



## KMK Law Hosts Diversity Training Program

In September, KMK Law hosted a special luncheon and training opportunity for KMK attorneys and staff presented by Nona Lee, a DEI Consultant and former Chief Legal Officer for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Nona is the Founder & CEO of Truth DEI Consulting. She shared her personal and professional journey with KMK, from spending summers as a young girl in the South, to facing issues of racial integration while competing in sports, to climbing the ranks in the front offices of professional sports teams—becoming the first gay person, woman, or person of color to have reached the executive level at the Arizona Diamondbacks. Nona used the lessons she has learned on her own journey to share with KMK “the truth” about diversity, equity and inclusion, inspiring a commitment to do the difficult, often uncomfortable work that comes with fostering big change.



## Kelley Brandstetter Tracy Forty Under 40 Recipient

Congratulations to Kelley Brandstetter Tracy who was named to the *Cincinnati Business Courier's* 2022 Class of Forty Under 40. The program celebrates our community's next generation of leaders, representing a range of businesses as well as nonprofits and arts organizations. Kelley's practice is concentrated in commercial finance and the structural and legal aspects of debt financing and equipment leasing. Her finance practice also includes litigation financing and law firm lending work. Kelley has been listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers* four years in a row and has been named to *Ohio Rising Stars* since 2018. Kelley serves as the Practice Group Leader for KMK's Business Group. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of Music Hall and Dress for Success, where she also chairs the Governance and Nominating Committee.



## KMK Law Founders' Week of Service

KMK Law's commitment to diversity and inclusion includes partnering with local organizations to reach the underserved and underrepresented in our community. On June 11, 2022, KMK concluded its annual Founders' Week of Service with a service event at Tikkun Farm, a 3.5 acre farm in the neighborhood of Mt. Healthy in Cincinnati, offering a place of healing, restoration and repair cultivated through meaningful work and spiritual practices. KMK volunteers spent time tending to animals, completing garden projects, and constructing a new wire fence at the farm.

## KMK Law Hosts Annual Juneteenth Celebration



In celebration of Juneteenth, KMK hosted a luncheon for all attorneys and professionals, and partnered with the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) to feature the video program “Part One: The Experience of Native Americans and Black People in Cincinnati, 1787 – 1863,” which is part of a three-part docuseries produced by the IJPC entitled “Race and Racism in Cincinnati.” KMK also supported minority-owned businesses including catering from Flavors of the Isle and dessert from Davis Cookie Collection.

## KMK Law to Host Fifth Annual Diversity Case Competition



KMK Law will be hosting the Fifth Annual Law Student Diversity Case Competition, to be held on January 13 & 14, 2023.

The Competition provides underrepresented racially and ethnically diverse, first year law students the opportunity to learn practical lawyering skills in a high-pressure situation involving a real-life scenario. Students will once again be competing for cash prizes by displaying their analytical, problem solving, and communications skills — all skills that are key to workplace success. The Competition continues to expose students to practicing attorneys and *Fortune* 500 corporate counsel, who will serve as coaches and judges.

For more information on the Competition, including team registration or your interest in being a judge, please contact Kate Christoff, Director of Legal Talent and Diversity.



## KMK Law 2023 Diversity Fellowship

KMK Law is pleased to announce that the firm will once again be offering the Diversity Fellowship in 2023. This fellowship furthers KMK Law's mission of recruiting and retaining a skilled, high-performing, diverse workforce. Diverse law student fellows will receive a paid summer associate position along with an additional grant up to \$10,000, as well as other professional development opportunities and resources. Additional information about our Diversity Fellowship is available on our website.



## KMK Law Attorneys Participate in Lawyers Connecting Beyond the Law (LCBL) Program

The Cincinnati Bar Association's LCBL program aims to enhance the cohesion, character, and inclusiveness of the Cincinnati legal community, by bringing together lawyers and law students of many diverse backgrounds every other month for five large group sessions and small learning groups. Several KMK attorneys participated in the 9-month program which wrapped up in September. This year, the LCBL program was focused on the topic of Critical Race Theory (CRT), giving participants an opportunity to learn from CRT experts and scholars, as well as each other.



## KMK Law Continues to Seek Mansfield Rule Certification

One of KMK's ongoing diversity and inclusion initiatives is working towards Mansfield Certification. KMK is now more than 6 months into the 18-month certification process. Diversity Lab, the organization that oversees the certification process, recently conducted the first of its periodic check-ins on the firm's progress and KMK is pleased to report that the firm is on track for Mansfield Certification.



## KMK Hosts UC Law Affinity Groups at Great American Ball Park

As part of KMK's continuous efforts to foster pipelines for diverse law students in the legal profession, members of KMK's Diversity & Inclusion Committee hosted students from UC Law's Black Law Students Association, Latino/a Law Students Association, Out and Allies, Law Women, and DREAM (Law Students with Disabilities) for a Reds game in the KMK suite. A great time was had by all—including watching the final, walk-off win of the Reds 2022 season.



## Top Workplace

KMK Law is proud to announce that the firm has been named a Top Workplace by *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. KMK Law has been voted ELEVEN times as a Top Workplace in Cincinnati!



## Top 150 Under 150

KMK Law was selected to the Vault 2023 "Top 150 Under 150" List, a collection of leading small and midsize firms in the U.S. with 150 attorneys or fewer. The list is curated by Vault's editorial team after extensive research and is not based directly on any survey results.

## Summer Work Experience in Law (SWEL)

KMK was proud to welcome SWEL student, Ryan Hill to the firm this summer. Ryan is an undergraduate student at University of Cincinnati Carl H. Lindner College of Business and is a graduate of Walnut Hills High School. SWEL is a pipeline program designed to introduce minority students to a variety of careers in law at a young age. SWEL is an important part of KMK's diversity initiatives, and KMK aims to provide SWEL students with meaningful exposure to the firm's attorneys and their work.



## Summer Associate Program

KMK Law held a 10-week summer associate program at the firm. The firm was pleased to welcome the most diverse class of summer associates in KMK history, including two competitors from prior Diversity Case Competitions and two KMK Diversity Fellows.



## BLAC - CBA Round Table Minority Summer Clerkship Reception



KMK Law and members of the Cincinnati Legal Community welcomed summer associates and law clerks from diverse backgrounds working in Cincinnati for the summer to the firm's rooftop for the annual Minority Summer Clerkship Reception. This event continues to demonstrate the commitment of the Round Table and its partners to improving the legal practice for minority lawyers.

## KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS!



**Kelly MacDonald**  
*Elected to Partner*

The KMK Women's Initiative Committee is proud to announce the promotion of Kelly MacDonald. Kelly practices in the firm's Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Group. Kelly advises clients on all aspects of health plans, welfare plans, and qualified retirement plans (including defined benefit plans, 401(k) plans, employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs), and profit sharing plans), including the design, implementation, administration, operation, and termination of benefit plans. She has experience advising on the legal compliance of Affordable Care Act (ACA), ERISA, COBRA, HIPAA privacy, security, breach notification and portability issues, as well as compliance with tax laws and regulations, and other applicable laws. Kelly also advises clients on ERISA fiduciary matters, matters involving the IRS, Department of Labor (DOL) and PBGC, reporting obligations, and qualified plan corrections under governmental correction programs. She has extensive experience with employee benefit matters in the context of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and other corporate transactions.

Kelly earned her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2013. She earned her B.S. from the University of Dayton in 2010. Kelly is admitted to practice law in Ohio.



**Christian D. Gateskill**  
*Cincy Next Class 9 Graduate*

Congratulations to Christian Gateskill on his participation in the 2022 Cincy Next Class. The eight-month program is designed for professionals in their early 20s to early 30s within their first eight years of employment seeking professional and personal development as well as getting better connected to the region.



**Shannon D. Lawson**  
*Board of Trustees Appointment*

Congratulations to Shannon Lawson who was recently elected to the Board of Trustees for the Good Samaritan Foundation.



**Sophia R. Holley**  
*Board of Directors Appointment*

Congratulations to Sophia Holley who was elected to the Board of Directors for the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

### Certified Information Privacy Professionals

Congratulations to Kennedy Brooks, Nicole Cloyd, Michael Goldman, and Mark Musekamp, who have passed the Certified Information Privacy Professional – United States (CIPP/US) exam and officially obtained their certifications from the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). Nicole, Michael, and Mark are attorneys in the firm's Business Group and members of the KMK Cybersecurity & Privacy Team. Kennedy has been a summer associate with KMK for the last two summers and will be joining the firm as a full-time associate in the fall of 2023.



Kennedy Brooks



Michael Goldman, Mark Musekamp,  
and Nicole Cloyd

# KMK Law Associate Hires

We welcome the largest Associate class in firm history with 9 new Associates joining KMK Law this Fall.



**Taylor R. Baumeister**  
Private Client  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Olivia M. King**  
Business Representation  
& Transactions  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Kassidy A. Michel**  
Real Property  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Madeline J. O'Toole**  
Business Representation  
& Transactions  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Laura Gates Rai**  
Litigation  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Carlos A. Schemmel**  
Business Representation  
& Transactions  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**Matthew J. Slovin**  
Litigation  
(Lateral Hire)  
Harvard Law School ('19)



**Janelle E. Thompson**  
Business Representation  
& Transactions  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Law



**John E. (Jack) Dahm**  
Litigation  
(Post Clerkship)  
Notre Dame Law School ('20)

## 2022 Diversity Committee & Women's Initiative Committee

KMK recognizes the current members of the Diversity Committee and Women's Initiative Committee. Please reach out to any of these members with input or questions regarding KMK's diversity and inclusion initiatives.

### Diversity Committee

Bethany Recht (Co-Chairperson)  
Joe Lehnert (Co-Chairperson)

Kate Christoff  
Shannon Lawson  
Claire Parrish  
Adrienne Roach

Meribeth Sewell  
Jason Stitt  
Allie Westfall

### Women's Initiative Committee

Sophia Holley (Co-Chairperson)  
Darcy Watt (Co-Chairperson)

Mike Cappel  
Kate Christoff  
Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger  
Mary Ellen Malas

Caroline Musekamp  
Adrienne Roach  
Antoinette Schindel

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