

*Spring 2009*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Womble Scholars Dinner



*Pictured Left to Right are Womble Carlyle Scholars Maria – Elena Lapetina (UNC-Chapel Hill), Johanna Valenzuela (University of South Carolina), Sun – Yeong Shin (Emory), Tiffani Otey (Wake Forest University), Barbara Colberg (University of Virginia), Judge Patricia Timmons – Goodson and Raleigh Office Managing Member Johnny Loper.*

The firm held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Womble Scholars Dinner on Friday April 17, 2009. The event was held at the Cardinal Club in downtown Raleigh. For each of the past five years, the firm 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. This year the firm awarded nine such scholarships.

The Annual Womble Scholars Dinner provides an opportunity for scholarship recipients and their guests to meet and mingle with attorneys, clients, and prospective clients of the firm. The dinners also provide the firm with an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the scholarship recipients and celebrate the firm's commitment to greater diversity in the legal profession.

The panoramic view of downtown Raleigh and the Old State Capitol offered by the Cardinal Club provided the perfect setting for a cocktail reception and dinner honoring this year's Womble Scholars. Raleigh office managing member, Johnny Loper, kicked off the evening's program with a warm and hearty welcome of the Scholars and other invited guests. After dinner, Kenneth Lewis of the firm's RTP office introduced the dinner's featured speaker, The Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Justice Timmons-Goodson, the third woman and the first African-American woman to serve on North Carolina's highest court, jokingly noted that throughout her illustrious career she has often been "the diversifier." Justice Timmons-Goodson praised the firm for its efforts to increase diversity in the legal profession through initiatives like the Womble Scholars program. She also spoke about the importance of diversity in quality decision-making and in spurring on new ideas and innovation.

Justice Timmons-Goodson's speech was followed by Raleigh office member Nellie Shipley's introduction of Gemma Saluta, a Womble Scholar past recipient and an associate in the firm's Winston-Salem office. Gemma spoke passionately about her experience growing up in an immigrant family, her journey to the legal profession, and the importance of diversity in the profession. After recognition of each Womble Scholar, the evening ended as it began with warm remarks from Johnny Loper.

The Womble Scholars in attendance at the reception and dinner were Barbara Colberg (UVA), Maria-Elena Lapetina (UNC), Tiffani Otey (Wake Forest), Sun-Yeong Shin (Emory) and Johanna Catalina Valenzuela (USC). The scholarship winners represented a richly diverse set of backgrounds, experiences and interests that powerfully underscored the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Womble Scholars Dinner's theme of "Achieving Excellence Through Diversity."

## **Womble Carlyle Scholars Program Honored at Emory Law**

The Womble Carlyle Scholars Program and two Womble Carlyle Scholars were honored, along with other scholarship sponsors and recipients, at a seated dinner at the Emory University School of Law on Thursday, March 5, 2009. Jill Girardeau of Womble Carlyle's Atlanta office attended on behalf of the firm and spent the evening with two recent Womble Carlyle Scholars, Esther Yu and Sun-Yeong Shin. After dinner, Dean Partlett of Emory Law spoke briefly about the importance of providing scholarships to deserving law students, especially in these difficult economic times. Dean Partlett noted that because of the philanthropy of Womble Carlyle and other scholarship sponsors, students are able to obtain the benefits of a legal education while graduating with manageable debt.

The Womble Carlyle Scholars Program provides scholarships to diverse second year law students. These students may, but are not required to, work as a summer associate in one of Womble Carlyle's 11 offices. To date, 40 scholarships have been awarded, five Womble Carlyle Scholars are currently associates with the firm, and two Womble Carlyle Scholars will join the firm in the fall of 2009.

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## **Diversity Matters**

### **Winston-Salem Office Sponsors 2009 Hispanic League Spanish Nite Scholarship Awards Gala**



*Pictured left to right are Spanish Nite Scholarship Winner Stefanny Roman Lazo with Winston-Salem Office Managing Member Betty Quick.*

Several attorneys from the firm's Winston-Salem office attended the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Spanish Nite Scholarship Awards Gala, presented by the Hispanic League. Carmen Canales, WCSR's Chief Talent Officer, served as co-emcee of the event, which provides scholarships to Latino students for pursuit of a degree at a college or university. The firm's scholarship recipient is Stefanny Roman Lazo, a senior at Glenn High School, who will attend Forsyth Technical Community College in the fall. Attendees enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing to the music of DJ Edgar Menendez. Firm attendees were: Liz and Ascary Arias, Chris Geis, Tripp and Paige Greason, Chris and Sandy Leon, Betty Quick, and Kim and Stuart Stogner.



*Pictured left to right are Chief Talent Officer Carmen Canales, Trust and Estates Member Liz Arias with husband Ascary Arias.*

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## Diversity in Action

### **DRI Sharing Success Seminar**

For the second year in a row, Womble Carlyle sponsored a successful networking reception at DRI's *Sharing Success: A Seminar for Women Lawyers* on March 5, 2009, in Santa Monica, California. Designed by and geared towards women litigators, the DRI Sharing Success Seminar featured presentations by women law firm managing partners, well-known practitioners, in-house counsel, a judge, a professor, and consultants. The presentations included enhancing deposition and courtroom skills, communication styles and their impact on establishing, influencing, and maintaining relationships with clients and colleagues, networking tips, and concepts of happiness in the context of personal and professional satisfaction. Baltimore member Sky Woodward presented on the Women of Womble program as part of a panel discussion of women's leadership initiatives. Rachel Daly and Carrie Hanger attended the conference, and Katie Tedrow provided on-site support for the reception. The seminar was attended by 170 women lawyers from around the country, as well as DRI's President Marc Williams and President-Elect, Cary Hiltgen.

### **Womble Carlyle Sponsors Minority Corporate Counsel Association 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CLE Expo**

Womble Carlyle participated as a sponsor of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's ("MCCA") 8th Annual CLE Expo in downtown Chicago, Illinois on March 19 and 20. The event was attended by more than 400 in-house counsel and law firm attorneys from throughout the country. Each year the MCCA limits the registration of law firm attorneys in order to maintain a 1:1 ratio of in-house counsel to law firm attorneys. The firm's sponsorship included a booth in the convention's hospitality hall where client development and recruiting related materials were distributed to the conference attendees.

The MCCA advocates for the expanded hiring, retention, and promotion of minority attorneys in corporate law departments and the law firms that serve them. The MCCA accomplishes its mission through the collection and dissemination of information about diversity in the legal profession. The organization's CLE Expo brings together the best and brightest, with a special emphasis on talented minority and women attorneys who will share their expertise on their substantive legal practice areas. It is an outstanding business development and networking event for all lawyers.

Brent Clinkscale, Kenny Tatum, Daryle Bost, and Lisa Breeding from Womble Carlyle attended the CLE Expo and met with in-house counsel from around the country at an exposition booth sponsored by Womble Carlyle. The Womble Carlyle contingent provided information about a variety of the firm's efforts related to diversity.

The Expo was a great opportunity to discuss the diverse legal problems corporations are currently facing and the advantages of having a diverse group of attorneys available to provide solutions. Several in-house counsel from current Womble Carlyle clients were in attendance. This event also served as an opportunity to align our diversity efforts with those of our clients.

## **Thurgood Marshall College Fund Second Annual Awards of Excellence**



*Pictured left to right are Judge Barry Williams and Judge Yvette Bryant of the Baltimore City Circuit Court; Ava Lias-Booker, co-honorary chair and partner at McGuire Woods; Sky Woodward; Brent Clinkscale; and Charles G. Byrd Jr. National Bar Association, Regional Director for Region IV and partner at Alston & Byrd.*

Womble Carlyle sponsored the ***Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) Second Annual Awards of Excellence*** reception and ceremony on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African-American History & Culture in Baltimore, Maryland. The event showcased the TMCf member schools in the State of Maryland, including Morgan State University, Coppin State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Bowie State University, which collectively received over 76 TMCf Scholarships in 2007. Acknowledged throughout the evening were distinguished individuals who have achieved excellence in their chosen fields and who exemplify Justice Thurgood Marshall's commitment to justice, civil rights and education.

Baltimore member Sky Woodward served as Co-Chair of the event's Host Committee; she and Greenville member and TCMF Board Member Brent Clinkscale greeted more than 200 guests and honorees and gave remarks from the stage. Womble Carlyle hosted guests Hon. Barry Williams, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Hon. Yvette Bryant, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Hon. Andrew R. Arthur, U. S. Immigration Court; Bruce Williams, President, All-Star Companies; and Dwayne Robinson, President, VSTI. Other attendees included Womble attorneys Virginia Hoptman, a former law clerk to Justice Marshall, Dean Rutley and Sales Director Martha McCollum.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Inc. is named for the late U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice who was dedicated to law and education. In addition to scholarships, TCMF programs include talent sourcing which is a talent pool for potential permanent jobs or student internships; sharing information at the annual Leadership Institute in New York to top, energized students who desire to become our future leaders; and providing training on university advancement to development staffs at member schools.

## **Greenville Office Sponsors United Negro College Fund 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Upstate Salute to Education Gala**

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Upstate Salute to Education Gala at the Carolina First Center in Greenville, South Carolina on March 19, 2009. Founded in 1944, UNCF provides scholarships and operational support to help keep a college education affordable for students at its member universities. Presently, UNCF provides support for more than 60,000 students across the country at 39 historically black colleges and universities. South Carolina is home to five historically black colleges that are members of UNCF. They are Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Morris College, and Voorhees College. During the Gala, UNCF awarded scholarships to 16 students. The scholarships ranged from \$5,000 to full tuition. The event was capped off with a musical performance by the Manhattans.

In attendance from Womble Carlyle were Catherine Atwood, Clay Custer, Judith Morgan-Glenn, Jermaine Johnson, Jeff Pascoe, Matt Trent, and Catherine Wrenn.

## **Charlotte Office Sponsors Urban League of the Central Carolinas Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Celebration**

On March 26, 2009 the Urban League of the Central Carolinas held its annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. awards gala at the Wachovia Atrium in Uptown Charlotte. Each year, this event is among the largest and most recognized human service agency fundraising events in Charlotte. This year was no different as the affair was well attended by local businesses and community leaders, including representatives from Womble Carlyle—a proud sponsor of the event.



The Whitney M. Young, Jr. award seeks to honor the contributions of individuals who promote long-term financial stability among underserved families and racial inclusion within their communities. This year's honoree was Kevin A. Henry, Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer, Coca Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated. Through his leadership and philanthropic endeavors, Kevin Henry has positively impacted the Charlotte community for many years. "Kevin exhibits an understanding of our philanthropic community and the need for inclusion. He embodies the legacy of Whitney M Young, Jr., and is a worthy recipient of the award," says Dr. Patrick Graham, President of the Urban League of Central Carolinas.

The evening concluded with a live performance from renowned R&B vocalist, Raphael Saadiq. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the event directly benefit the Urban League's Linking Youth to Technology through Education (LYTE) and Professional Adult Empowerment Programs (PEP).

## **Winston-Salem Office Sponsors 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Black Law Students Association Scholarship Banquet**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Scholarship Banquet was held Friday, February 27, 2009. The banquet is an annual fundraising effort to support scholarships for a BLSA member from each class. The theme for this year's banquet was "Lawyers at the Forefront of Global Change."

The keynote speaker was Associate Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson of the North Carolina Supreme Court. A member of the Supreme Court of North Carolina since February 2006, Justice Timmons-Goodson is the first African-American woman to sit and the third woman elected to serve on North Carolina's highest court. With 25 years of service in the judiciary, Justice Timmons-Goodson is one of North Carolina's longest serving active judges. Justice Timmons-Goodson challenged the BLSA students to reach back and pull someone else up as they climb the ladder of success.

Womble Carlyle attorneys attending the program were, Cal Adams, Tony Brett, Alison Ashe-Card, Sam Pinero, Betty Quick, Gemma Saluta and Georgiana Yonuschot. The firm sponsored a table at this event.

### 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
Guanming Fang	x2444	ATL
Jessie Fontenot	x7423	ATL
Hada Haulsee	x3655	WS
Steve Kortanek	x4363	WIL
Antonio Lewis	x4962	CHAR
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

### Contributors

Carmen Canales  
Alison Ashe-Card  
Jill Girardeau  
Jermaine Johnson  
Antonio Lewis  
Kenneth Lewis  
Martha McCollum  
Kenny Tatum  
Sky Woodward

Diversity News welcomes your comments and suggestions as well as ideas for future topics and written materials for publication. Please send your items to Kalin Griffin at [KGriffin@wcsr.com](mailto:KGriffin@wcsr.com).



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