evening at the Annual Gala which was held at the Hilton Minneapolis.

Attendees obtained CLE credits in a wide variety of topics such as: Legal Remedies for Victims of Mass Disasters, Workouts that Worked Out, Intellectual Property Without Borders, and Perspectives from the Bench – Good and Bad Pre-Trial Advocacy. Attendees were also encouraged to bring plenty of résumés and take part in one of the largest job fairs in the country featuring representatives from top-notch law firms, government agencies and corporations.

In honor of supporting the Annual Convention, a number of guest speakers were in attendance. They included Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Robert Raben (President and Founder, The Raben Group, Washington, DC), The Honorable Edward Toussaint, Jr. (Chief Judge, Minnesota Court of Appeals, St. Paul, MN), The Honorable Manuel J. Cervantes (Administrative Law Judge, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings, St. Paul, MN), The Honorable Tanja Manrique (Judge, 4th Judicial District, Hennepin County, MN), Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), and Stephen Zack (President of the American Bar Association).

Womble Carlyle was represented by attendees [Brent Clinkscale](#), Member in the Business Litigation Practice Group, [Edward Rojas](#), Member in the Capital Markets Practice Group, [Isabel De Obaldia](#), Associate in the Corporate & Securities Practice Group, Carmen Canales, Chief Talent, and Kelvin Chin, Sales Director.

Womble Carlyle Sponsors 7th Annual Women in Office Institute Graduation

The NC Center for Women in Public Service was established in 2003. The Center is a non-profit, non-partisan, statewide organization with a mission devoted to encouraging and educating women interested in extending their influence through public service. Through comprehensive training programs, the Center prepares women to enter the political pipeline. The Center helps women build their confidence and develop the practical skills necessary to run successful campaigns and serve as powerful and effective leaders. The Women in Office Institute is an intensive six-day residential program designed as an introduction to what is involved in public service work. The Institute allows participants to interact with women who have served in appointed or elected public positions, as well as, hone their leadership skills, prepare for political campaigning, and develop tools for effective and ethical public service. The 7th Annual Women in Office Institute Graduation was held on July 17, 2010 at Peace College in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ken Lewis Returns to Womble Carlyle Following Senate Bid



Former U.S. Senate candidate [Ken Lewis](#) has returned to practice as a member of the Corporate and Securities Group at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC.

Lewis recently finished third in the six-candidate Democratic Primary for North Carolina's U.S. Senate seat, currently held by Republican Richard Burr. Lewis garnered more than 72,000 votes—or 17 percent of the total cast—in his first bid for elected office.

Following a leave of absence during the campaign, Lewis returned to the firm's Research Triangle Park office on Monday, June 7th.

“Running for office was a tremendous experience. I had the opportunity to meet voters all across North Carolina. I also was honored to receive the endorsement of such notable leaders as retired North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Henry Frye, Congressmen GK Butterfield and Mel Watt as well as former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, former Durham Mayor Wib Gulley and former Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy,” Lewis said.

“But I am excited to be returning to Womble Carlyle. I have been practicing law for more than two decades, and I am ready to get back to working with clients,” he added. “Business and community development are a big component of my practice, and the many fine people I met on the campaign trail both in and outside of North Carolina will be of great benefit in those efforts.”

Lewis' practice includes advising boards of directors and management of public and private companies and representing such companies in a variety of matters, including capital formation, strategic alliances, mergers and acquisitions and divestitures. He also represents investors as well as investees in venture capital and other private equity transactions, as well as non-profit organizations engaged in affordable housing and community development.

“While we certainly supported Ken's decision to run for office, we are delighted to have him back home at Womble Carlyle,” said Christopher Bolen, Managing Member of the firm's Research Triangle Park office.

Along with serving on the Diversity Committee at Womble Carlyle, Lewis will also serve as Chairman of N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall's Senate campaign. Lewis said he will help Marshall with policy development, voter education and grassroots organizing.

Attorney Spotlight: Sanjay N. Beri

Sanjay joined the firm in August 2009 with a practice that focuses primarily on technology licensing, specifically monetizing clients' intellectual property assets in the high-tech and software industries. He counsels a variety of clients in high-tech, software, medical device, satellite, mobile, healthcare and Internet industries regarding the structuring and negotiation of their technology-related deals and commercial exploitation of their intellectual property assets.



Sanjay has represented hundreds of clients in the technology space, drafting and negotiating a wide range of technology-related agreements including enterprise software licensing agreements, application service provider agreements, distribution/reseller agreements, services agreements, development agreements, consulting agreements and content licensing and hosting arrangements.

Sanjay will also be one of the panel speakers presenting at the MCCA conference next month in NY. “I'm excited to be participating at the MCCA's conference in New York. Womble Carlyle is committed to increasing the ranks of diverse attorneys within the legal profession and MCCA provides an outstanding forum for continuing this commitment.”

Womble Carlyle's Greenville Offices Hosts Diverse Lawyers Reception



(L-R) Jacquelyn Austin, Judge Michelle Childs, Carl Solomon, Sterling Laney

On July 15th, Womble Carlyle's Greenville office hosted a Diverse Lawyers Reception, with South Carolina Bar President Carl Solomon as the Guest of Honor.

In addition, South Carolina Circuit Court Judge Michelle Childs was in attendance. Judge Childs recently was nominated to the U.S. District Court bench for the District of South Carolina by President Obama.

The goal of the Diverse Lawyers Reception was to bring together a diverse group of lawyers from across Greenville for networking purposes. Nearly 45 attendees participated in the event.

"The event was well attended by lawyers from Greenville, Spartanburg and Seneca. A number of summer law clerks from other firms also attended. The group was very diverse and very honored to have been invited," said Jacquelyn Austin. "Everyone had a great time socializing and meeting the new SC Bar President Carl Solomon and our newest upstate Judge, Michelle Childs. The Greenville office lawyers were great hosts and a great time was had by all."

Sandy Smith Discusses Educational Efforts to Help Atlanta Students Achieve



School districts all across the country pour resources into helping low-performing students. And many schools also offer programs for high achievers.

But the students in between, the group educators call the "middle third," often fall through the cracks. So sixteen years ago, Womble Carlyle attorney [John F. "Sandy" Smith](#) helped form Odyssey, a non-profit partnership designed to put Atlanta students on "a quest for

knowledge and a path to college."

To date, Odyssey has helped more than 3,000 students, who pay no tuition to attend Odyssey's summer sessions. The program was profiled by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "We created an opportunity for kids who were just bumping along in school to get excited about school and improve their academic performance each year," said Smith.

Womble Carlyle Paralegal Tonya Lanier Writes New Book on N.C. History

History must be collected in order to survive. Otherwise, it becomes forgotten over time, and a community loses an important connection to its past.

Tonya Lanier, a paralegal on Womble Carlyle's [Product Liability Litigation Team](#), saw such a need where she grew up in Davidson County, N.C. The county's African-American community has a rich heritage, but that history had never been formally collected. Lanier feared that as older residents passed on, their memories of important events and people would be lost forever.

Lanier wanted to do something to preserve that history. When Lanier read a book from Arcadia Publishing, a national publisher that specializes in local history, she became inspired to act.

"I said, 'I could do something like this for my county,'" Lanier said. And she did, writing *African-Americans of Davidson County*, a new book from [Arcadia Publishing](#).

In early 2009, Lanier began the long, time-consuming process of collecting Davidson County's African-American history and turning it into a book. Lanier interviewed dozens of local residents and poured over hundreds of old photos to find stories of Davidson County's heritage. She visited church groups and community organizations looking for information, and dug into records at the Davidson County Historical Museum.

In fact, Museum officials brought Lanier a treasure trove of 200 old photos that lacked identification. Through her research, Lanier was able to identify many of the people in those photos and included them in her book.

She soon found that the challenge wasn't finding enough information—it was organizing all of the many stories that people wanted to share.

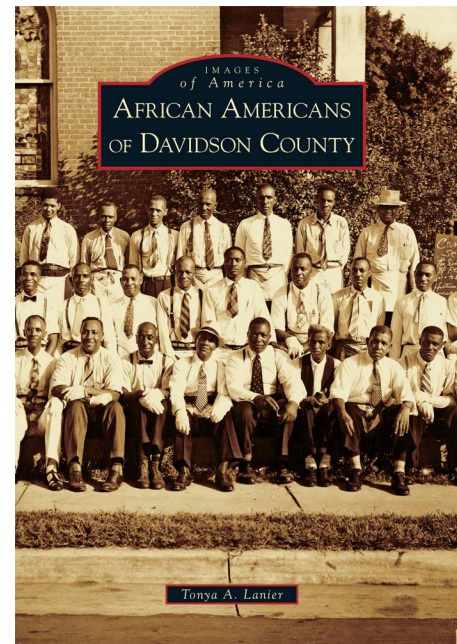
"There were so many interesting people," she said. "I kept saying, 'I need to do more on this person.'"

Another challenge was simply finding time to do all of the research and writing. In addition to her career at Womble Carlyle, Lanier also serves on the Lexington City Council. But she managed to find a time here and there on weekends and at night to complete her project.

Lanier's book already has received extensive coverage in the [Lexington Dispatch](#) and Winston-Salem Chronicle newspapers, and she has two book signings in Lexington on Sept. 18th.

Now that she is a published author, would Lanier go through this process again?

"Most definitely," she said. "There are other books I want to write, probably historical in nature."



Sky Woodward Named Litigation Counsel of America Fellow



Womble Carlyle attorney [T. Sky Woodward](#) has been named a Fellow in the [Litigation Counsel of America \(LCA\)](#), a trial lawyer honor society consisting of less than one-half of one percent of U.S. lawyers.

Fellowship in the LCA is highly selective and by invitation only. Fellows are selected “after being evaluated on effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation and trial work, along with ethical reputation,” according to the LCA.

“I am honored to be included in the ranks of the Litigation Counsel of America Fellows. It is particularly gratifying to have been selected for such recognition by my peers in the legal profession,” Woodward said.

Woodward represents real estate and financial service industry clients in indoor environmental quality and commercial litigation; manufacturing clients in mass tort product liability and toxic tort cases and emerging environmental matters; and other businesses in environmental, land use, and commercial litigation matters. She is a member of Womble Carlyle’s Diversity Committee.

Among her many professional honors, Woodward is ranked as a Maryland Super Lawyer for Product Liability Defense Litigation and one of Maryland’s Top 25 Women Lawyers. She also is ranked as one of the Best Lawyers in America for Product Liability law. Woodward practices in the Baltimore office.

Kim Stogner Elected to North Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors

Womble Carlyle attorney [Kim Stogner](#) has been elected to the Board of Governors of the [North Carolina Bar Association](#). She will serve a three-year term on the board. Stogner also will serve on the NCBA’s Executive Committee and Diversity Task Force.

Stogner is immediate past chair of the Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. In 2009, she was named a winner of the NCBA’s prestigious [Citizen Lawyer Award](#) for her extensive community service. Stogner has been active in a wide range of charitable and civic efforts, including the United Way of Forsyth County, Crisis Control Ministry, the Crosby Scholars Program, the Children’s Museum of Winston-Salem, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center Regional Advisory Board of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Asset Development Committee of the Winston-Salem Foundation.



The announcement of new Board of Governors members was made at the recent 2010 NCBA Annual Meeting in Wilmington, N.C.

Stogner is a Trust & Estates attorney practicing in Womble Carlyle's Winston-Salem office. She has consistently been ranked as one of North Carolina's top trust and estates attorneys in recent years, ranking in Woodward/White Inc's *Best Lawyers in America* and Business North Carolina's *North Carolina Legal Elite* numerous times. Law and Politics magazine has named her a "Super Lawyer" every year since 2006 and this magazine also has named her one of North Carolina's top 50 female lawyers. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Wake Forest University School of Law.

North Carolina Central University School of Law Presents 2010-2011 General Counsel Speakers Series

Womble Carlyle is a sponsor of the NCCU School of Law 2010-2011 General Counsel Speakers Series. The first speaker of the series was Mark Chandler, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Cisco. Jeanine Mitchell and Jackie Camp attended that event on Thursday, September 30th.



The next speaker in the series will be Michelle Coleman Mayes, Vice President and General Counsel, Allstate Corporation and Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Allstate Insurance Company. She is scheduled to speak on January 20, 2011.



The final speaker of the series will be John McArthur, Executive Vice President – Administration and Corporate Relations and General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Progress Energy.

CLEO - Womble Carlyle Road to Law School Academy

The future health of the legal profession depends on a steady stream of talented, diverse attorneys. Womble Carlyle is working to ensure that bright young minds from a variety of backgrounds consider a career in the law.

The firm once again sponsored the [Council on Legal Education Opportunity](#) (CLEO)—Womble Carlyle Road to Law School Academy at the University of North Carolina this past July. The summer program invited minority undergraduate students to participate in pre-law courses, meet with working attorneys and learn about the law school application process.

Womble Carlyle attorneys from the Raleigh and RTP offices hosted the students for a breakfast reception, tour and panel discussion on Saturday, July 24th.

[Johnny Loper](#), Managing Member of Womble Carlyle's Raleigh office, and Chief Talent Officer Carmen Canales attended the program's closing ceremony on July 30th at the UNC Law School Rotunda. Loper provided comments about his own journey to becoming a lawyer, and shared best practices and tips for the students to consider as they enter the legal profession.

2011 Womble Scholars Named

For each of the past six years, Womble Carlyle has promoted diversity in the legal profession by providing merit-based scholarships and summer job offers to a select group of minority law students at law schools within the firm's footprint.

The 2011 Womble Scholars are Jessica Boluda (University of Virginia), Kunal Choksi (Duke), Emmanuel Tedder (Howard), Michael Vargas (Duke), Quintin Byrd (North Carolina Central University), Alex Abramovich (University of North Carolina), Sharika Robinson (North Carolina Central University), Eric White (Northwestern), Justin Redd (University of Maryland), and Carla Hemida (University of North Carolina). The scholarship winners represent a richly diverse set of backgrounds, experiences and interests.

DC Office Hosts CLEO Reception

On the evening of September 29, the Washington, D.C. office hosted the 4th Annual CLEO Networking and Business Exchange Reception for CLEO alumni, students, and friends. The Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) was founded in 1968 as a non-profit project of the ABA Fund for Justice and Education to expand opportunities for minority and low-income students to attend law school. In 1998, Congress passed the Higher Education Amendments Act, creating the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program, which they deemed be administered by CLEO.

CLEO is committed to diversifying the legal profession by expanding legal education opportunities to minority, low-income and disadvantaged groups. Since its inception, more than 8,000 students have participated in CLEO's pre-law and law school academic support programs, successfully matriculated through law school, passed the bar exam and joined the legal profession. CLEO alumni, many who had less than traditional academic indicators of success, yet were given an opportunity to attend law school, are represented in every area of society, including: private law firms and corporations, law schools, federal and state judiciaries, and legislatures across the country. The influence of CLEO alumni in the legal profession, in particular and throughout the country in general, is an indication of the important role CLEO has played in helping to provide a voice to underrepresented groups.

Remarks were given by Pam Rothenberg, D.C. Office Managing Member and the Strategic Planning Chair of the CLEO Council, and Cassandra Sneed Ogden, CLEO's Executive Director.



(Left) Cassandra Sneed Ogden, CLEO's Executive Director, engaging in a conversation with the staff and students

Diversity Committee

Brent Clinkscale (Chair)	x5408	GRVL
Virginia Hoptman (Vice Chair)	x2230	NOVA
Alison Ashe-Card	x2685	WS
Alison Bost	x6328	CHAR
Jackie Camp	x8069	GSO
Bernard Coleman	x7576	ATL
Isabel De Obaldia	x2269	NOVA
Guanming Fang	x7388	ATL
Todd Harris	x2267	NOVA
Hada Haulsee	x3655	WS
Deborah Israel	x4466	DC
Danae Johnson	x4974	CHAR
Kenneth Lewis	x2328	RTP
Kevin Lyn	x8151	RAL
Pamela Rothenberg	x4422	DC
Sid Shenoy	x4970	CHAR
Keith Vaughan	x3540	WS
Joann Waters	x3781	WS
Sky Woodward	x5823	BAL

Professional Staff

Carmen Canales	x6633	WS
Beth Keasler	x4979	CHAR
Russell Thomas	x4517	DC
Michelle Tucker	x2722	WS

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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 Carmen Canales at Carmen.Canales@wcsr.com



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