

KMK Law Hosts Fifth Annual Diversity Case Competition

On January 13 & 14, 2023, KMK Law, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati College of Law's Center for Professional Development, hosted the fifth annual Diversity Case Competition for first year minority law students. This year the competition was comprised of 17 teams from 6 law schools in Ohio and Kentucky: Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law, University of Akron School of Law, University of Cincinnati College of Law, University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, and University of Toledo College of Law.

"We were thrilled to host this year's competition back in person in our downtown Cincinnati office," said Bethany P. Recht, KMK Partner and Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. "We delivered a premier learning experience for racially diverse law students through a challenging case competition and provided networking opportunities with legal professionals from around the Greater Cincinnati area. This program will continue to be a part of KMK's ongoing commitment to inclusion and diversity at KMK Law."



The competition simulates the real-world associate experience, complete with the assignment, evaluation and feedback processes used in most law firms. Using the case competition model, students competed for cash prizes by displaying their analytical, problem solving, and communication skills – all skills that are keys to success in the legal industry. The competition also exposed students to practicing attorneys and *Fortune* 500 corporate counsel, who served as assigning partners, coaches and judges.

"Thank you to the volunteer judges from our community, law students, and KMK attorneys that helped to make this program possible," said Alan Fershtman, Managing Partner. "KMK Law is excited to host the nation's first and only diversity case competition. We hope this program will further develop each student's passion for the legal industry as they continue their law school education."



This year's winning teams included:

First Place

University of Cincinnati College of Law
Desianique Hamm
Marques Jones

Second Place

University of Cincinnati College of Law
Lilian Tapia Fernandez
Micaela Betham-Garcia

Third Place

University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law
Angel Chapman
Nina Dickerson

KMK Law Celebrates International Women's Day

On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, KMK celebrated International Women's Day (IWD). IWD celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and is a call to action for accelerating women's equality. KMK celebrated IWD in the following ways:



KMK Law's Director of Legal Talent & Diversity Kate Christoff joined the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the Cincinnati Bar Association, in conjunction with UC Law Women for a lunchtime fireside chat in celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day at UC Law.

In addition, on April 21, 2023, Kate Christoff participated in a panel discussion "OMG TMI – Bridging Generational Differences at Work" at Miami University's Women in Law and Leadership Symposium.



The KMK Law Women's Initiative hosted a screening of the documentary called, *Balancing the Scales*, a film by Sharon Rowen. The film explores 5 generations of women lawyers in America, with interviews including Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Gloria Allred.

Antisemitism Training

In follow-up to a prior antisemitism training program, KMK Law hosted a special viewing on November 2, 2022 for all KMK attorneys and staff of the webinar, *Unpacking Antisemitism Today: Tropes, Conspiracy Theories & Violence*, presented by the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council and the American Jewish Committee. These programs continue to facilitate important, relevant lessons about antisemitism today and how individuals can take a stand against it.



Mansfield Certification Update

KMK has successfully completed its 9-month Mansfield Certification check-in, and is well on its way to certification by September 2023.



Feedback Training with Kim Amrine

One of the action items under KMK's Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan is to provide partners, directors, and other firm management feedback training in an effort to improve constructive feedback for our associates and other legal professionals and personnel. Kim Amrine, Principal of Kim Amrine Consulting, led an insightful feedback training session that was developed in partnership with the Firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Kim shared best practices for providing formal and informal feedback and simple actions for the Firm to adopt to be a more engaged, diverse, and inclusive law firm.



KMK Law Celebrates The 2022 Men of Honor

On November 19, 2022, KMK Law was proud to once again join the Abercrombie Group to support and sponsor Men of Honor – A Salute to African American Men who have succeeded against all odds and achieved special greatness. Hundreds of people gathered in downtown Cincinnati to honor Paul M. Booth, Henry Brown, Damon Jones, Tony Mathis, and Chuck Session. Honorees and guests were treated to live music performances including a surprise performance by Ruben Studdard.





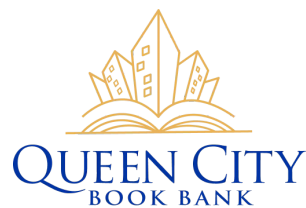
Blink 2022

On October 14, 2022, the KMK Law Women's Initiative hosted professional women from the Greater Cincinnati area on our rooftop deck for the opening night of BLINK® Cincinnati. This was the first in-person event hosted by the Women's Initiative Committee at KMK since 2019. The women enjoyed a cocktail reception with a special view of the BLINK festivities.

#KMKCares

Holiday Children's Book Drive

The KMK Cares Service Committee partnered with the Queen City Book Bank for a children's book drive during the holiday season. In addition to a donation of \$2,250, KMK attorneys and professionals donated more than 300 new and gently-used children's books. The Queen City Book Bank recently launched a program to donate 10 books per year to under-privileged CPS students in grades K-6. Many student-recipients of these books report that they have ZERO books at home. Congratulations to Adam Centner who was recognized at the Gala for Literacy as the recipient of the 2023 Queen City Book Bank Exceptional Community Partner Award for his pro bono legal counsel in guiding Queen City Book Bank through a merger with the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati.



Ohio River Clean-Up

Last fall, the KMK Cares Service Committee partnered with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and Cincinnati Councilwoman Liz Keating for a riverbank clean-up downtown. More than 50 KMK attorneys spent a late fall afternoon clearing litter in and around Smale Park and the iconic Roebling Bridge.



KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS!



Mianda Bashala
Elected to Board of The Tandana Foundation

Congratulations to Mianda Bashala who has been elected as a board member of The Tandana Foundation. The Tandana Foundation is a non-profit organization that offers support for community initiatives in Ecuador's Otavalo Canton and Mali's Bandiagara District as well as intercultural volunteer experiences. Mianda will be responsible for executing the Strategic Plan of The Tandana Foundation as well as hands-on implementation of Board-approved initiatives.



Kate Christoff
Appointed to Melanoma Know More Board

Congratulations to Kate Christoff who was recently appointed to the Melanoma Know More Board of Directors. Melanoma Know More strives for a world free from the threat of melanoma and is committed to educating people of Greater Cincinnati about the devastating impact of the disease.



Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger
Appointed Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair of Local FBA Chapter

Congratulations to Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger who was recently appointed co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Federal Bar Association's Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky-John W. Peck Chapter. The FBA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee works with a mission of bringing attention to issues that face diverse attorneys, including women, and to encourage women and diverse attorneys to remain not only in the practice of law, but in litigation specifically.



Nicole Cloyd
Joins Cincy Next Program

Congratulations to Nicole Cloyd who was recently selected to participate in Class 10 of Cincy Next. Cincy Next is a leadership development program produced by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Leadership Center and is designed for emerging leaders in their early 20s to early 30s. The program helps participants connect with other young professionals from across the region and develop both professionally and personally.



2023 KMK Law Summer Associates

KMK Law is pleased to welcome the KMK Law Class of 2023 Summer Associates

1L Class – Class of 2025



Jenna Culman

The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law



Tanner Fisher

University of Kentucky J. David
Rosenberg College of Law



Christo Fosse

University of Cincinnati
College of Law



Kerry Roncallo

Georgetown Law School

2L Class – Class of 2024



Sydney Auteri

Northern Kentucky University
Salmon P. Chase College of Law



Chris Colloton

University of Cincinnati
College of Law



Isabel (Isa) Harrison

University of Kentucky J. David
Rosenberg College of Law



Kelsey Hammon

University of Louisville
Louis D. Brandies School of Law



Sophie Krueger

The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law



Kelze' Riley

University of Cincinnati
College of Law

2023 Committee Members

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

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Bethany Recht (Co-Chairperson)

Joe Lehnert (Co-Chairperson)

Stephanie Bisselberg

Kate Christoff

Karin Goitman

Vince Jabour

Shannon Lawson

Claire Parrish

Adrienne Roach

Meribeth Sewell

Jason Stitt

Janelle Thompson

Allie Westfall

Women's Initiative Committee

Emily Wurtenberger Schott (Co-Chairperson)

Allie Westfall (Co-Chairperson)

Kate Christoff

Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger

Sophia Holley

Caroline Musekamp

Antoinette Schindel

Darcy Watt

KMK Cares Committee

Adam Centner (Chairperson)

Jodee Hebert

James Kezele

Joe Lehnert

Antoinette Schindel

Emily Wurtenberger Schott

Kelley Brandstetter Tracy

Taylor Trout

Owen Walsh

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